

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council Date: August 13, 2019
Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis *Length of Meeting: 7:00-8:59 p.m.
Members Present/Absent: All council members present
Others Present (i.e., media, public): significant number of the public

Content (What is being discussed):

Reports:

Gary Jenkins/Police-

- 1) Announcements: On Sept 11 there will be a **memorial at City Hall** at 7:30 am; Discussed how the police department prepares for big events (**focused on active shooter discussion**).
- 2) Presented **Annual Report**. A few "highlights": **Comparing Pullman to Washington State**, crimes against persons higher than average, all other crimes down overall. Forcible sex offenses (Pullman) at all-time high in 2018 (perhaps because of increased education and reporting). Overall calls down but still the second highest on record. 3x the amount of training required by state. Record requests significantly down likely due to body cam video requests not automatic.

Regular Agenda:

- 1) **Public Meeting taking input on possibility of temporary moratorium on new construction in the Central Business District (CBD) as defined in the study.**

Sorenson spoke on the purpose of the proposal. Many things being discussed around town are not accurate. This is a *temporary* (until commissioned downtown plan complete) moratorium on *new* business in the *CBD*. Current buildings not affected (ie. remodeling), not all downtown in the area. All parties stated/admitted there isn't currently a defined CBD area (vaguely described as Paris, Kamiak, Olsen, Main, and Grand).

Pro Speakers:

Brice Erickson of B & L Bicycles; Scott McBeath (3 Forks Bike & Brew); Angie Kristie of Waddell & Reid; Chris Johnson; Lisa Carlyle (although if "moratorium" is a "sledgehammer" in the business world perhaps not comfortable). General argument: We have paid for study, let's see what it says before moving forward.

Con Speakers:

Willow Falcon of Noshes; Allison (of Small Business Development, I believe); Kelly McGuy (sp?) of Schweitzer. General argument/concerns: In favor of planning/working within current procedures, not a moratorium (lots of concern with this word). Concerned with message to developers, businesses, etc. Why a moratorium if there is no current issue (per Sorenson no current and/or specific project in mind/affected).

Little of both: Chuck Yurizer (sp?)

After 20 or so minutes of the public, 35 + min of City Council discussion followed.

Con: Ann Parks- Why being preemptive?

Pro: Sorenson

A little of both: Everyone else. Of note, Dan Records thinks a moratorium, if at all, would be more practical after the study is complete and if they are considering redoing the city code/development guidelines.

Glenn Johnson: Did a good job of keeping things going and stressing that the next step (if there is one) is if City Council should draft a proposal re: the particulars of the moratorium (defined area, length,).

Climactic ending: No one seconded Sorenson's motion that City Council prepare a proposal. Not moving forward on moratorium.

2) **Resolution authorizing a PSA between City and company for community development** department plan passed without discussion.

3) **Resolution to Accept bid of Quality Contracts for City Hall and Relocated Parks & Rec.**

Background: Bids all significantly higher than expected cost- lowest bid 19% higher.

Reason (Design West): Nationwide costs are up (plus there was a delay in bidding with the running of bond a second time.) Johnson added: "tariffs".

Proposal: City personnel have examined and found some things to cut (ie. statue? A few others). Additional money would come from reserves and revenue that has been higher than expected this year (ie. from gas).

Resolution to accept the bid passed unanimously.

Other:

Brendan brought up speed issue on Harvest Drive (Pioneer Hill). 10 or so minutes of discussion. This will be a future discussion item.

Of Note:

-Potential Bishop/Grand high-density apartments not on agenda or mentioned at all.