

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council Date: 6/16/2020

Observer Reporting: Karyn Hardy Virtual Public broadcast ended at 8:20 pm when council went into executive session

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

Others Present: Dee Stiles-Elliot, City Clerk; Mike Urban, Director of Finance & Administrative Services; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Adam Lincoln, City Administrator; Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director; Mike Heston, Chief Fire Officer; Jennifer Hackman, Economic Development Manager

• Meetings continue to be **broadcast over Pullman's You Tube Channel** respecting Covid 19 Stay Home Stay Safe, so members of public or media were not identifiable, public questions and comments required submission by 5 pm 6/16. No public comments were discussed during the meeting. To View: <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BP7KP952CBD6#>

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

• Meeting was called to start at 7 p.m. and roll was called. All council members were present. Several announcements made including opening of **Pullman Farmer's Market** on Wednesday afternoons, announcement of **approval of Phase Three opening** for establishments to use proper safety requirements, a **reminder to citizens to fill out census** because census results are important to our community. Later in meeting Mayor stated there was no new business from public.

Consent agenda items 1, 2 and 5 were approved.

Council member Records asked for clarification about item number 3. Clayton Forsman described newly discovered **damage under the liner at Reaney Pool**, explained necessary repairs and this item was unanimously passed.

Council Member Sorensen asked for clarification about **grant requirements** for item # 4, the **Palouse Summer Series Baseball Tournament**, whether games must be played in the city of Pullman. City attorney McAloon explained that the games may be played in the area, as long as Pullman enjoys economic impact of the tournament, lodging, shopping etc. Item 4 was unanimously passed

- Council was asked for approval to apply for a grant providing lighting to portions of **downtown Riverwalk**. Jennifer Hackman made the presentation and answered Council's questions regarding locations, style of lighting etc. Council unanimously approved the request.
- Council Member Chapman asked about the **LTAC denial** email delivered to council members prior to meeting. Chapman asked for reasons for denial of plan and how to move forward. Jennifer Hackman and Council Member Wright, both at the earlier LTAC meeting explained that the LTAC committee questioned "**parklet**" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parklet> details including management, cost of upkeep and whether a "parklet" might have an impact on tourism. Wright said that the presentation offered was unanimously rejected by LTAC, but there is an option for an amended application. Member Chapman stated his concern of overreach by LTAC, council

had already approved the plan. Member Wright responded that they represent businesses as well as citizens and maintenance is a concern, offered ideas to make Pine and High Street plazas more inviting, and explained that the cost for such a short period of time wasn't optimal. (Chapman believes that maintenance concerns should be left up to the city). Discussion ensued. Member Macoll: if playground equipment is opened in city parks, why aren't parklets treated similarly. Member Parks: wants a revised proposal, residents have contacted her and it's important for residents to have a pleasant experience downtown. Member Sorensen: wanted clarification that grant does not include changed parking and bike lane. (It does not). Member Records: LTAC should be an advisory committee to council, city council should have the final decision, business owners' concerns are valid. Member Wright: \$17,500 for three months' use may not be the best way to use this money. Chapman: is partial funding possible? Wright: applications are either funded or not, there is not a vehicle to choose bits and pieces out of an application to fund. LTAC can point out areas of grants that are desirable or not desirable to the grant applicant. In response to a comment, City Attorney McAloon explained that this was a public grant request for use by the public, that nothing prohibits private businesses from applying for a permit for a private use "parklet" or street eatery, "streatery". City could decide to lease public "parklets" to private businesses for patrons of these businesses. Member Weller supports Member Wright, pointing out she has been on LTAC for some time. More discussion. Adam Lincoln told Council that a decision needed to be made and Council needs to give direction to city staff. McAloon explained if Council intends to change the use of lodging tax revenues, they may then submit those changes to LTAC. LTAC has 45 days to provide comments about this use of funds following LTAC's checklist. The Council can then vote to spend the money. Or. Council may submit an altogether new grant application. Member Weller made a motion to notify LTAC and use the 45 day avenue. Member Chapman seconded. Member Parks voted yes. All other members voted nay. Motion failed.

- Discussion about **protocols opening pools, libraries and other government agencies.**

Process and Protocol: Participants were polite. Most council members seemed well informed.

Additional comments/opinions: I appreciated that Adam Lincoln was an advocate for city employees. What was discussed in the executive session?

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm, **next meeting scheduled will be virtual on Tuesday June 23, 2020.** <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BP7KP952CBD6>