

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 23, 2020

OBSERVER: Libby Walker Length of meeting: 1 hour

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Council members Brandon Chapman, Eileen Macoll, Ann Parks, Nathan Weller, Dan Records, Pat Wright, and Al Sorensen.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dee Stiles-Elliot, City Clerk; Mike Urban, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Pete Dickinson Director of City Planning; Wayne Thompson, Pullman Transit Manager; Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director.

This was a **zoom** meeting on the City of Pullman You Tube Channel. **Mayor Johnson** announced that the **next City Council meeting - July 14 - would be held in the new City Hall Building in person.**

Other announcements: There will be **fireworks on July 4th** but no public gathering. There is a statewide requirement to wear **face masks** both indoors and outdoors starting Friday, June 25th. **June is LGBTQ Pride month** with a flag raising ceremony in Pullman on June 28th between City Hall and the police station. June 28th was the first day of the Stonewall Riots. The **census response** for Whitman County is now 58%.

Pete Dickinson from the Planning Department presented **the draft Comprehensive Plan**. It is 243 pages and covers 2020 - 2060. Guiding principles and objectives are included. Dickinson recommended a joint meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission. Also a public hearing at the Planning Commission and a City Council meeting where public input would be solicited. There is no Executive Summary.

Mike Urban, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, presented a **budget schedule** for the 2021-2022 biennial budget. **October 6 - initial public hearing on property taxes**; November 3 and 10 - work sessions with City Council. (November 3rd was not approved because it is Election Day.) **November 17- final property tax hearings**. All were approved except November 3rd.

Wayne Thompson, Pullman Transit Manager, spoke to the **resolution to accept a bid to replace bus and facilities cameras** with installation completed before mid August. He explained that the current cameras are reliable 80%of the time. **Councilman Sorensen** questioned spending the money at this time. Motion passed with two nay votes from Councilmen Sorensen and Chapman.

Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director, spoke to the resolution to reject the bid to **repave arterial streets on Pioneer Hill** and recommended that the project go out for bid again in the fall. WADOT advised the City that the bid could not be approved because DBE goals were not met. WADOT has a requirement that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises must represent 4% of the total employees on a project funded by the State. In this case, a \$1.6 million grant from WADOT. Councilman Sorensen asked for more clarification and maintained that given the location of Pullman, it would be difficult to meet this quota. Councilman Chapman moved to accept the resolution. All but Councilman Sorensen voted in favor. (Motley and Motley was the sole bidder.) Kevin Gardes offered to communication with WADOT to further examine this issue.

Other Business: **Councilman Sorensen** shared that many citizens had complained that there was no warning about restriping the lanes downtown and no directions about how to park. “We failed in terms of letting citizens know what was happening and how to park.” **Councilman Weller** added that seniors have trouble with back-in parking. **Mayor Johnson** responded that the City used the materials available and the crews that were available for the work. **Councilman Records** suggests that the City gather statistics from other cities that have incorporated back-in angle parking. He added that the purpose of the pop up is to give this a try and then reconsider it. **Councilman Chapman** asked if there is a central repository for public comments. (Public feedback can be emailed to PWProjects@pulman-wa.gov.) **Council member Wright** expressed concern about car exhaust from the back in parking going into buildings. **Kevin Gardes** explained that signs explaining how to park were on order. The bike lane will be moved to the other side of the street if the design is approved. **Councilman Chapman** has been told by citizens that downtown seems more pedestrian friendly now.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.