

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 12, 2021

OBSERVER: Libby Walker

Length of Meeting: 1 1/2 hours

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

Others present: Mike Urban, Finance Director and Interim City Supervisor; Gary Jenkins, Pullman Police Chief; Mike Heston, Fire Department Chief; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; and Dee Stiles-Elliott, City Clerk.

Mayor Johnson gave a **COVID update**. Local volunteers will be recruited to administer the **vaccines**. **Deaths** in Whitman County are now reported by the State and include residents who have died outside of Pullman from COVID. The new **regional monitoring plan** lumps Pullman with Spokane, which may not work to our advantage. Mayor Johnson has contacted **Senator Patty Murray's office** about speeding up the distribution of the vaccines to Pullman.

Police Chief Gary Jenkins reported that two weeks ago, **all Police Dept. staff received the vaccine**. The State of Washington does daily check ins with the staff to monitor for side effects of the vaccine.

Fire Department Chief Mike Heston chairs the COVID Task Force for the City. He reported that **59% Fire Department staff have been vaccinated**. AT WSU, both on campus and off campus residents are being tested. The County Health Department will organize the phases once the vaccines are shipped here. **On January 18th, "Phase Finder" will be available and individuals will be contacted when they are eligible to receive the vaccine.**

Mayor Johnson reappointed volunteers to various city boards. A long discussion ensued about re-appointing Gail Siegal to the Pullman Arts Commission. She lives in Deary, Idaho. Laura McAloon explained that only a majority of board members need to be from Pullman. Siegal has a lot of grant experience which will be helpful to the Arts Commission. The Council agreed to approve her re-appointment.

A motion to approve a bid by Motley and Motley to **resurface sidewalks** was approved.

The Council members discussed amongst themselves which **committees** they would like to serve in the coming year. Al Sorensen wants to serve on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. Pat Wright does not want to give up her seat during a time of transition on the committee. She has served 10 years. It was suggested to add a second Council member to this committee with Wright continuing to serve as Chair. The mayor approved her position as chair, and the Council approved adding Council member Sorensen to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The Council went into Executive session.