

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: November 30, 2021

Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis (via You Tube recording)

Length of Meeting: 7 pm-9:44 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Dan Records (resigned over the weekend, accepted a job at Western Washington University). Described by Mayor Johnson as "thoughtful, collaborative, compassionate."

Others Present (e.g., media, public): Sparse Audience.

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Mayoral Announcements:

Application for City Councilor for Ward 2 open. Applications accepted through December 30, 2021. Will serve for 2 years and stand for election in 2023.

Saturday, Dec 4. Pullman Holiday activities (Gladish, Kiwanis, Festival of Lights).

December 9 WSU Gateway Project Student Presentations

>League Priority: Local Governance, Fiscal Responsibility

3rd Quarter FINANCIAL & STAFFING UPDATE- Mike Urban

Revenue Collection Rate 104.3% of estimates.

Some specifics: Liquor Items up 5.3%, Marijuana up 9.2%. One-Time Sales from Construction Activities down 7.5%. Property Tax Revenues- Up 10.1%. Street & Arterial Streets Revenues- REET (Real Estate Excise Taxes) up \$360k/304%. Fuel Tax up \$25k/9%.

When discussing **utility fund revenues**, mentioned *that shut offs resume 2/2022 and Campaign for Payment/Payment Plan has started. Direct Financial assistance to those that qualify- people should contact Community Action Center.*

Unemployment rate of 3.1 (v. 4.1 state).

Expenditure Rate 91% against Estimates

Some specifics:

Increase of legislative expenses primarily attributable to election/voter registration fees from Whitman County Auditor. Chapman asks about this. I didn't quite understand the answer of why up so much (purging rolls? address change?)

Item from General Fund: **Library- Expenditure Rate** of 78% of Budget, but now going up- increase attributable to facility reopening in July, Software, Materials.

Decrease in service expenditures (computers, police vehicles) due to chip shortage.

Staffing:

Nearly all positions budgeted for 2021 filled. Currently recruiting for **Communications Coordinator.**

Fire is Recruiting for Firefighter/Paramedic & Firefighter EMT; **Parks & rec** anticipate more seasonal positions in 2022 with increased WSU student population available.

>League Priority: Transportation, Fiscal Responsibility

Tony Bean- Needs to know **Pullman's contribution to terminal**. Terminal costs include stormwater infrastructure, sewer, utilities, (ie. not just a building).

Council members supportive. Lodging tax is available. Could be a component from the utility fund.

Mayor: Official commitment will mean other contributors will "buy in."

Questions posed:

What is the comfort level of this counsel re: contribution level?

Partner (City of Moscow) willing to match up to 2 million. *Pullman is financing (part or all?) Moscow's portion.*

Councilors and City supervisor comfortable with \$2 million- question is "how"? Cash-flow, sources, etc.

Sorenson ? re: other capital improvement needs that might be delayed for "bankrolling" Moscow

portion of terminal contribution. Specifically, street repair. Not against the terminal project, just concerned with other city needs.

>League Priority: Legislative Priorities

Council **Adopted City's Legislative Priorities**. Schoessler, Dye, and Schmidt will be in attendance, December 14.

>League Priority: Taxes, Fiscal Responsibility

Discussion Item:

Lodging Tax- convoluted discussion re: should there be an ordinance re: "sharing" proceeds from large out of town attendee events- Lentil Festival, 4th of July.... Such a long discussion. Outcome: McAloon will bring back draft ordinance in January for discussion.

New Business- Nathan Weller requests an **in-person update on Fiber work (ie. Zply)**.

Ann Parks agrees to serve on **Audit Committee** in Weller's place until re-assignment.

Public Meetings of interest to League:

Ward 2 Council Position Open

12/14/21 City Council meeting includes state Representatives