

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

## PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 13, 2021

OBSERVER: Libby Walker

LENGTH OF MEETING: 3 hours

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

**OTHERS:** Eric Fejeran, Executive Director, United Way; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; RJ Lott, Director of Planning; Kevin Gardes, Director of Public Works; Mike Urban, City Administrator; Cara Healey, City Engineer; Peter King, CEO of the Association of Washington Cities; Bob Perdue, Nelson Brothers Development.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** MAYOR JOHNSON announced that Whitman County is **returning to Phase 2** of COVID which will impact restaurant capacity, etc. He encouraged everyone to support local businesses. The Community Action Center is offering **financial assistance to help pay utility bills**. Residents may experience brown water as tanks are being flushed right now.

Presentation by PETER KING from the **Association of Washington Cities of Advanced Certificates of Municipal Leadership to Council members Pat Wright and Brandon Chapman**. The certificate represents 60 credits of study and community service.

ERIC FEJERAN from the **United Way** gave a presentation on the work of this agency in 2020 including raising \$85,000 for COVID relief, \$100,000 for Community Investment, and \$468,000 for Wildfire Restoration in Pine City and Malden.

DAN RECORDS gave an update on the **mural project**. A draft survey is being developed by city staff to incorporate all of the comments received. The mural subcommittee will meet to fine-tune before it is distributed to community residents. Councilmember Records acknowledged that a private business owner has donated a wall and \$16,000 has been raised for an additional mural downtown to be painted by one of the artists who had originally submitted a design for the Pullman mural. He asked for direction from the Council for next steps. It was the consensus of the Council members to continue working on the City Mural but perhaps consider a different message and a different location. Pullman will not abandon the project. Councilmember Records also indicated that he and Councilmember Ann Parks will be coming to the Council with a proposal to create a **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**.

MIKE URBAN introduced a resolution to approve moving the City Council meetings to the **new City Hall** which passed. Movement back to Phase two will delay in person meetings.

CITY ENGINEER CARA HEALEY presented a **contract with Curtis Concrete Construction** for projects in several parts of the city including the **Brelsford Development** off Bishop Blvd. She was unable to explain why the City was picking up this cost. KEVIN GARDES explained that at the time of the development, it was decided that it was too much to ask Brelsford to pay for all of the sidewalks surrounding his property. Gardes was challenged by several Council members about this reasoning.

RJ LOTT presented the **proposed annexation of 48 acres** at Johnson Road and Bishop Blvd. including a timeline of when various actions were taken by the City. This land was “pre-zoned” R 3 in 2013. No traffic analysis has been done yet and will not take place until a site plan review is submitted. Fourteen residents were each given 2 minutes to provide public comment on the annexation request, including Bobbie Ryder as President of the League of Women Voters-Pullman.

Concerns included traffic congestion at the intersection of Johnson and Bishop, inadequate public notice, signs that were too small to read and not easily accessible, impacts on the water supply, inadequate access, the impact on the South Bypass, and the failure to conform to the Comprehensive Plan. Bob Perdue, representing Nelson Brothers, owners of the land, testified. He pointed out that the land is currently within the County. If Pullman does not want to pursue this project, Nelson Brothers will work with the County.

Public hearing ended at 9:10 pm.

Council members wanted to know how it has been zoned by Whitman County and what would be involved in changing the current Pullman zoning classification. It was decided to postpone the discussion until the next Council meeting on April 27 when staff would provide additional information. Opinion: The Council members clearly heard how upset the public is about this annexation and the possible repercussions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.