

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MARCH 6, 2012

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on March 6, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Jane Joyce	Deputy City Clerk
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. Mayor Johnson welcomed Fritz Hughes as the new Councilmember from Ward II.

Announcements

There were three announcements.

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

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - February 31, 2012

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting of February 22, 2012, and approved them as submitted.

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - March, 2012

2. The Council approved disbursements represented by accounts payable checks numbered _____ through _____ totaling \$ _____ inclusive, payroll checks numbered _____ through _____ totaling \$ _____ inclusive, and electronic transfers totaling _____ and directed that they be paid upon approval of the Auditing Officer and Audit Committee.

Ordinance

Ordinance No.
12-5 - Mader
Annexation

3. Ordinance No. 12-5

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 11-5 TO CORRECT THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP ATTACHED AS EXHIBITS RELATING TO THE ANNEXATION OF REAL PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND OTHER MATTER RELATED THERETO.

Ordinance No. 12-5 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

Single-Stream
Recycling

4. Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled on single-stream recycling. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. He stated that at the November 15, 2011, Council meeting he presented a history on recycling. He briefly went through the history and stated that we have been with the three-bin system since 1994. He stated that many cities are switching to single-stream recycling. The City of Lewiston is currently considering switching to single-stream recycling.

Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal, stated that he supports the switch to single-stream recycling because it increases the amount that is recycled. They currently do not take mixed papers and plastics. If they co-mingled, they could take more recyclables. Many of the students come from the west side and are not used to separating their recyclables. He supports the switch to co-mingled recycling. Mayor Johnson stated that the bins used for single-stream recycling would stop items from being blown around. Devon Felsted stated that there would also be less garbage as more items could be recycled.

Councilmember Paul stated that food would still be separate, so you would still need a garbage can. Devon Felsted stated that, if this passes, you would have two bins.

City Supervisor Sherman asked how this would affect operations and the rates. Devon Felsted stated that there would be the initial cost of purchasing the roll carts. The cost is \$60.00 to \$70.00 per cart. There could be a decrease from selling the product because it is co-mingled and prices for the product are down. There would be approximately a \$2.00 per month increase per household.

Councilmember Weller asked if Pullman Disposal recycles colored glass. Devon Felsted stated that they take all colors of glass. Councilmember Weller asked about different types of glass. Devon Felsted replied that they only take container glass. Councilmember Weller and Mr. Felsted discussed rental agencies helping to educate the renters.

Councilmember Wright asked if the amount of recyclables is increased, would that offset the additional cost. Mr. Felsted replied that he did not know; it is possible that could happen.

Ken Gimpel, Waste Management, stated they are building a 62,000 square-foot plant in Spokane.

He presented a seven-minute video about a facility they built in Philadelphia. It is for single-stream recyclables. He stated that some food waste does not devalue the recyclables. He also stated that there is a sorting cost.

Mr. Gimpel discussed Coeur d'Alene, Idaho which converted to single-stream recycling. He stated that the participation rate of recycling increased after the change. He stated the efficiency is gained on the routes. Coeur d'Alene did not increase their rates. Devon Felsted stated they could probably go from three trucks to one or one-and-a-half. Mr. Gimpel stated that commercial accounts usually have little garbage left over and that homeowners can probably downsize their garbage cans and save money that way.

Mr. Gimpel stated that plastic bags are vacuumed up in the newer plants. Mayor Johnson stated that the paperwork says no plastic bags.

Councilmember Weller asked if the paper can be wet or do they prefer it dry. Mr. Gimpel stated that wet paper is devalued. Mayor Johnson stated that the carts with lids will help keep the paper dry. Councilmember Weller asked if they could put junk mail with plastic windows in the carts. Mr. Gimpel responded that normal junk mail with plastic windows would not be a problem. Councilmember Weller asked about paper bags, if labels have to be taken off glass and cans, and if instructions are on the cans. Mr. Gimpel responded that labels can be left on and that instructions are on the cans.

Councilmember Bloom asked the number of employees the facility in Spokane will have. Mr. Gimpel responded it will create 45 to 50 new jobs and within 5 years will put \$45,000,000 into the economy.

Mayor Johnson asked about employee hours and breaks. Mr. Gimpel responded they will probably work 10-hour shifts with breaks and lunch. He stated that Spokane will go from 12 to 8 trucks.

Councilmember Benjamin asked what region the new plant will service and the capacity of the plant. Mr. Gimpel responded they are doing studies but, it should be able to handle 100,000 tons a year.

Mark Storey, Whitman County Public Works Director, discussed single-stream recycling. He stated that the landfill cannot do both types of recycling as they do not have the room. They are talking about increasing their facilities and when it is completed they are hoping to be able to do both types of recycling. He also stated that if the City of Pullman wants to switch to single-stream recycling, they will support that. It is possible that prices would increase.

Councilmember Benjamin asked if this means that if Pullman switches to single-stream recycling, we are making the decision for all cities in Whitman County. Mr. Gimpel stated that if Pullman switches to single-stream recycling, the rest would probably follow. He stated that most of the other cities and towns in Whitman County do not do a lot of recycling.

Mr. Storey stated that when they receive recycling, they build it up until they have enough to sell it to the highest bidder. When the upgrades are complete, they will have more room.

David Nails, Whitman County Landfill Operations Manager, discussed cardboard prices. Mayor Johnson, Whitman County Public Works Director Storey, David Nails, and Councilmember Benjamin discussed single-stream recycling, cardboard, and prices.

Rick Finch, WSU Waste Management, stated that they have been co-mingling recyclables for several year. Each recyclable has a separate market; it is a commodity game. Co-mingling is convenient for people. He believes Pullman Disposal will eventually break even if they move to co-mingled recycling. He stated that WSU saves money with co-mingling. They have a separate cardboard system. They have a large volume of paper that is recyclable. They are hoping to start co-mingling recyclables at the apartments and dorms.

Councilmember Bloom asked if WSU composts food waste. Mr. Finch stated that they have 11,000 tons a year of organics and 35 tons a month of food waste. He stated that they consider recycling a resource. They sell to the highest bidder.

Paul Spencer, League of Women Voters, stated they are pleased that Pullman is considering co-mingling recyclables. He read parts of a letter from the League and stated that they support changes to make the economy attractive.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Michael Schwartz-Oscar stated he works at WSU and is part of the College Hill board. They support co-mingling. He stated that the fraternities and sororities support co-mingling. He stated it has been 18 years since the City made a major change to recycling. He suggested discussing how many bins apartment complexes should have.

Eileen Macoll, Whitman County Landlord-Tenant Association, urged support for single-stream recycling. She stated that you see recycling bins outside and it would reduce clutter. She advised this is a nice step forward.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Paul stated that Whitman County has composting bins available. Judi Gray, Whitman County Recycling and Waste Reduction Coordinator, stated that you can order the composting bins from Whitman County.

City Supervisor Sherman stated that staff supports co-mingling and that Devon Felsted and Mark Storey recommend starting this in the Spring of 2013. The consensus of the Council was to move forward with co-mingled recycling.

Motion

Replacement of Fire Vehicle 4. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested to authorize the expenditure of up to \$30,000 from the Restricted CIP Reserve for the replacement of

vehicle 94-008, a Jeep Cherokee used by the Fire Department. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. He also stated that replacement of this vehicle has been deferred and it was not on amortization. He wanted a policy to purchase used vehicles. The Jeep was recently in an accident and was totaled. He now has a policy to purchase used or lease- returned vehicles. This vehicle would be used by the Fire Chief. He requested using up to \$30,000 from the Restricted CIP Reserve to replace this vehicle.

Councilmember Bloom stated he has a concern about using this CIP reserve fund. The intent was to use this fund for maintenance that had been deferred. He is also concerned about emergency services needs. He is not saying no, but he is concerned.

Councilmember Paul discussed the purpose of the fund. Public Works Director Workman stated that the amortization program is important.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to approve the expenditure of up to \$30,000 from the Restricted CIP Reserve fund for replacement of the Jeep Cherokee. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Rescheduling of 6.
City Council Retreat

Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on rescheduling of the City Council retreat. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report stating that the retreat is currently scheduled for March 24. Councilmember Bloom has resigned effective March 31, 2012, and the Council will be filling his position on April 10. He asked the Council if they wanted to move the retreat so the new Councilmember could attend.

Councilmember Bloom stated that he feels the new Councilmember should be in attendance at the retreat.

The consensus of the Council was to hold the retreat after the new Councilmember has been appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from either the Council or audience. Adam Assenberg discussed medical cannabis. He stated that in Seattle there are 108 stores that sell medical cannabis. He urged the Council to look at the Constitution and consider citizen rights.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 09:00 p.m., Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting to an Executive Session for the purpose of:

To discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City during the course of collective bargaining or grievance proceedings.

The Executive Session will last for approximately 20 minutes. The Executive Session ended at 9:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:44 p.m.