

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: September 28, 2021

Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis

Length of Meeting: 7 pm- 9:18 pm

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

Members Absent: Pat Wright (Excused)

Others Present (e.g., media, public): Uncertain (I watched the recording on You Tube)

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Mayor's Announcements:

- Citizens should report Unemployment Fraud to Washington Employment Security Department
- Open House at City Hall/Parks and Recreation, 3-7 pm Tuesday, October 5. "Thank you, voters, for providing this beautiful facility!"
- Pullman Police Department CPR classes currently cancelled due to Covid.

League Priority: Public Safety

Report/Update on recent (early morning September 25) **Pullman shooting**. Police were responding to a noise complaint, subsequently multiple shots heard. Officers secured the weapon. Medics arrived. Harris was cradling Barr when police arrived. Barr pronounced dead at hospital. 2nd shooting victim ultimately transported to Spokane. Harris arrested (turned himself in later that morning) and charged with assault in the second degree. Isolated incident/altercation. Investigation ongoing.

League Action: None recommended.

League Priority: Economic Development

Economic Development Marketing Plan

Golden Shovel creating a plan for the city. Ron Kresha of GS gave a virtual presentation of Marketing Plan Blueprint (provided to Council).

Takeaways: No downside to an aggressive branding and marketing campaign; Creating a separate PED website is critical to developing a new brand and identity; City of Pullman needs to OWN the new brand and narrative and create shareable content for collaborators and partners.

League Action: None Recommended.

League Priority: State Legislation, Housing

2021 Housing Legislation Update: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5235/RCW 35A.21.314.

Intent to remove barriers from housing options. Prohibits cities from regulating or limiting the number of unrelated people who occupy a dwelling unit. *What this means for Pullman: Current city code regulates number of people that can occupy a dwelling unit. Bill necessitates change to city code.* Mayor raised issue of parking-unrelated individuals have multiple vehicles. That drove limitation we have. Presenter notes the bill doesn't regulate/address parking. City may need to look at this.

There were two other adopted bills I did not see as particularly relevant.

Presenter also described several Bills currently under consideration (by the WA legislature).

League Action: None Recommended.

League Priority: Transportation, Fiscal Responsibility

Transportation Benefit District (TBD) discussed by Mike Urban/City Administrator. Clarkston closest existing TBD, 111 in the state. Variety of funding sources- some that don't require voter approval (i.e. increase vehicle taxes) and some that do (i.e. increase sales tax .2% (currently 7.8%).

Budget Analysis- if we keep doing what we are doing- we will continue to lose ground. For example, our PQI (Pavement Quality Index) is poor. In order to improve, need more \$. Broad “umbrella” for use of funds. Other needs: Bypass Project. Ann Parks: How soon could we use \$? Sounds like, fairly quickly.

League Action: None recommended at this time.

League Priority: Open Government, City Livability

Motion to Adopt Update of City’s Comprehensive Plan

Passed unanimously.

No local action recommended.

Motion to Adopt Annual Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2027

Passed unanimously. (Likely will be a resolution at next city council meeting to move up the planned dates of up to 5 items on the plan).

No local action recommended.

Motion to adopt Transportation Improvement Program 2022-2027

Passed unanimously.

No local action recommended.

Motion to adopt City Council Goal Setting (this might not be the precise name)

Sorenson stresses that Downtown Revitalization number one priority.

Councilmember Weller suggests working with LWV & WSU to try and increase voter registration of WSU/younger voters. City supervisor says that is on the list for next year. Sorenson adds that LWV was in CUB registering students today 😊.

Councilman Weller- Wants council to extend/bring back utility moratorium (WA state utility moratorium ended Sept 30). Records, Sorenson, Parks want more discussion/details. Mayor says \$\$ is available (Community Action center has options, utility bills reference that availability).

Public Meetings of interest to League:

Next City Council Meeting scheduled for October 12, 2021.