

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council Date: July 27, 2021 Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis

\*Length of Meeting: 7:00- 10:23 pm. I watched via Livestream until 9:36 p.m. when they finally reached the Regular Agenda. Quickly watched remainder of meeting (via Youtube Channel) a few days later.

Members Present: All council members present

Others Present (i.e., media, public): **2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting with attendance** (since Covid restrictions). I'm not certain how many were there. I watched online.

## Announcements:

Mayor Johnson recently had a **Zoom meeting with Governor Inslee**. Covid increasing across the state and nation, mainly among the unvaccinated.

## Presentations:

### 1. **Pavement Rating** by City Engineer Representative.

- Scope: Assess street condition; develop/implement pavement management system. Rep of company detailed methodology and benefits.
- All Pullman paved roads average 41/100 on the pavement quality index (In the "poor" category).
- To maintain this average PQI over 10 years, cost is \$933k/year. If you up to \$1.5 million a year, could improve average to score of 54. Preventative maintenance more cost effective than complete street reconstruction.
- Recommendations: Minimize life cycle costs by initial street design and construction; prioritize preventative maintenance; use data driven approach to reconstruct streets with low PQI value and then maintain.
- Looking for direction from council: Maintain current level of funding or increase funding in street maintenance program to try and bring PQI number up.
- **Council Supports increased funding for pavement improvements** and data forward approach.

### 2. **Main Street Downtown Pullman Association** has applied for a grant to help fund an Association Executive Director. Dan Records (who is also a member of the downtown SBA) presented the information. He described the short deadline for the grant made presenting it to city council prior to applying not possible. Speaking to council because if they receive the grant, it requires they have financial support from City as well. "Ask" for Council is \$40k a year for 3 years if they obtain the grant. WSU has committed to support. \*Note: I am not sure if that is part of the \$40k match request or additional.

- Various business owners spoke on difficulty of business in Pullman, need to revitalize downtown, etc.
- Disagreement about grant application (that has already been submitted) details. Macoll in disagreement with figure of 15k full time population used in the grant. Records replies that it was discussed with the group providing the grant and explanation given of census figure population and full year population. Macoll at one point says 19k residents being treated as 3/5 people, causing Records to go silent and then speak up for the record how inappropriate that statement is.
- Records tries to wrap up with: "What is the City of Pullman's financial commitment to the DPA" for the next 3 years (regardless of this particular grant)? **"DPA created for the Main Street accreditation process. Is council willing to financially support?"** It is not sustainable without (seed) funding.
  - **Council votes unanimously to support DPA.**

3. Overview of **Police Reform** presented by Gary Jenkins.

Response to WA State Legislature HB 1054. Never had chokeholds, don't use no-knock warrants. Tear gas only in 3 allowed instances (times PPD might use). Equipment- might have to modify.

**Probable cause-** might cause the most change. Bill requires probable cause (**rather than lesser reasonable suspicion**) to detain someone (even if there when police arrive). Will impact people with **mental health** crisis- prior could take to PRH to evaluate person's health. Now, cannot use force to **detain** someone (or get to an evaluation) if there isn't probable cause to make an arrest (and person does not agree to go).

Jenkins says intent of law is good, wording and how it will actually work is less clear (although not stated), Jenkins tone and comments suggest he sees the bill as making policing more difficult, less effective, and more uncertain.

Regular Agenda:

Mayor asks '**appearance of fairness' doctrine** questions (just for the first two items, I believe)

1. Proposal: Ordinance for proposed zone change. I1 to C-3 General Commercial (would allow for retail, food services and lodging. Area: NW Intersection of Albion Drive and Hwy 27. Steve Mader owner. Previously an adjacent area changed from I1 to C3. A roundabout is planned by a subdivision in/near? the area. Person presenting acknowledges councilors concerns re: growth and acknowledges that LT planning in this area is important. Ordinance approving the proposal passed unanimously.
2. Resolution: Change Map of area described on Agenda Item 1. Unanimously adopted.
3. Execute WA state grant application for Terre View Drive arterial program. Unanimously adopted.
4. Accept bid (Apollo Inc) for thickening improvement project. Unanimously adopted.
5. 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to 2020-21 Use of Use re: WSU Transit. Adopted funds available for transit.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Mike Urban

Looking for 2 council members to participate in **RFP (Request for Proposal?) discussions**. Eileen Macoll and Ann Parks sign up.

Public Works Department putting together an **RFP for downtown revitalization**. Al Sorenson & Pat Wright sign up.

Council adjourns for 10-minute Executive Session.

Council returns from Executive Session and immediately Adjourns the Council meeting.

**Process & Protocol**

See previous comments, particularly re: DBA grant discussion.