

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on November 15, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
William F. Mulholland	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Jeff Hawbaker	Councilmember
Bill Paul	Councilmember
Barney Waldrop	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 four announcements.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting to conduct the Metropolitan Park District meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m.

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 Benjamin 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 Paul moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

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| Minutes - No-
vember 8, 2011 | 1. | The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2011, and approved them as submitted. |
| Agreement with
American Red Cross | 2. | The Council approved an agreement with the American Red Cross to provide first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and automatic external defibrillator (AED) training to Police Department staff. |

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

2012 Final
Budget Hearing

- 3. Mayor Johnson announced that the final budget hearing on the 2012 Preliminary Budget is scheduled. Finance Director Mulholland went through the background and recommended that they conduct the final 2012 budget hearing, accept public comments, and provide staff with direction as to what, if any, changes to make in the proposed budget ordinance.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. There were no questions or comments. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Ordinances

Tax Levy for
2012

- 4. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared fixing the amount of tax levy for 2011 to be collected in 2012. Finance Director Mulholland briefly went through the impact for the 2012 collections and made the recommendation for the passage of the ordinance.

Ordinance No. 11-14 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2011 FOR COLLECTION IN 2012 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL LEVY TO MEET GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND INDEBTEDNESS.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-14. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency
Medical Service Tax
Levy

- 5. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared fixing the amount of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) tax levy. Finance Director Mulholland went through the impact of the tax collections due for the following year and recommended adoption of the ordinance.

Ordinance No. 11-15 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2011 FOR COLLECTION IN 2012 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EMS EXPENDITURES.

Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-15. The motion carried unanimously.

Prior to starting Item No. 6, Councilmember Waldrop wanted to emphasize that the budget under proposal would wind up with only a 2.3 percent reserve at the end of the year which is far below the 16 percent recommended by most cities and the 13 percent Council goal, as well as the 9 percent that we have hovered around for the last two years. He just wanted the public aware that after the first quarter there might have to be major changes to a lot of services and structure within the City.

Renaming a
Portion of Larry
Street as Greyhound
Way

- 6. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared renaming a portion of Larry Street as Greyhound Way. Public Works Director Workman went through some of the background on the reason for

the request for the change of the name. Councilmember Wright wanted to know if there were any compelling reasons for the name change. Public Works Director Workman indicated it was at the request of Bobbie Ryder, who has the only residential property on the street and there was a letter in the packet from the superintendent of schools agreeing to the change. Councilmember Bloom wanted to know if there would be costs involved in the change. Public Works Director Workman indicated just a few hundred dollars for changing the signs. He said the biggest impact would be for the school district with changing the address on the stationery.

Ordinance No. 11-16 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING A PORTION OF LARRY STREET AS GREYHOUND WAY.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-16. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

Resolution No. 7.
R-74-11 - Parks and
Recreation Fee
Schedule

Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared amending fees for Park and Recreation programs effective January 1, 2012. Recreation Superintendent Dahmen went through the rate changes. He also stated this was the first time that the rates had been changed since 2006. Councilmember Bloom wanted to know if there had been a physical impact analysis done. Recreation Superintendent Dahmen indicated there had not been one done. He did indicate the fee structure should bring in an additional \$50,000 to \$65,000. Councilmember Bloom asked how we compared with Moscow and Superintendent Dahmen indicated we are very competitive. Councilmember Paul said that with no major increase since 2006, the increases were way overdue. He also asked about low-income assistance. Superintendent Dahmen stated that they give about 100 scholarships a year which is 50 percent of registration fees, or \$20.00 for an event. He also asked for community support to help fund the Care-to-Share program.

Councilmember Benjamin indicated that looking forward with the health care mandate how would it affect him. Superintendent Dahmen indicated at this point it hasn't been addressed. They do know it is coming down the line, it will be challenging to staff. 90 percent of the staff is college students. He indicated that several years ago a lot of these students would want to work 30 to 40 hours if they could, but now it is hard getting them to do 20 to 25 hours, keeping under 30 hours might not be a problem.

Resolution No. R-74-11 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING FEES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITY USE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-74-11. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Single-Stream Recycling

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on single-stream recycling. City Supervisor Sherman made a few comments and then introduced Devon Felsted, president of Pullman Disposal. Mr. Felsted said that the single-family residents had the three-bin system since 1994 and multi-families since 1997. The Spokane Waste Management System Recycling Center is due to open in October of 2012. Mr. Felsted said that he would like to see us move forward to the single-stream recycling.

Councilmember Benjamin said he had been contacted by an East Coast recycler who thought the prices charged were high. Mr. Felsted indicated that it is all kind of relative and he felt that he was very competitive with other local areas for recycling.

Councilmember Weller wanted to know about food remnants in pizza boxes and contamination with co-mingling. Mr. Felsted indicated that pizza boxes weren't normally a problem, but contamination in the co-mingling was.

Councilmember Bloom asked about florescent bulbs and clam shells that they get from the grocery store. Mr. Felsted indicated that the CFLs as well as clam shells were accepted at the Whitman County Landfill.

Councilmember Paul asked about the issue with grocery bags. Mr. Felsted said that plastic in the recycling sorting process does clog up the gears and it is best to recycle them at the grocery stores.

Rick Finch, Manager of the WSU Waste Management, discussed the successful WSU single-stream recycling program. He indicated they would take no glass and no plastic bags. They have been co-mingling since 2008. They are moving to front-load collection in December of 2011. He stated that their cost avoidance was \$127.00 a ton, which is broken out as a \$102.00 for the landfill cost they would have had to pay if they did not recycle plus the \$25.00 ton profit.

Councilmember Weller asked what he saw as the biggest challenge going to single-stream. Mr. Finch said that contamination, especially in the first six months, was very high.

Councilmember Benjamin questioned him about what his comment that they were self-sustaining meant. Mr. Finch said that housing and the dining areas have to pay and between those fees as well as the monies that were received from recycling they cover their costs. He said that the recyclables are a commodity and the value changes day-to-day.

Whitman County Commissioner Pat O'Neill talked briefly. He said the major problems facing the Whitman County Landfill are that they have space limitations, handling charges, and have to rebuild the transfer station. He said that David Nails, the Landfill Operations Manager, would go into greater depth.

David Nails said that the number one problem is

space. They try to keep the recyclables like cardboard and paper covered and would be getting more paper products requiring more space to keep the recyclables out of the elements. As for the volatility of the commodity markets on the recyclables, he said last month they were receiving \$125.00 a ton for cardboard. Today he said it was \$90.00. Mixed paper last month was \$120.00 a ton and today it was \$30.00, so there is a lot of variability in costs. He said a lot of the landfills and recycle areas are going to a per ton fee rather than a percentage.

Councilmember Paul said he was a little confused on the space issue as to whether it was a single-stream or co-mingled, they still have product there. Mr. Nails said that the tin and aluminum products would not get damaged by getting wet as they are already stored outside. This is about 30 percent of what they collect and with the single-stream they would have a lot more product coming in, in which case they would need more inside storage.

Councilmember Weller asked if it could be covered with tarps and plastic. Mr. Nails said that is a possibility, but not really viable.

Councilmember Benjamin asked about the handling charge and whether any fee had to go through the commissioners. Mr. Nails said that they did.

Councilmember Bloom requested the status on the area set aside for asbestos. Mr. Nails said they are taking about 500 tons a month, right now. Between 2013 and 2014 that particular cell will close. They could conceivably open another cell, but that is not in the planning stage right now. Mr. Nails also mentioned that in 2013 the manufacturer of florescent tubes will be adding additional charges on the tube and the consumer will recover the cost by taking them back to recycling centers.

Whitman County Recycling and Waste Reduction Education Coordinator Judi Gray spoke briefly. Mayor Johnson and Ms. Gray announced that it was "National Recycle Day". She said that the recycling program is for all of Whitman County and we all need to come together and educate the populus on recycling.

Councilmember Paul thanked Ms. Gray for her work on the committee and he moved to pick a date for co-mingling which he wanted around October 2012. Councilmember Wright seconded the motion. Councilmember Waldrop said they really needed to see what happens with Spokane and that the Council really wasn't in favor of setting a date at this time until more information comes along and public input is received. The vote was taken, Councilmember Paul voting aye, all other Councilmembers voting nay. The motion failed.

Pullman 2020
Presentation -
Pullman School
District

9. Mayor Johnson announced that a Pullman 2020 discussion is scheduled with the Pullman School District.

Superintendent Paul Sturm gave a presentation on Pullman 2020 and their visioning. He said that the primary mission for the school district is learning as opposed to teaching. Teaching is

really encompassed within a system toward achieving the mission which is learning. He said learning activities affect brain development. He said learning is social with relationships, interactions, guidance, directions, listening, and talking. He said teaching and teachers are critical to their mission. Professional learning focuses on student achievement, engaging community experts, and specialists and students experience a whole system support learning. Information technology is a great teaching and learning tool and looking at expanded communications in the classroom, to prepare the students for the future. There will be greater utilization of information technology operations in state assessments, state and federal reporting, human resources, and personnel management. Facilities will help create an environment for learning and they will need to continue to maintain adequate space. They are doing a project right now to expand classes at Franklin Elementary. They now have 150 to 180 more students than four years ago and this will help alleviate some of the crowding. They are looking at maintaining their structure, to maintain safe and clean schools, and provide good operations of the buildings.

For Pullman High School, they are looking at a complete renovation or replacement. He said it was not originally set up very well. It was not adequate for teaching and learning spaces and they need to incorporate a lot of energy efficiencies into the structure. For support facilities and services, they need to update and improve the transportation garage and shops, and the maintenance equipment and facility. Food service is looking at onsite cooking. High technology is ongoing. What is needed in information technology infrastructure is a robust stable infrastructure, including rural county residents; wireless access for individual teachers and student devices; and minimal dependence on individual workstations with any access to personnel data.

What is needed? The advocacy for public schools and higher education. Advocate for stable state revenues for public services; advocate for sustainable scope of public service; and focus expectations for public education as well as preserving elected local board oversight, which he felt was extremely important and provide for equitable education opportunities for all children. What is needed? They need to maintain expanded partnerships with the City and with the University, as well as community infrastructure for safety, citizen participation commitment and pride, and a reliable and adequate infrastructure for development.

Councilmember Weller indicated that he had gone through all his education through the Pullman School District, through high school and he was glad to see the vision that was being presented for the schools.

Councilmember Benjamin appreciated the visioning process and wanted to know how the trail system worked for students and whether the Copper Basin project would be a good area to develop. Superintendent Sturm said that he agreed that Copper Basin would be beneficial. He said the trail systems are utilized, but to what degree he

is really not certain.

Councilmember Waldrop indicated he was aware of the deficiencies in the high school and what plans did they have or what timeframe for something be done. Superintendent Sturm said that in a five or ten-year time range that they would have to be making some serious considerations on either complete renovation or replacement of the high school.

**Pullman Progress 10.
Presentation**

Mayor Johnson announced that a Pullman Progress presentation is scheduled. Public Works Director Workman went through the following projects: North Grand Widening, Sidewalks 2010, "B" Street Sidewalks and Sidewalk Infilling, ERD Expansion, Pioneer Center and Fire Station II window upgrades, CBD lighting improvements, Itani Park Sewer Access, Bleasner Waterline, Accelerating Street Surfaces, Tank 9 Painting, Holbrook Sewer Replacement, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. He went through private sector projects such as the construction of the Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories 90,000 square-foot Solution Delivery Center building and apartment complex at Tomason Place 1 as well as the ground clearing on the four-story, 94-room Hampton Inn and Suite which should be permitted for construction in the spring of 2012. He ended up with the bus wraps which were paid for by WSU for at least 10 buses and possibly 18 Transit buses.

Councilmember Weller questioned Public Works Director about the North Grand area where they put up the fence and diverted the trail away from the road and he had seen people crossing it. Public Works Director Workman said they put up signage, but did not know where to go from there.

Councilmember Bloom commended Public Works Director Workman on the progress and asked about the loan on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from either the Council or audience. There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:08 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session for the purpose of:

Conferring with legal counsel representing the City concerning litigation that has been specifically threatened to which the City, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party; and To discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City during the course of collective bargaining or grievance proceedings.

The City Council will reconvene in open session in approximately 30 minutes. It was extended for another 30 minutes. The Executive Session ended at 11:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 11:08 p.m.

