

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MARCH 9, 2010

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on March 9, 2010, 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

Mayor Johnson made four announcements.

Presentations

League of Women
Voters

Mayor Johnson announced that a presentation by the League of Women Voters is scheduled. Susan Armitage presented awards to honor Mayor Johnson and City Supervisor Sherman. The purpose of the award was that both of the individuals are heads of their respective committees for the state. Mayor Johnson is president of the Association of Washington Cities and City Supervisor Sherman is president of the Washington City Management Association.

Former City of
Pullman Mayors

Former Mayor Karen Kiessling presented awards to City Supervisor Sherman and Mayor Johnson. She said that this is a new group called the August Association of Former Mayors of Pullman. She presented plaques to City Supervisor Sherman and Mayor Johnson that were signed by six former mayors: John Dunne, Karen Kiessling, Pete Butkus, Carole Helm, Al Halvorson, and Mitch Chandler. Both Al Halvorson and Mitch Chandler were in attendance and were recognized by Mayor Johnson.

Reports

2009 Fire Department
Report

Mayor Johnson announced the 2009 Fire Department report is scheduled. Fire Chief Wilkins had a corrected report from what was submitted in the agenda packet. Councilmember Waldrop asked what is included in the 667 non-emergency calls. Fire Chief Wilkins explained this criteria.

Historic District
Rezone

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on the Historic District Rezone. Planning Director Dickinson reported that proceedings later this month will be conducted to initiate a zone change of the subject property from R2 to RT. City Attorney McAloon stated that since this is a quasi-judicial process there are procedural mandates required by the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine and RCWs that were to be met.

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 Waldrop moved, Councilmember Wright 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. Councilmember Paul asked that item No. 5 be removed for separate discussion. Mayor Johnson so ordered. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adopt items numbered 1 through 4 and 6 through 9 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - February 23, 2010

- 1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2010, and approved them as submitted.

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - March, 2010

- 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.

Phrase Factory Contract

- 3. The Council authorized a two-year contract with Jane Fredrickson (dba Phrase Factory) for AP style edits, design and production services for the Pullman Community Update.

Public Hearing Date

- 4. The Council set March 23, 2010, as the date for a public hearing to consider a petition for annexation of property to the City of Pullman submitted by Frankie and Phillip Hinrichs, Christine Havens, and Benjamin Moffett.

Application to Google, Inc.

- 6. The Council authorized the Information Services Manager, Mark Bailey, in conjunction with City departments, to complete and submit a RFI application to Google, Inc. for Pullman to be a "Fiber to Home" trial city.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-17-10 - Reaney Park Waterline

- 7. Resolution No. R-17-10
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF MOTLEY-MOTLEY, INC. FOR REANEY PARK WATERLINE AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-17-10 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 8.
R-18-10 - Guy Street
Water Main

Resolution No. R-18-10

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF M.L. ALBRIGHT & SONS, INC. FOR GUY STREET WATER MAIN AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-18-10 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 9.
R-19-10 - "B" Street
Sidewalk

Resolution No. R-19-10

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ACE ELLIOTT LAND FOR 'B' STREET SIDEWALK AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-19-10 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion

Grant from
Fireman's Fund
Insurance

- 5. Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Paul. Councilmember Paul wanted to make sure that recognition was given to the fact that we have obtained this grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance. Chief Wilkins stated that this grant was the result of John and Marilyn Harvey, who are the owners of Dennys. They had been to a convention and the Fireman's Fund had given a presentation that grants were available. They sponsored the grant that we were ultimately able to obtain for imaging equipment for the Fire Department. Mayor Johnson said that at some future point they would be invited to the Council for proper recognition.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to accept the grant for \$5,000 from the Firemen's Fund Insurance Company for a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department.

Resolution and Ordinance

Resolution No. 10.
R-20-10 and
Ordinance No.
10-4 - Mader
Prezone

- 10. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution and ordinance had been prepared relating to Mader's Prezone request for approximately 515.1 acres of property. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report on the rezone of 515 acres adjacent to the northwest boundary of the City. Planning Director Dickinson briefly went through the background on the 515 acres and stated that this action is divided into three parts. Part one is to adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. Part two is to act on the resolution regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan Map Designations, and part three is to act on an ordinance regarding the proposed prezone classifications.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-20-10 by title only reads as follows:
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMERCIAL DESIGNATIONS ON THE

OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 515.1 ACRES LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY OF THE CITY, BOUNDED ON THE EAST BY STATE ROUTE 27 AND ON THE WEST BY BRAYTON ROAD.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-20-10. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-4 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PREZONE CLASSIFICATIONS OF R2, I1, AND C3 FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 515.1 ACRES LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY OF THE CITY, BOUNDED ON THE EAST BY STATE ROUTE 27 AND ON THE WEST BY BRAYTON ROAD.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 10-4. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Transfer of 11.
2010 Fire Hydrant
Expenditures to the
General Fund

Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested to transfer 2010 fire hydrant expenditures from the Utilities Fund to the General Fund. City Supervisor Sherman gave the staff report going over the request for the transfer of fire hydrant expenditures to the General Fund. He stated that this request is a result of Lane versus City of Seattle. The State of Washington Auditor's Office said that they would look, in future audits, at how the cost of fire hydrants are handled. The main focus will be to determine if the response by the City addresses the issue and if the approach is reasonable. City Supervisor Sherman mentioned the January 19, 2010, Council meeting where City Attorney McAloon advised the Council about the settlement of the Lane versus City of Seattle case.

Councilmember Benjamin asked about water flow and how that would be affected. City Attorney McAloon stated that this was just related to the fire hydrants since that was the focus of the case. Water flow was not considered and the cost involved in getting the information could be quite extensive. Public Works Director Workman agreed because it would have to consider reservoirs, pump stations, and oversized piping. City Supervisor Sherman said that a separate budget amendment would be presented later for Council approval.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to approve the transfer of 2010 fire hydrant expenditures from the Utilities Fund to the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Tax Sharing 12.
Agreement Proposal
with Whitman County

Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on a tax-sharing proposal with Whitman County. City Supervisor Sherman presented the

staff report and discussed the tax sharing proposal from Whitman County and some of the history involved which stretched back to 2005. City Supervisor Sherman turned over the discussion to Planning Director Dickinson who went on to show a visual map that showed the proposed tax-sharing area and the fifty-year Urban Growth Area. He pointed out that towards the north, cluster housing could be developed in the County. Councilmember Waldrop noted that with the various lines and colorations included in the map and the lack of legend, the map was confusing and could they redo the maps at a later time with better clarity. This was also requested by Councilmember Bloom. Whitman County Public Works Director Mark Storey said they would.

Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch discussed the retail corridor and the attempt to work together. Commissioner Partch stated that the sharing of tax revenues would be a 50-50 split with 10 percent of each allocation going to a fund for infrastructure costs to be controlled and allocated through the Joint Planning Area Committee (JPAC) process. This 50-50 split would continue if the area was annexed. The property tax, should the City annex an area in the designated tax-sharing zone, will result in a 10 percent ramp down for ten years of the property tax evaluations for those particular properties. County Public Works Director Mark Storey also aided in the presentation and discussion that ensued along with Whitman County Commission Greg Partch. Councilmember Benjamin requested to know how this coincided with the extension of water lines which was set up in three phases. He was informed that it doesn't go beyond those areas. Councilmember Bloom stated that he supported the idea but he wanted to know about property taxes. Whitman County Commissioner Partch said that the model proposal was setup like Moses Lake which used a ten-year ramp down. Councilmember Paul asked about zoning changes and if the County had a Board of Adjustment similar to the City. Whitman County Public Works Director Storey advised the County does have a Board of Adjustment however zoning changes would go through the County Planning Commission. Councilmember Benjamin was concerned about water issues and how some of these costs would be paid for. Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch explained that the .09 dollar fund would be used to pay for some of these infrastructure costs.

County Commissioner Partch also stated that they have been collecting .09 monies for awhile and they had put aside about \$200,000 a year into a fund to be available for infrastructure in this area.

Water and future utilities would be offered when necessary and consistent with the City's growth plan. Councilmember Weller praised the County for their out-of-the-box thinking, and stated this type of thinking is what we need to help all of Whitman County grow. City Supervisor Sherman stated that we need public awareness of this issue and the plans do need some deliberation and hopefully we will be able to move forward with this.

He stated that Well No. 8 should be online this fall. Councilmember Benjamin asked how the Reaney Park Waterline was going to affect parking. The time period for the construction will occur for the pool as well as the park area when they are both heavily used. Public Works Director Workman stated that they will be as least disruptive to the park as possible and also there is additional parking around the area that could be utilized.

Councilmember Bloom asked if there has been any consideration for a guardrail on Bishop at the Fireside. Councilmember Paul stated that he already had received calls about the Grand Avenue Widening because it appears that part of the Cougar Country parking lot would be eliminated. Public Works Director Workman stated that this would occur and it was unavoidable but there are areas around the restaurant that could be utilized for this but there is not much they can do in relation to saving some of the parking that they are losing.

Public Works Director Workman showed the progress on Walmart. Councilmember Wright asked where the dirt went. County Public Works Director Storey stated that most of the dirt went to Colton and there are a couple of other locations where they dumped the dirt.

2010 Property
Tax

14. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on 2010 property tax. Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report noting that the actual 2010 levies as compared to what had been put in the budget were in fact very close. The City's tax levy only increased by 4.5 cents, the total County levy increased by 15 cents. The total dollar increase was 34.35 based on a \$229,000 home. A comparison of the 2009 versus 2010 tax increase indicated a 10.28 increase on a \$229,000 home. There was also a handout on Whitman County's Cities and Towns that show their total tax levies. Councilmember Bloom noted that we were among one of the lowest tax levies in the County.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:19 p.m.