

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

OBSERVER: Libby Walker Length of meeting: 90 minutes

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

Others attending: Gary Jenkins, Pullman Chief of Police; Mike Henson, Fire Department Chief; Kevin Gardes, Director of City Planning; Dee Stiles Elliott, City Clerk; Mike Urban, Finance and Administrative Services Director; Laura McAloon, City Attorney.

Mayor Johnson announced that 10 **nuisance citations** for parties had been issued in the past several days. The fine is \$250 for the first offense. 25 Army National Guardsman will come to Pullman to help with COVID testing. It will take 72 hours to get results.

Councilman Sorenson expressed disappointment with the **lack of planning at WSU**. Councilmember Ann Parks suggested that because most students are off campus, WSU did not have jurisdiction but their behavior is now endangering on campus students which is resulting in the testing.

Councilmember Sorenson disagreed. Councilmember Wright asked if the city would start ticketing party goers as well as the hosts? City Attorney McAloon explained that hosts only are ticketed now, but if those attending don't disperse, they can also be cited. Councilmember Chapman asked if the nuisance code could be strengthened. Councilmember Weller added that there is a group of community members who refuse to wear masks. City Attorney McAloon noted that Pullman is the only jurisdiction in the state to issue citations for city infractions.

Mayor Johnson also announced that the **census response rate** for Pullman is 50% and for the County it is 61%.

Kimberly Lackey was nominated to join the **Lawson Gardens Committee**. Her appointment was approved by the Council.

In the Consent Agenda, September 15 was set for the public hearing of a **6-year transportation improvement program**. A hearing for the **6-year capital improvement program for 2021-2026** will also be on September 15.

Regular Agenda

Mike Urban discussed the **Cares Act funding** . Another \$126,000 will be released to cities and counties which means that Pullman will receive an additional \$30,000. Councilmember Sorenson asked if the additional grant could be used **for public relations for Pullman**. The answer is yes. Although Councilmember Parks questioned if this would be the best use of the money, the discussion quickly turned in support of the marketing idea. In favor of the idea were Council members Macoll, Sorenson, Chapman, Records and Weller. Council member Wright deferred. No bid is necessary for a professional services contract.

Councilmembers Wright and Parks asked if it would be possible to work through the Chamber. Councilmember Sorenson insisted that Pullman needs an outside firm and not the Chamber.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.