

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
JUNE 30, 2009

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on June 30, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Troy Woo	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Ann Heath	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 two announcements.

Employee Recognition

Mayor Johnson, City Supervisor Sherman, City Councilmembers, and Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch made farewell statements to Finance Director Woo.

Confirmation of Appointment

Mayor Johnson announced that he had appointed Jeff Babbitt as Interim Finance Director. Mayor Johnson introduced Jeff Babbitt, who was in the audience, to the Council and audience. Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to confirm the appointment.

Motion Carried.

Reports

2009 Fireworks Enforcement

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on 2009 fireworks enforcement. Rich Dragoo, Fire Prevention Officer, presented a staff report that included a description of the fireworks stand permits that were issued this year, a review of the fireworks regulations, and described education efforts that have taken place. Police Chief Weatherly presented a staff report that included a description of the current

enforcement efforts and a review of past enforcement actions.

Rod Thornton, Transit Manager, described the Transit service that would be available on July 3 and 4.

Mayor Johnson announced that Main Street would be closed near Sunnyside Park on the 4th of July for safety reasons.

Current Economic
Conditions

City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report which included a description of the overall economic conditions. Finance Director Woo presented a staff report on key economic factors for the City of Pullman. Councilmember Heath commented that the State's decision to lower the pension contributions could be a missed opportunity to make up investment income. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Wright asked for specific areas that Pullman will be challenged with in the future. Finance Director Woo responded. City Supervisor Sherman described budget information that was gathered at the recent AWC conference and made closing comments on the current economic conditions.

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 Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin 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. Councilmember Waldrop requested that item No. 8 be removed for separate discussion. Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt items 1 through 7 and 9 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

- Minutes - June 2, 2009 1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2, 2009, and approved them as submitted.
- Minutes - June 22, 2009 2. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting of June 22, 2009.
- Request for Money from the Shirrod Family Memorial Fund 3. The Council authorized requesting \$2,830.98 from the Shirrod Family Memorial Fund for the Neill Public Library Shirrod Heritage Addition.
- Claim for Damages - Mikalson 4. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Amanda Louise Mikalson for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
- Claim for Damages - Quinlan 5. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Robert and Marsh Quinlan for the sum of \$1,267.09 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Resolutions

- Resolution No. R-33-09 - Public Hearing Date 6a. Resolution No. R-33-09
A RESOLUTION SETTING JULY 21, 2009 AS THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR THE YEARS 2010 THROUGH 2015.
Resolution No. R-33-09 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. R-34-09 - Public Hearing Date 6b. Resolution No. R-34-09
A RESOLUTION SETTING JULY 21, 2009 AS THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR THE YEARS 2010 THROUGH 2015.
Resolution No. R-34-09 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. R-35-09 - Surplus Property 7. Resolution No. R-35-09
A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID SURPLUS PROPERTY, TO-WIT: BICYCLES TO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

Resolution No. R-35-09 was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance

Ordinance No.
09-16 - Quit
Claim Deed

9. Ordinance No. 09-16

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM BIRCH HILLS, LLC, A WASHINGTON LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

Ordinance No. 09-16 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Resolution

Resolution No.
R-36-09 - Public
Hearing Date

8. Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Waldrop. Councilmember Waldrop wanted to bring to the public's attention that on July 21 there would be a public hearing establishing Transit service and noted that a new service for a "Senior Shuttle" would be included in that discussion and hoped that those who were interested would participate.

Resolution No. R-36-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ESTABLISH 2009-2010 TRANSIT FIXED-ROUTE AND DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE AND STAFFING LEVELS.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded adopt Resolution No. R-36-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance No.
09-17 - Willow
Street Vacation

10. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared vacating a portion of Willow Street. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes presented the staff report. There were no questions from the Council. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing. Ordinance No. 09-17 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF WILLOW STREET BETWEEN SOUTH STREET AND JACKSON STREET IN THE WILKINSON'S ADDITION.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-17. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 11. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared authorizing the extension of a City water main. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. Mayor Johnson stated that the City appreciated the cooperation that has taken place with the Whitman County Humane Society.

R-37-09 - Extension
of a City Water
Main

Resolution No. R-37-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WHITMAN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE EXTENSION OF A CITY WATER MAIN IN JOHNSON AVENUE AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION R-90-08.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-37-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 12. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared authorizing and directing the trade of property. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. Councilmember Heath asked for an explanation on the appraisal valuation and why the City is paying more than the appraisal. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there were any concerns with future FAA or Homeland Security limitations with the trade of property that was located across from the Airport. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Paul asked if the road that will approach the water reservoir will be open to the owner of the adjacent property. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the property is currently being farmed. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Bloom noted that the land swap will cause an impact to the farm operation and that should be considered in the price being paid for the property.

R-38-09 - Purchase
and Trade of
Property

Resolution No. R-38-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TRADE OF PROPERTY WITH AND THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM KEITH KOPF, LLC.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-38-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Motions

- Purchase of
Transit Buses
13. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested authorizing the purchase of one 35' and four 40' low-floor buses for Transit. Transit Manager Thornton presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom asked how long it will take to build the buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Heath asked if the motion is approved will it lock in the prices for the next 18 months. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Bloom asked which fuel the buses would use. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked what the price difference was between diesel and hybrid buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Paul asked if there was any risk in locking prices now and seeing a downward trend to bus prices in the future. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if diesel buses could compromise future use because of future environmental regulations. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked how many passengers could be transported on a 40' bus. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked if the 40' buses were tested on Pullman streets. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to approve the purchase of one 35' and four 40' low-floor buses from Gillig Corporation. The motion carried unanimously.

- Purchase of
Camera Systems
for Transit
14. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested approving the purchase of camera systems for Transit. Transit Manager Thornton presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom asked if the cameras would be monitored real time or used for archive reference. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Bloom and Transit Manager Thornton discussed the potential costs of storage and retention of the video. Councilmember Wright asked for clarification on the cost versus available federal stimulus funding. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Heath noted that this has been a long-term project but there are still many unanswered questions. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there

were any maintenance contract commitments and what the cost of the maintenance contract would be. Transit Manager Thornton and Transit Operations Supervisor Chris Mitchell responded. Mayor Johnson asked if there was a track record of other Transit systems using cameras. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to approve the purchase of camera systems. The motion carried six to one with Councilmember Bloom voting nay.

Discussion

Water/Sewer
15.
Financial Plan
and Rate Study

Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on water/sewer rates. Public Works Director Workman presented a staff report that included a history and brief overview of the proposed rates. Shawn Koorn from HDR Engineering, Inc., presented a report that described the rate setting process, Pullman's revenue requirements for its utilities, the water financial plan, water rates, sewer financial plan, and sewer rates. Councilmember Waldrop noted in the report that 2014 showed a zero reserve balance for capital and asked if that meant the reserve would be zero. Shawn Koorn responded. Councilmember Heath asked if the conservation rates for water included the potential for volume reduction. Mr. Koorn responded. Public Works Director Workman noted that the 20 percent adjustment to large water volume customers was a one-time adjustment in 2009 and not throughout the five-year schedule. Mr. Koorn responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked how the comparable water utilities were chosen. Mr. Koorn responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked what the City of Spokane's water rates were. Mr. Koorn and Mayor Johnson responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the irrigation water was less expensive than the residential water rates. Mr. Koorn responded. Councilmember Waldrop stated that he thought irrigation should be at a premium cost. Public Works Director Workman and Mr. Koorn responded. Mayor Johnson asked how many irrigation accounts the City had. Mr. Koorn responded. Mayor Johnson, Councilmember Waldrop, Councilmember Heath, Councilmember Benjamin, Public Works Director Workman, and Mr. Koorn discussed irrigation rate philosophies. The City Council concurred to steepen the irrigation rates. Mayor Johnson noted that the Public Works Trust Fund Loans were not funded by

the State in the next biennium budget. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Bloom asked for clarification on the reserve deficiency numbers. Mr. Koorn responded. Public Works Director Workman made closing comments and described staff's goal for the schedule to adopt rates. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the sewer treatment plant projects that were deferred were discretionary projects or required because of environmental regulations. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Waldrop thought that the projects that were deferred should be moved forward to take advantage of rates and the favorable construction environment. Public Works Director Workman and Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Bloom noted that the proposed rates were an overall \$300 annual increase for residential accounts which would be hard for Pullman's residents to absorb with zero salary increases, but at the same time the City is facing a risk of a degradation of its system. Councilmember Bloom stated he would not support rate increases without further public education and public forums.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he had heard that some jurisdictions are being forced to raise rates because of state requirements and asked for comments. Mr. Koorn and Public Works Director Workman responded. Public Works Director Workman summarized the Council direction on water and sewer rates.

Stormwater
16.

Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on stormwater. Stormwater Services Program Manager Rob Buchert presented a staff report that included a description of the Department of Ecology permit relief and a summary of future stormwater ordinances that need to be adopted. Councilmember Waldrop asked for the status of developing a rate structure for undeveloped property. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert responded. Mayor Johnson pointed out that within the agenda packet is a very good history and background memo that was prepared by City Supervisor Sherman. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert announced that the Palouse Basin Water Summit will take place on October 6 and that stormwater would be a topic at the summit.

2010 WSU Fire and Emergency Medical Agreement 17.

Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2010 Fire and Emergency Medical Protection Services agreement with WSU. City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report which included a description of the contract

negotiations that have taken place and included information on the fire SAFER grant opportunities. Councilmember Benjamin expressed concerns with accepting the SAFER grants because it will commit the City to maintaining certain staffing levels. City Supervisor Sherman responded. Councilmember Waldrop stated he appreciated the reference to the City of Cheney and Ellensburg funding models and that all Washington state jurisdictions that have higher education institutions should be reviewed and consideration should be made for a uniform funding model. City Supervisor Sherman responded. City Council concurred to proceed with the agreement as negotiated by staff.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would adjourn to Executive Session for:

To review the performance of a public employee and to discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City during the course of collective bargaining or grievance proceedings.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m. and announced that a five-minute recess would take place and the Executive Session would last thirty minutes.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the regular meeting at 10:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wright 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 10:38 p.m.