

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

**Name of Agency:** Pullman Planning Commission

**Date:** 6/23/2021

**Observer Reporting:** Jessica Cassleman

**Length of meeting:** 1 hour 3 minutes

Planning Commission VIRTUAL Regular Meeting that was held remotely due to COVID 19

**Members Present:** Dave Gibney (Chair), John Anderson (Vice-chair), Brent Carper, Joe O'Callaghan, Bob Olsen, Stephanie Rink and Scott Vik.

**Members absent:** Scott Hodge, Marcia Gossard

**Others Present:**

RJ Lott (Pullman Planning Director); Scott Sumner (Syntier Engineering); Cynthia Goodwater, Jason Radtke, Ariel Medeiros, and Jessica Cassleman (LWV Observer).

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

### **Agenda:**

1. Conduct a **public hearing** to review and recommend action on the proposed Mader North Albion **Rezone** involving the reclassification of 3.5 acres from I1 Light Industrial to C3 General Commercial; the subject property is located **northwest of NW Albion Drive and State Route 27**. This proposal also includes an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Plan map from Industrial to Commercial. (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding).
2. Conduct a discussion regarding the **amendment of Planning Commission Bylaws**, Article III, section 1, relating to the **starting time of regular scheduled meetings**.

## **Items discussed**

### **Approval of minutes**

- April 28, 2021 meeting. Moved to accept minutes as prepared by staff: John Anderson; second Stephanie Rink. **Approved**
- May 12, 2021. Special Meeting. Moved to accept minutes as prepared by staff: John Anderson; second Bob Olsen. **Approved**
- June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Moved to accept minutes as prepared by staff: John Anderson; second Bob Olsen. **Approved**

### **New Business**

- Change the **Bylaws regarding meeting starting time and quorum**.

## **Public Meeting of Interest to League**

The main topic of discussion for this meeting referred to the **reclassification of the 3.5 acres** located northwest of NW Albion Drive and State Route 27. The request was to make the change for the area from industrial to general commercial. It was introduced by Jason Radtke who indicated that Scott Summers was acting on behalf of Steve Mader. Scott offered the justification for the request and indicated that this should have been included earlier in the proposal.

Jon Anderson asked for clarification since there is some industry already south of Albion Road. Scott indicated that the south side had already been rezoned.

Brent Carper asked for the type of development they foresee in this area, including retail development. When asked for more detailed explanation Scott mentioned the possibility of having a gas station for example since over 1000 students might live in the area.

Joe O'Callaghan had stepped out from the meeting as he works for the company and this brought up the situation that there might not be a quorum since he could not vote and there were two members absent.

No other comments from the committee.

**Vote was unanimous to change the area/land from industrial zone to light C-3 general commercial to be sent to the City Council.**

Additional comments/opinions:

1. A fairly short meeting to approve re-zoning, discussion on the previously approved starting time of meeting and the added new business on quorum.
2. The proposal to **change the starting time** had been approved but today's discussion was important as the Bylaws need to be changed. Regular meetings will continue taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month with a starting time of 7:00 PM. Unanimous approval.
3. New Business:  
**Quorum. Bylaws requires 5 members to be present to make a quorum**  
**Voting: Number of yes votes required to approve decisions: The requirement of a simple majority of those present at a meeting, was approved unanimously.** The proposal to amend bylaws to what already exists in Municipal court, passed. The discussion centered on the possibility that if one member of the commission would have been a "nay" at this meeting, the proposal would not have passed (5 present today at the time of this discussion), plus Joe not being able to vote, would have resulted in a no because of the lack of quorum.)

Next meeting will be a special meeting to continue discussing the Comprehensive Plan:

Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

***Process & Protocol: Did the members appear to have done their "homework"?***

David Gibney methodically led the meeting and presented the topics to be discussed.

The most active and key participants in this commission continue to be Brent Carper and Joe Anderson asking critical questions during the meeting. Dave Gibney gives good leadership to the group moving the meeting forward.

***Were members courteous to each other and the public?*** YES, very.

***Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?***

NO, there was no previous information offered to me. Thank you, Judy, for letting me know about it. Agenda and papers to be discussed were available in the website.

Additional comments/opinions:

I continue to be surprised by the lack of participation by some members of the commission. Two members being missing was a concern for the group and it was discussed of what to do as the quorum might not be met at times.

It continues to surprise me that there are no people of color represented in this commission and the lack of questions, involvement, and participation by some members on key issues.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM*