MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MARCH 20, 2012

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on March 20, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Bill Mulholland	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Jeff Hawbaker	Councilmember
Fritz Hughes	Councilmember
Bill Paul	Councilmember
Nathan Weller	Councilmember
Pat Wright	Councilmember

Call to Order

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements

There were eight announcements.

Council Recognition

Mayor Johnson recognized former Councilmember Barney Waldrop and the pending departure of Councilmember Keith Bloom. Mayor Johnson presented plaques to the individuals and thanked them for their service. Both had an opportunity to say what it meant to them to serve the City for the past several years.

Report

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled from Chief Jenkins on a Sunnyside Park Spring Bash Concert request. Police Chief Jenkins went through his report and asked for questions. Councilmember Bloom requested if there had been a notification to the residents. Police Chief Jenkins stated they have not discussed that in detail as of this particular period. He did note that it was within the time period, 5 to 10 p.m., that they would be covered by the noise variance. However, Councilmember Bloom was concerned about the profanity.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Recommendations of Consent Agenda Items

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Johnson reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda with the Council and audience. He stated that items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion of the Council without separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by Council request. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only.

Motion Carried.

City Attorney McAloon read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only. Mayor Johnson asked if there were any requests for removal of items from the Consent Agenda from the Council. There were none. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - February 28, 2012	1.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 2012, and approved them as submitted.
Minutes - March 6, 2012	2.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2012, and approved them as submitted.
Claim for Damages - Huseby	3.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Mike J. Huseby for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Purchase of Van for Pullman Transit	4.	The Council approved the purchase of one ADA accessible maxi-van for the Dial-A-Ride service from Schetky Northwest Sales, Inc.

Resolution

Resolution No. R-16-12 - Medicare Coverage for Firefighters	5.	Resolution No. R-16-12 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A DIVIDED VOTE REFERENDUM FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN CITY FIREFIGHTERS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEDICARE COVERAGE AGREEMENT, ESTABLISHING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF MEDICARE COVERAGE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS, EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECORD KEEPING. Resolution No. R-16-12 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 12-6 - Real Property Donation	6.	Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled on an ordinance donating real property to the City. Parks Superintendent Davis presented the staff report and gave a brief overview of the property and timetable of when it would be developed, which would be several years down the road. There were no questions from the Council. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing at 7:49 p.m. Mick Nazerali spoke in favor of obtaining the park. Laurel Nickels spoke in favor of the park as well as her daughter, Clara. Crystal Adam gave a hardy go for it. She stated that she lives right behind the park. Councilmember Bloom mentioned that in a previous testimony there was concern about barking dogs. Ms. Adam mentioned that there are always barking dogs there and it has nothing to do with the park so she does not see that as a concern. Julie Walker spoke in favor of the park, but not the pond that had formed and filled up with rainwater which is a retention facility as required by the Department of Ecology. Kathleen Smith-Meadows noted that she is right behind the park and that barking dogs are a constant and the park would not be a problem.

Mayor Johnson closed the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Ordinance No. 12-6 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING REAL PROPERTY AS A RESTRICTED DONATION FROM THE EMERALD POINTE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION TO THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR PARK PURPOSES.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Hawbaker to adopt Ordinance No. 12-6. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

Pullman 2020 Presentations

7. Mayor Johnson announced that a Pullman 2020 Presentation will be presented by ASWSU.

ASWSU

ASWSU President Riley Myklebust introduced the new ASWSU President Kyle Erdman and Vice-President Derrick Skaug. Jordan Graham and Nick Ramirez gave more of an update on what they had been doing. For 2020, there hope is that the relationship continues between the City Council, the City, and the University.

Councilmember Bloom mentioned that he has been impressed with the quality of leadership he has seen from ASWSU. Councilmembers Paul, Weller, and Wright all agreed with Councilmember Bloom's comments on the leadership exhibited by the senate.

Port of Whitman

Debbie Snell introduced Dan Boone, who is one of the Commissioners for the Port. Ms. Snell went through the history of the Port. She mentioned that the Holly Court building was 88 percent rented as of today and as part of their future plan they are going to build out on Pullman Industrial Park West which is 30 acres. The build out is between 2013 and 2018. She stated that the goals of the Port District, in addition to its ongoing emphasis on agricultural-related industry, are to actively encourage diversification of the district's economic base by promoting tourism as a viable industry by advertising, publishing, distributing information designed to attract visitors; to undertake active recruitment of new economic activities; to accelerate the Port's involvement in economic development activities in Whitman County's small rural communities in partnership with local, regional, state, and economic development organizations in order to recruit, retain, enhance; and to foster business and industry.

Ms. Snell stated that in partnership with community support, the Port hopes to acquire and lease feasible single or multi use facilities in Whitman County communities and seek partnership with entities such as the Community Economic Revitalization Board, Washington State University, and the State Legislature Fund Economic Facilities and Services. As for 2020, they see themselves still expanding and working on attracting businesses in the future.

Councilmember Bloom noted that Pullman is a great community and it wouldn't be so without the Port involved in it.

Whitman County Association of Realtors

Chris Clark talked on the retail housing market in Pullman and the surrounding area. He indicated that the housing market basically hit bottom. Foreclosures are under 2 percent. He encouraged bringing L&I inspection in-house since it was such a draining process trying to get the State to perform that function. He talked about the building permit process and looking at the cost of those permits. Chris Clark is the immediate past president of Windermere Realty.

Vice-President Chud Wendle of Coldwell Banker, talked on the commercial market. He indicated that lending was improving. He said that for the future, office space is extremely limited. There is a shortage of Class A offices that would encourage medical practices and professional services. We still need room for additional apartments although there have been several complexes that are planned. He mentioned that investors are coming back into the market and that income properties are turning where people are moving into larger facilities. He indicated we are still in need of additional restaurants. Councilmember Weller asked about similar businesses. Mr. Wendle did mention that yes, we need more competitive type restaurants, there are a lot of Chinese and Mexican restaurants. We need some single type items too of the higher end such as the Olive Garden or Red Lobster.

Councilmember Wright wanted to know if the South Bypass area would be suitable for a lot of these businesses. Mr. Wendle agreed it would be.

Whitman County

Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch went through his statement, bringing some high points of the County. One was Whitcom, which he said was perhaps one of the most successful multi-jurisdictional partnership sin the State or in the nation. This award-winning interlocal government agency between the County, City, and WSU is a prime example of how we can come together for the common benefit of our citizens by transcending boundaries, egos, and individual turf and achieving a synergy that most agencies and governments can only wish for. He mentioned the Chipman Trail, which is an amazing asset to our County, City, and region as another wonderful example of working together. It was created from the Rails-to-Trails Program and continues to grow, now stretching over 20 miles from Pullman to Troy Idaho. The partnership between the two counties, two cities, and two universities, administered through the Whitman County Parks Department, continues to build on success and a vision that will one day lead to a westward extension as far as the City of Colfax. He mentioned a lot of the credit for this vision goes to the Pullman Civic Trust, which has now extended this to the Pullman Riverwalk system demonstrating the important linkage between public and non-profits in local government. He mentioned the Scenic Byway as another partnership success between the City of Pullman and the Whitman County Parks Department showcasing the county, cities, and towns for others to see and appreciate.

Commissioner Partch mentioned the Transportation Improvement Board and praised the State program which is highly regarded by towns and cities as one of the most effective local programs available

to them. Over $20,000,000 has been granted for street and sidewalk improvements throughout Whitman County over the last ten years, with over $10,000,000 going to the City of Pullman. He talked about the Mayor's Roundtable which started in 2010, sponsored by Avista, SEWEDA, and the Whitman County Commissioners. He said that this unofficial gathering of mayors, officials, and local organizations provides means for representatives of our 16 towns and cities to come together on a quarterly basis to discuss relevant topics as well as to share items of interest within the community. He mentioned solid waste and recycling and that the County has worked closely with the City of Pullman and Pullman Disposal as well as WSU in providing a clean, green, affordable solution for solid waste. On thoughts for the future he brought up sales-tax sharing. The County and the City had been working on the concept since 2005 to share sales-tax revenue equity and at the same time insure the City of its ability to grow in the future. He said a final idea for the future is that the County and City meet at least once a year to continue this visioning process. In wrapping up, he said he must recognize your success as a City. It is a great pleasure working with many of the City employees over the last 12 years. In his view, John Sherman has been the glue that allowed the City of Pullman to pull together to meet adversity of uncertain times. He has been encouraged by the diversified, but yet goal-oriented Councils that commit to getting a job. He has been blessed with dedicated staff. He will certainly be missed and on behalf of the Whitman County Commissioners he wanted to paraphrase a different departure fifty years ago "God speed John Sherman as you break the bonds of government gravity and soar in your new life as citizen John Sherman. You're an honor ambassador at large for Pullman and Whitman County. We trust you will wear the title well".

Councilmember Benjamin asked about the Chipman Trail. His understanding is that they would not be replacing the bridges on the rail lines. Commissioner Partch said that was his understanding, so that would curtail some of the activities for that. Councilmember Weller pointed out that the Commissioners had helped out in the Airport.

Councilmember Paul thought that the meeting once a year was a good idea and he supported it.

Resolution

Resolution No. R-17-12 - 2012 Whitman County Solid Waste Plan

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared adopting the 2012 Whitman County Solid Waste Plan. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes presented the staff report. There were no questions of the report.

Resolution No. R-17-12 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2012 WHITMAN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-17-12. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion

eCivis Agreement 9. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested to approve a Master Subscription and Service Agreement with eCivis for researching federal, state, and foundation grant opportunities. He fielded part of the background along with City Supervisor Sherman. This was a measure where they had seen a demo and this would help facilitate not having a dedicated grant writer. This is the next best thing. Councilmember Benjamin agreed with that assessment.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to approve the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

ASWSU President Riley Myklebust brought up the concert, the Spring Bash. He stated it was not sponsored by ASWSU or the university.

Heather Christianson thought it was an extremely poor idea to have the concert on a Wednesday night.

Eileen Macoll thought that it was fine to bring in new events. If it is worthwhile, then we should support it. She said that she can hear the Cougar band practice every night when they are playing so she does not have a problem with some other noise.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:18 p.m.