
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
December 13, 2000 – 7:00 P.M. – Senior Center

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Meamber, Miller, Storrs, Lemley, Warner, Grandy and Silves. Staff Members: City Attorney Hayden, City Supervisor Stendal, Engineer Barnet, Planner Rivera, Police Chief Cooper and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #41724 to #41849 for \$340,096.93
 - Payroll Warrants #25863 to #25947 for \$113,494.84
- Waiver of Fees – Community Center

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt the consent calendar. Seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

Items from the Audience

Mike Anderson – 2079 Hwy 20, congratulated the City and downtown merchants on how nice the lights look. Anderson also questioned the status of the skateboard park.

Mayor Dillon stated that a location is still being sought. She said that a lesson was learned with the location of the temporary park that was located at the High School. It does not fit in a residential neighborhood and indicated there are several locations being looked at and the committee is trying to determine which one would be the best location and proper fit.

Anderson also expressed concern of maintenance of the Sunset Industrial Park road, which he noted is a private road.

Bob McLaughlin – 615 Puget Ave., questioned the plans for the asphalt equipment recently purchased.

Supervisor Stendal indicated that some of his questions will be answered with opening comments prior to the public hearing on the budget.

McLaughlin also addressed the condition of Ferry Street.

Mayor Dillon stated she would have the Street Department Foreman and Street Committee contact him to answer his questions and concerns.

Jamie Lanning – 13084 SR 9, Mt. Vernon, questioned the City's role in recent information with the County Commissioners looking at putting the High School up at Northern State Complex. Lanning questioned if the mill property had been looked at. He also inquired if the surveying, roads and lots have been looked at for the Cemetery.

Mike Anderson – again to the podium commented that the School District is looking at the mill property.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Continuation – 2001 Budget

Supervisor Stendal addressed some of the highlights of the proposed budget. Stendal clarified the request for a new motorcycle and new police cars. He addressed the Council directive for the Sanitation Department and stated a new truck will be coming in January and other changes such as a new route system and new toters in order to run a more efficient Sanitation department.

Engineer Barnet addressed the workings of the Public Works department. Barnet reviewed a cost analysis for the proposed budget item of a backhoe, comparing purchase versus rental. Barnet addressed hiring contractors versus public works personnel working on projects and questioned the Council's expectations of the Street Department. Barnet encouraged Council to keep the backhoe expenditure in the budget.

Councilmember Silves commented that she had looked into prices herself on a backhoe and believes that a used piece of equipment could be secured for less than the budgeted price.

Councilmember Warner praised Barnet for the cost comparison presented and stated that he would expect to have similar comparisons for all future purchases of major equipment.

Mayor Dillon opened the continued public hearing at 7:43 P.M.

Mayor Dillon read a statement received from Rusty Noble who was unable to attend. Noble's statement requested the funding for the backhoe be removed and the funds be utilized for the hiring of two firemen.

Ray Hayes – 1418 6th Street, stated he believes the repair costs quoted in the comparison needs to be doubled. Hayes encouraged different options be looked at for additional equipment. He also addressed the city streets and 911 service.

Bob Totino – 900 McGargile Road, addressed the effects of living on a limited income with increasing expenditures and stated other options need to be looked at.

Pheobe Totino – 900 McGargile Road, questioned previous funds being set aside for the backhoe and not being spent. She also commented on trees in the vicinity of her home that shadows McGargile road and causes the road to be icy. Totino requested something be done. She also commented on the drainage.

Larry Aungst – commented on the passage of I-722 and the passage of the 18% tax increase. He stated he believes that the City should live within their means.

Pierre Piotto – 609 Haines Ave., requested Council reconsider the 18% tax increase. He state he believes the tax increase to be unfair and a great hardship on people when added to other tax levy's.

Al Schaner – 815 Sauk Mountain Drive, spoke on the garbage service and the procurement of items. Obtaining the best price available, even if it means going outside Skagit County. Schaner also addressed the internet capacity for the City.

James Hawkings –1211 State St., questioned the paver purchase and where asphalt is budgeted. Hawkings commented that it appears the City is buying more equipment without the means to buy the supplies. He also addressed the backhoe purchase and believes renting equipment is the way to go.

Sharon Silk – 505 Haines Ave, questioned the need for several positions within staffing. She stated she believes the City is to small for some of the positions. She also addressed the cost of living and costs for seniors and stated the Council and elected officials should listen to the people in what they were saying with the passage of I-695 and I-722.

Ron Forshier – 1315 Railroad Ave., stated he was pleased to see the comparison done on the backhoe and believes staff and Council need to look at things and to maintain communication. Forshier addressed the availability of the budget and suggested the budget be provided at the Senior Center and Library. Forshier also addressed the City website and the need for current information. He encouraged the City to involve citizens.

Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing at 8:18 P.M.

The Council entertained questions regarding the budget which included the backhoe comparison, motorcycle, replacement vehicles and large dollar amount items within the budget.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance #1390-00 An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2001. Seconded by Councilmember Silves.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – No, Miller – No, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – No, Grandy – No, Silves – Yes Motion denied 4-2.

Mayor Dillon requested Council discussion as to Council's wishes.

Councilmember Miller commented that he would like to see the budget stay within a 3-6% guideline.

Councilmember Lemley questioned how paring or eliminating would effect how the tax increase.

Supervisor Stendal addressed the Council commenting on the worksessions and the previous vote to raise taxes 5-2. He stated the budget reflects their vote on the property tax.

Councilmember Meamber stated that he would like to see the budget at a 6% increase after having had time to think about it.

Supervisor Stendal questioned Councilmember Grandy on what his reasoning for casting a No vote on the budget when he cast a Yes vote for the property tax increase.

Councilmember Grandy stated he didn't have a problem with the 18% property tax increase but believes that the budget could be pared down but could not offer specifics.

Discussion ensued between Council and Staff on various issues within the budget including consulting fees.

Mayor Dillon addressed the Council and spoke of teamwork, time, commitment and working within their respective committees.

Councilmember Grandy moved to Adopt Ordinance #1390-00, An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2001. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – No, Miller – No, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – No, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried 4-3.

Mayor Dillon thanked the Council for their hard work and input on the budget matter.

Councilmember Lemley noted he would like to see meetings on a quarterly basis for monitoring expenditures and budget status. Other Councilmembers concurred.

2000 Budget Amendment

Supervisor Stendal reviewed the proposed Budget Amendment which includes amendments to the Cumulative Reserve Parks Fund, Stadium Fund, LID-91-1 Debt Service Fund and the Sewer Treatment Construction Fund. Stendal entertained questions from Council.

Mayor Dillon opened the Public Hearing at 8:54 P.M.

Phoebe Totino – 900 McGargile Road, stated she was very disappointed in the representative she helped put into office, still speaking on the previous topic.

Mayor Dillon closed the Public Hearing at 8:55 P.M.

Councilmember Warner moved to adopt Ordinance #1391-00 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington Amending the Year 2000 Budget Adopted By Ordinance No. 1345-99 In The 1) Cumulative Reserve City Parks Fund No. 107; 2) Stadium Fund No. 108; 3) LID 91-1 Debt Service Fund No. 204;) and 4) Sewer Treatment Construction Fund No. 331; and Authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to Make the Necessary Revenue and Expenditure Appropriation Adjustments, and Approving Any Prior Expenditures. Councilmember Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dillon announced the addition of Signing of Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County as agenda item 16.

Black Rock Cable Franchise – Discussion only to set Public Hearing

Attorney Hayden introduced John Karis, owner of Black Rock Cable, a new cable company wishing to come into the area to provide an Open Video System cable service. Hayden requested a public hearing be set for a future date.

Karis introduced himself to the Council and presented a brief overview of his company.

Councilmember Meamber moved to set a public hearing for January 10, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of discussing a Black Rock Cable request for franchise. Seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

1992 Department of Ecology Stormwater Manual

Engineer Barnet stated the Department of Ecology is currently modifying the 1992 Department of Ecology Stormwater manual. Barnet previously presented some of the proposed changes. The existing ordinance states that the “latest” edition shall be in effect in the City of Sedro-Woolley. Staff would like to recommend Council adopt the 1992 edition as the City standard so that the current edition will remain in effect until such time as staff and Council has had an opportunity to review and approve any new edition.

Councilmember Warner moved to adopt Ordinance #1392-00 An Ordinance Amending SWMC 13.6.070 to Adopt The 1992 Stormwater Management Manual by Specific Reference. Seconded by Councilmember Grandy.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Crossing Surface Material on Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad Co. on Ferry Street

Engineer Barnet reported on the existing railroad crossing at Ferry Street which has been deteriorating for many years. He stated the crossing is of an old wooden type of crossing and has experienced accelerated deterioration recently. The City has received complaints from citizens regarding the condition of the crossing. Barnet stated Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company has a cost sharing program that helps cities replace the railroad crossing. Barnet reviewed the scope of the project and stated the total cost of the project is \$81,658.00 with the Cities share being 40%. The cost of the project will be from the Arterial Street Fund although the City will be applying for County funds for the railroad crossing and the Ferry Street paving that was not completed this year.

Council and Staff discussion ensued.

Councilmember Warner moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Rights of Entry and Release of Claim and Indemnity and the agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe for the replacement of the existing wooden crossing with a new concrete crossing in an amount not to exceed \$33,600.00. Councilmember Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Interlocal Agreement with Concrete & Hamilton regarding Attorney Services

Attorney Hayden presented background information on the proposed Interlocal Agreements regarding Attorney Services for the Towns of Concrete and Hamilton. Hayden stated the City has tentatively agreed to provide legal services to Concrete and Hamilton for \$1,000 and \$400 per month respectively (\$16,800 per year).

Hayden addressed questions from Council which included involvement of other City personnel, equitability of the fees and prioritizing of workload.

Councilmember Miller moved to sign an interlocal agreement with the Towns of Concrete and Hamilton to provide legal services for the Town of Concrete in the amount of \$1,000 per month and the Town of Hamilton in the amount of \$400 per month with extra expenses as provided. Councilmember Storrs seconded. Motion carried.

Re-enactment of Ordinances after I-722

Councilmember Meamber questioned a conflict of interest regarding Ordinance #1343-99, Levy Ordinance for ULID 1994-2.

Attorney Hayden presented background information and stated that several law firms and association of municipalities believe it is good strategy to re-enact tax and fee increases which were imposed between July 2, 1999 and December 31, 1999.

Property Tax Levy

Councilmember Miller moved to pass Ordinance #1393-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming Taxes, Fees or Charges Imposed by Ordinance #1342-99. Seconded by Councilmember Silves.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Levy Ordinance for ULID 1994-2

Councilmember Meamber stepped down from the Council due to a conflict of interest for this item.

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1394-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or Charges Imposed by Ordinance #1343-99. Councilmember Warner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Meamber rejoined the Council at this time.

Tax on Pull Tab Revenue

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1395-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or Charges Imposed by Ordinance No. 1346-99. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Park Fees

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1396-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or Charges Imposed by Ordinance #1347-99. Councilmember Meamber seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Engineering Department Fees

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1397-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or charges Imposed by Ordinance #1348-99. Seconded by Councilmembers Warner and Grandy.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Silves – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Warner – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Miller – Yes, Meamber – Yes. Motion carried.

Planning Department Fees

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1398-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or Charges Imposed by Ordinance #1349-99, with the correction so noted. Councilmember Lemley seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Miller – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Warner – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Silves – Yes. Motion carried.

Solid Waste Fees

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Ordinance #1399-00 An Ordinance Re-enacting and Confirming the Taxes, Fees or Changes Imposed by Ordinance #1350-99, with corrections noted it is for Solid Waste. Councilmember Lemley seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Silves – Yes, Grandy – Yes, Warner – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Miller – Yes, Meamber – Yes. Motion carried.

Appointment of Kacy Johnson to the Sedro-Woolley Design Review Committee

Councilmember Storrs moved to appoint Kacy Johnson to a three year term to the Design Review Committee. Seconded by Councilmembers Miller and Lemley. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Fred Vochatzer to the Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority

Councilmember Meamber moved to reappoint Fred Vochatzer to a five year term to the Housing Authority ending December 31, 2005. Councilmember Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Les Huggins and Denise Nicholson to the Sedro-Woolley Library Board

Councilmember Miller moved to reappoint Les Huggins and Denise Nicholson to the Library Board for a five year term. Their term would expire December 31, 2005. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried.

Appointment of Karl Shewmaker to the Sedro-Woolley Planning Commission

Councilmember Miller moved to appoint Karl Shewmaker to fill the unexpired term of Nancy Paint-Donovan to the Planning Commission. His position would expire December 31, 2001. Councilmember Lemley seconded. Motion carried.

Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County

Engineer Barnet reviewed the need for an Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for a grant through the Public Facilities Project at Skagit County for anticipated work to the sewer line between Trail Road and the hospital. Barnet requested Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County.

Councilmember Warner moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Mayor Dillon – Thanked the Councilmembers for their participation in the Ferry Street Tree Planting.

Councilmember Warner – addressed the need for conservation of energy and questioned the possibility of turning the Christmas lights on and off in order for the City to do their part in helping to conserve energy.

Supervisor Stendal stated the lights had already been addressed with the Parks Foreman and lights will be turned off during the daytime.

Mayor Dillon stated the box around the tree was made by Mary Purcell Elementary School. The Mayor encouraged Council to thank the school if they have the opportunity to do so.

Councilmember Lemley – noted no street light at Talcott and Township and the 4 way flashing light at Ferry and Metcalf with only the east side light activated.

Councilmember Miller – questioned the status of the stop light in the vicinity of Les Schwab Tire Center.

Engineer Barnet spoke of a \$350,000 grant with Mark Nysether, owner of the Skagit Plant participating in a local match. A meeting date had been set with Nysether to discuss the issue but Nysether had to cancel and another meeting will be rescheduling within the near future.

Councilmember Miller also commented the town looks great. Councilmembers and staff concurred.

Councilmember Meamber – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and questioned the status of the second meeting for the month.

Councilmember Meamber moved to cancel the December 27, 2000 meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Warner. Motion carried.

Councilmember Meamber announced that Don and Roberta Ostrom are reopening Priced Less Sporting Goods store on main street.

Councilmember Storrs also noted a new coffee shop going into the Wood Shed location.

A small discussion was held on the Bingham Bank Building and the a delay in the tree lighting ceremony.

Planner Rivera – thanked everyone for their participation in the Ferry Street Tree Planting. She stated pictures will be available of the event soon.

Police Chief Cooper – noted the Code Enforcement Officer is working on the street light at Township and Talcott. The process is to send a letter to Puget Sound Energy and they schedule the repair. Chief Cooper wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the final reminder of the burn ban coming into effect at the first of the year. Klinger presented information on the affected areas and reference numbers if Councilmembers receive phone calls regarding the ban.

Mayor Dillon noted committee assignments for the year 2001. She requested Council suggest some dates for a Saturday planning session for committees.

Mayor Dillon wished all a Merry Christmas.

Jamie Lanning – questioned the status of the crosswalks in the vicinity of Highway 9. He believes an overpass should be looked at.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.