

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 9, 2020

OBSERVER: Libby Walker Length of meeting: 1 1/2 hours

Members present: Mayor Johnson, Pat Wright, Eileen Macoll, Brandon Chapman, Dan Record, Ann Parks, Nathan Weller, Al Sorenson

Others attending: Gary Jenkins, Pullman Chief of Police; Mike Urban, Finance and Admin Services Director; Mike Heston, Fire Department Chief; Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director; Dee Stiles-Elliott, City Clerk; Jennifer Hackman, Economic Development Manager; Clayton Forsman, Deputy Public Works Director; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Adam Lincoln, City Administrator.

This was a **zoom meeting** on the City of Pullman You Tube Channel.

Mayor Johnson asked Police Chief Gary Jenkins to summarize his letter in the paper **regarding police brutality**. Chief Jenkins wants to assure Pullman residents that the police department is for law enforcement but against police brutality. Examples of Pullman's protocols are community policing and the "Guardian Philosophy" of training. All police department documents are open to the public.

Mayor Johnson announced that there will be **fireworks** for the July 4th celebration but no public gathering or BBQ.

Also, the draft Comprehensive Plan is available this month.

Kevin Gardes: He discussed the **Whitman County Hazard Mitigation Plan** which includes flooding. There is a new section including a study of **Missouri Flat Creek**. The study predicts drier summers and less snowpack.

Mike Urban: The **CARES Act grant to Pullman** was \$1,036,000. Councilman Chapman asked for clarification regarding that items this money could be used to cover. Urban explained that anything in the budget before March 1, 2020 cannot be covered. The respirator masks for the Fire Dept. will be covered. Mayor Johnson asked if Pullman would be billed for PPE's sent to the City by the State. Urban answered "no."

Kevin Gardes, Jennifer Hackman, and Clayton Forsman: All three participated in the discussion of **traffic revision on East Main Street**. Changes include back-in angle parking, multi modal transportation (bikes) and a pop-up trial until the end of August. The Washington State Department of Transportation will have to approve the plan. Dan Records was concerned about disability access. He said the language in the study is vague. Clayton explained that back-in parking will add 7 more parking spaces. Standard stall width is 19 feet. He recommends that concrete dividers be installed in every other stall to stop cars from backing into the bike lane. Councilman Sorenson is concerned about liability if cars hit the concrete barriers. All Council members had questions about the traffic revisions. Main Street will be reduced from three lanes to two at the intersection of Paradise and Main Streets.

Jennifer Hackman introduced the idea of "**parklets**" which would be temporarily installed so that people could sit outside. Two will be tried on Main Street as a pilot and built by mid-July. Councilwoman Macoll said she thinks this is a wonderful idea. "**Seateries**" which are outside spaces by restaurants

was also discussed. Councilwoman Wright stated that we need to do whatever we can to encourage people to come downtown. Councilwoman Parks agreed. Councilman Sorenson is concerned about the cost since the City is in a budget crisis. There was a motion for the City to apply for a grant from the Lodging Tax Advisory Council which carried. City Attorney McAloon explained that the City has the authority to use these funds even if the LTAC denies its application but would have to wait 45 days to do so.

New Business: Councilman Sorenson requested more solid numbers regarding **Pullman's budget shortfall**. Mike Urban explained that he is waiting for the April sales tax numbers. A detailed report was requested by Councilman Sorenson in early July.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.