

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

**Roll Call**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on September 15, 2009, 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
Ann Heath	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. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to excuse Councilmember Paul from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

**Announcements**

Mayor Johnson made three announcements including introducing three representatives from ASWSU Senate.

**Confirmation of Appointment**

Parks & Recreation Commission

Mayor Johnson announced that he has appointed Anissa Garcia, P.O. Box 1700, to a term on the Parks and Recreation Commission expiring December 31, 2011. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to confirm this appointment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Report**

Update on H1N1 Flu

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on the H1N1 Flu. Chief Weatherly presented the staff report stating that at the September 8 meeting Councilmember Waldrop had requested an update on the H1N1 Flu.

Chief Weatherly presented Dr. Timothy Moody who has been Whitman County Health Officer since 1990.

Dr. Moody gave an update on the flu by explaining what the influenza is, that H1N1 is a new Influenza A strain, and that in June of 2009 it was declared a pandemic which means it is worldwide. He gave statistics for the regular flu versus H1N1, explained who is at the highest risk, and presented statistics and information about the flu for Whitman County. He stated that they are seeing less patients now. Councilmember Bloom asked if once a person has the flu if they are immune. Dr. Moody stated that once someone gets the flu they are immune to only the strain they had. Mayor Johnson asked if someone had the Hong Kong flu are they immune or less likely to get the H1N1 flu.

Dr. Moody stated that if a person was born before 1957 they might have some immunity. Councilmember Waldrop asked when a person with the flu should visit a doctor. Dr. Moody responded if the person has difficulty breathing, asthma,

or a high-risk condition. Dr. Moody passed out a handout on H1N1.

Mayor Johnson and the Council thanked Dr. Moody for his presentation.

**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 either the Council or audience. There were none. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

**Motions**

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| Minutes - September 8, 2009 | 1. | The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2009, and approved them as submitted. |
| 2010 Budget Schedule        | 2. | The Council adopted the 2010 budget schedule.  |
| 2009 Football Agreement     | 3. | The Council authorized a 2009 Football Agreement with WSU Athletics.   |

**Resolution**

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| Resolution No. R-53-09 - Grant Application for Grand Avenue Widening | 4. | Resolution No. R-53-09<br><br>A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE EXECUTION BY THE MAYOR OF AN APPLICATION FOR A SMALL COMMUNITIES IN RURAL COUNTIES GRANT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC WORKS BOARD FOR THE GRAND AVENUE WIDENING - NYE TO RITCHIE PROJECT. |
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Resolution No. R-53-09 was adopted unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Resolutions**

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| Resolution No. R-54-09 - Water Rates and Resolution No. R-55-09 - Sewer Rates | 5. | Mayor Johnson announced that two resolutions had been prepared setting rates for the water and sewer utilities. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report stating that the last time a rate increase occurred was in 2004-2005. The first increase will take effect on November 1, 2009. Councilmember Heath stated she will vote for these resolutions because she does not want the City's infrastructure to deteriorate but she does not like voting to raise fees. Mayor Johnson |
|---|----|---|

stated that we must keep up the infrastructure of the City. The City must look to the future.

Resolution No. R-54-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE "WATER UTILITY" CODE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10A.35 OF THE PULLMAN CITY CODE.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-54-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-55-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE SEWER RATES AND CHARGES CHAPTER OF THE "PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES" CODE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10.20 OF THE PULLMAN CITY CODE.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-55-09. The motion carried unanimously.

### Motions

Collective Bargaining Agreement with Support Services

6. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested to approve a collective bargaining agreement for Pullman Police Department Support Services employees for 2009. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report stating that this is the 6<sup>th</sup> and final union contract for 2009. He stated that this is the same agreement as was given to Teamsters for Parks and Recreation and Public Works and to non-union employees.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to approve the collective bargaining agreement for Pullman Police Department Support Services employees for 2009. The motion carried with Councilmember Heath abstaining.

Stormwater Services Field Technician

7. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested to authorize the creation and filling of a stormwater services field technician. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report explaining the need for the position, job duties, and information about the job classification and wage.

Mayor Johnson asked about the differences in job duties between this position and the Stormwater Services Program Manager position. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert stated this new position will be a field-oriented position. With two positions it will be easier to work on the new ordinances that will be due soon. They can also respond to questions/complaints in a timely manner.

Councilmember Heath stated that she does not agree with the minimum qualifications for this position.

Human Resources Manager Sires responded that this position only needs knowledge of and ability to understand the duties. Councilmember Heath stated she does not agree with the salary as it does not match up with the qualifications. Human Resources Manager Sires stated that this job description was created from other area jobs and made to fit for Pullman. Mayor Johnson asked if

education could be a factor in hiring. Human Resources Manager Sires stated this is a new field and there are not a lot of people with experience.

Councilmember Heath asked if the Assistant City Planner position requires a degree. Human Resources Manager responded in the affirmative.

Councilmember Heath stated this position needs to fall into the same category as building inspectors and other positions. Councilmember Bloom asked if the Council could not amend the qualifications to require a two-year degree. Public Works Director Workman stated that the City has building inspectors and engineering technicians who do not have degrees and do an excellent job for the City. Councilmember Bloom stated this is a new field and there is a lot of interpretation of the law. Public Works Director Workman stated this is a critical position and it might be hard to find someone. This person will have to interact in adversarial conditions.

Councilmember Bloom discussed amending the job qualifications to five years experience in a relevant field or having a two-year degree. Human Resources Manager Sires asked what would be a relevant field. Councilmember Bloom stated earth work, construction, or environmental. Human Resources Manager Sires stated we could put an AA degree is preferred, but not required. Councilmember Bloom stated he was okay with that.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to approve the creation and filling of a stormwater services field technician position but to amend the qualifications for the position to high school diploma or GED and four years experience in a related field, or a combination of college and experience in a related field totaling four years, with an AA degree preferred. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Discussion**

### Pre-Budget Workshop

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a pre-budget workshop is scheduled. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. He started his staff report by discussing the 2010 preliminary budget schedule and property taxes. He stated that the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) will probably be less than 1 percent. He discussed the property tax ordinance and the process to raise it by 1 percent.

Mayor Johnson asked if the property tax price per 1,000 has gone down due to growth. City Supervisor Sherman stated that is affirmative and that Pullman's assessed property value has been going up. Councilmember Waldrop asked how the current year is different from past years. City Supervisor Sherman stated because the IPD is less than 1 percent. Councilmember Waldrop and City Supervisor Sherman discussed when a super majority vote is needed. Councilmember Heath and City Supervisor Sherman discussed the IPD and the tax ordinance. Councilmember Bloom, Councilmember Waldrop, and City Supervisor Sherman discussed the October 13 meeting and new property being added to the tax rolls.

The consensus of the Council was to approve the 2010 budget schedule and proposed 1-747 related

property tax lid lift for 2010.

City Supervisor Sherman discussed the potential impact of Initiative 1033. He stated if this initiative passes it would limit the growth in revenues in the General Fund. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) has given a projected impact to cities in Washington at 2.1 billion. If this initiative passes there will be no incentive for economic development for cities. Mayor Johnson stated that if this passes it will also impact the State of Washington. Councilmember Heath, Mayor Johnson, City Supervisor Sherman, Councilmember Wright, and Councilmember Bloom discussed the impacts of I-695 and I-747 and the possible impact of I-1033. Planning Director Dickinson stated the current population of Pullman is 27,600. He explained how the population figures are arrived at. Accounting Manager Babbitt discussed the current inflation rate.

The consensus of the Council was that a resolution should be completed reflecting that the Council is against Initiative 1033.

City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report on creating a budget stabilization reserve fund. He stated that budget cycles and economic cycles create challenges for long-term financial stability. He discussed recent fiscal dynamics on cities, unfunded mandates, medical insurance increases, the state's money shortfall, declines in taxes, rising unemployment, the demand for services, property taxes, sales tax, and the rising cost of service delivery. He discussed a handout from Councilmember Waldrop titled Walking Our Way Out of Recession.

City Supervisor Sherman stated that our revenues have not kept up with costs and that material costs for infrastructure have risen. He also discussed demographics, anticipated future demographic and fiscal pressures and challenges, and the effects of the economic downturn. He stated that property values in Whitman County are holding. He asked the Council to consider a budget stabilization reserve fund. He stated this fund might be a way to allocate additional funds within the General Fund that would count toward the 2009 budget. This would be the base year for calculations if I-1033 passes. Councilmember Heath asked where the money would be coming from. City Supervisor Sherman stated there is not much money available to put into the fund. It is creating a rainy day fund. Councilmember Waldrop stated he agreed with this and that new retail sales-tax income should go into the fund.

The consensus of the Council was to create a budget stabilization reserve within the General Fund.

City Supervisor Sherman then discussed labor cost issues. He suggested putting zero percent salary increases into the 2010 budget. Councilmember Waldrop stated we should look at the total compensation including looking at all coverages that the City offers including medical. Councilmember Waldrop stated that the goal is to keep all employees working.

City Supervisor Sherman then discussed strategies

for balancing the 2010 budget. He stated we need to carefully track financial trends and follow the mission statement. He discussed CIP General Fund issues.

Finance Director Mulholland discussed where he is at with the 2010 budget. He stated he is working with cost figures, revenues, and expenses. He is updating the graphs. He has not received the figures from departments but should have an idea of our status by the beginning of October.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Johnson stated that there is an item of new business. Public Works Director Workman stated that a Pullman couple have offered to donate the cost of paving the main access road in the cemetery. He would like to get quotes on the cost. He is asking for approval from the Council to proceed with this. Councilmember Bloom asked about the status of the road. Public Works Director Workman stated that no base work would be required. Mayor Johnson stated it has been a goal for years to pave this road. Councilmember Wright asked if the work Wal-Mart will be doing will have any impact on this project. Public Works Director Workman stated that the Wal-Mart improvements will not be inside the cemetery. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with the project.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Bloom 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 9:40 p.m.