

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Pullman City Council

March 10, 2020

Observer: Libby Walker

Length of meeting: Attended for 1hr 15min

Present: Mayor Glenn Johnson, Ann Parks, Dan Records, Brandon Chapman, Nathan Weller, Eileen Macoll, Pat Wright, and Al Sorensen.

Announcements: Status report on **corona virus** by Police Chief Jenkins. Troy Henderson, Director of County Public Health: two test results came back negative. Waiting for results for 20 more. As of now, we don't have a positive case in Whitman County. "He expects more cases when WSU spring break ends. Influenza A cases have been seen in the county. "It's never too late to get your flu shot." MERS and SARS were corona virus 5 and 6. The current virus is #7.

Pullman Art Fest: May 16 thru 18.

Presentation: **Downtown Pullman Association** by Tom Handy. Association was founded in 2018. Its members enthusiastically support Brian Scott's Master Plan from last month. A downtown executive director must be hired. WSU has made a three-year financial commitment. Such a commitment from Pullman is also needed. DPA will develop a job description and proposed budget.

Presentation: **Economic Development** by Jennifer Hackman, consultant. In the past 9 months, she has been on a listening tour. She chairs the Downtown Vitality Committee. Data: Pullman is an overwhelmingly young and well-educated town. Last summer, 63% of WSU students stayed in Pullman. Another 1200 people expected in the next 3 years. Building new firms. Over 18,000 jobs in Pullman; it is a job center in this region. We are underserved across many categories of jobs. Four key strategies. (1) customer service: mostly positive reviews of working with the City. (2) Retaining what we have and grow gems. She plans to meet with 90 businesses in the next 6-9 months. Support for more tourist opportunities. Encouraging startups and entrepreneurs. Should we have a skills center for non-college bound people? Both Chapman and Weller mention this. Should there be an industrial center near SEL with restaurants, etc.?

Report: **4th Quarter Financial Update** by Mike Urban
Revenues continue to meet our budget. Sales Tax revenue is the most volatile revenue source. There was a lot of technical information presented with attempts to explain when projections were not met.

I left at 8:15 and don't know how much longer the meeting continued.