

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: November 16, 2021

Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis (via You Tube recording)

Length of Meeting: 7 pm-10 pm

Members Present: Mayor Johnson; Councilmembers Weller, Macoll, Parks, Records, Wright, Chapman, Sorenson

Members Absent: none

Others Present (e.g., media, public): Several

### Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

#### Mayoral Announcements:

City Hall **roof damage** from 11/15/21 wind storm. 16 x 24 + feet in area.

Mayor acknowledges/thanks former WSU football coach Rolovich for personally paying for the **new cougar stadium logo**. Initially offered to do so in Summer 2020. Project just finished. Johnson asked Rolovich if he still wished to pay (as Rolovich recently fired). Rolovich said yes, came in and paid personally.

#### League Priority: Transportation, City Services

**Airport Terminal Presentation** - Tim Dacy of Mead & Hunt spoke

Reduced square feet to stay in budget

\$51 million in federal funding (federal, CARES, Apron?). This is a “remarkable” amount of outside support per Executive Director PRA Tony Bean. Local match of just under 3 million. Other funding 7 million.

Next steps: Commitment of funds needed by Dec 2021; **Funds need to be in place by June 2022**, need for early bid packages; complete *design* (100% construction documents) by 2/23/22.

Hoping for early summer (2022? 2023?) ground-breaking. **End of 2023 for completion.**

Weller asked about cost of “cool looking” curved roof. Response boiled down to: Curved roof is efficient.

Gary Reidner, City Supervisor of Moscow also in attendance

*No local league action recommended.*

#### League Priority: Public Safety, Fiscal Responsibility

**Fire Department Annual Report, Mike Heston**

Paraphrase: “**Covid and its mandates** had an effect on everything we did last year.”

Significant increase in calls to Palouse. Decrease to WSU.

Helped businesses with determining allowable “load” (ie. how big is space, how many people are allowed in with variety of covid size restrictions).

Adapted training methods, recruitment academy, etc. during Covid.

*No local league action recommended.*

## **League Priority: Taxes**

### **General Fund Tax Levy 2022**

City, EMS, and Metro Parks are subcategories

City- Fire/Ambulance, Police, Parks & Rec, Library make up the bulk of **General Fund Expenditures** (Fire/Ambulance/Police much higher than lower two). **1.0% the max that property taxes can be increased** yearly. Project expenditures to increase by greater than 1%. 0.0239 (2.39 cents) per \$1000 assessed value.

No discussion. Brandon Chapman opposes.

Ordinance fixing Emergency Tax Services. No discussion. All approve.

Metropolitan Parks District portion. Brandon Chapman opposes.

*No local league action recommended.*

Other City Department News:

**Department of Community Development and position of Director of Community Development created. R.J. Lott to lead.**

## **League Priority: City Livability**

Execution of **Public Works Agreement for *Design of Downtown Improvements***. Welch-Comer is the firm selected to implement. Phase 0: Data Collection- Surveying and Traffic data collection (\$112k)- weather may slow down; Phase 1: Feasibility/Bringing options to public. Phase 2: Design & Outreach: Phase 3: Final Design; Phase 4: Construction. Currently at Phase 0/1.

## **City Council Legislative Priorities**

Council provided draft of priorities that will be provided to state representatives when legislative session starts in early January. Short session as Budget done last year.

One of the priority items is **railbanking**. City supervisor recommends more holistic approach than simply proposing "railbanking" to our particular legislators. Chapman suggests phrasing such as: "Repurpose" the railroads. Records: Agrees with "repurpose" and also suggests "maximize the flexibility" in thinking about projects. Macoll: Throw the words "public safety" in there.

*No local league action recommended (Unless Bobbie wants to weigh in on railbanking).*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Windstorm- Damage to City Hall.** City Attorney notes that rather than "usual" process for government spending for city work, Mayor declared Emergency. City Council Ratified at the council meeting. City Administrator awards contract to immediately repair City Hall.

Council goes to Executive Session. Council adjourned immediately after ES.

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