
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
January 11, 2012 – 7:00 P.M. –City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Kevin Loy, Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Keith Wagoner, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiberger, Planner Moore, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Wood.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #73549 to #73617 in the amount of \$140,953.68
 - Claim Checks #73618 to #73630 in the amount of \$36,860.35.
 - Payroll Checks #52065 to #52173 in the amount of \$255,631.71.
- Misc. Annual Contracts/Agreements
 1. EDASC
 2. Skagit County Community Action
 3. Skagit County Domestic Violence
 4. Skagit Community Network/Volunteers of America
 5. Loggerodeo
 6. Chamber of Commerce
 7. Sedro-Woolley Riding Club
 8. Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market
 9. Sedro-Woolley Museum
 10. Sedro-Woolley Rotary (Concert Series)
- Council Committee Assignments 2012
- Amendment #1 to Professional Services Agreement No. 2011-PS-06 – Ecotone Solutions LLC
- Resolution 857-12 – CUES Camera, Tracker and Bumper Replacement
- MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions – Preliminary Audit Agreement
- Interlocal Agreements for Library Services – City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, City of Mount Vernon
- Request for Out of State Travel – Sedro-Woolley Public Library

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar Items A through I. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (7-0).

Sedro-Woolley School District Levy Presentation

Superintendent Mark Venn addressed the Council regarding the upcoming 2012 Replacement Educational Program & Operations Levy and introduced Christina Jefferson, levy co-chair. He then spoke of the declining state funding and the importance of the replacement levy. A power point presentation was shown highlighting key points of the levy, costs and what it covers. Venn emphasized it was not a new levy but a replacement levy. The voting will be by mail in ballots which are due February 14, 2012.

Christina Jefferson – Levy Co-Chair addressed the Council and spoke of why the levy is important to her and her family as well as the community. She spoke of the excellent programs offered with levy funding and encouraged every one to vote.

Councilmember Wagoner spoke of the great presentation and hoped that more people will be able to view it.

Councilmember Storrs moved that the City of Sedro-Woolley and Council go on record in support of this levy.

Upon advice from City Supervisor/Attorney Berg regarding the implications and the necessary process for such a motion, Councilmember Storrs withdrew his motion.

Public Comment

Patrick Huggins – 1011 Alderwood Ln., addressed Council requesting relief from two issues regarding the sewer on Fruitdale Road. He noted he has paid the general facilities charge but currently does not have the funds to be able to hook up to the sewer. The permit he obtained has expired and he is currently being billed for sewer even though he is not hooked up. Huggins requested a two year extension on the permit which is the same timing as with a building permit and relief from the monthly sewer billing.

Engineer Freiburger noted that there were a number of payment options offered to the residents but the time has expired and he did not authority to make such an exception.

Huggins presented background information and stated that he is very interested in hooking up to the sewer however, with the economy and rental business with vacant houses it is not feasible for him to do so at this time. He also discussed paying for services when not using them and again requested an extension of the permit and also to not have to pay for services he's not using.

It was noted that his request for an extension was made after the permit lapsed.

Discussion ensued regarding precedence on extensions, revisiting the policy and a re-permitting process.

Mayor Anderson directed staff to review Huggins' request.

Alex Ruby – 1710 E. Kincaid St, Mt. Vernon, addressed the Council regarding his plan for an Eagle Scout project for landscaping at the trestle along Highway 20. He requested permission to bring a rendering of the project to the next Council meeting. He briefly described some of his ideas including placement of an “SW” on the slope of the trestle. The project is intended to better improve Sedro-Woolley by beautifying the area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revisions to Design Standards and Municipal Code Requirements for the Mixed-Commercial Zone

Planner Moore revisited the Design Standards and Municipal Code Requirements for the Mixed Commercial Zone. He noted the main change was to allow the mixed commercial zoning along the highway to have parking in the front of the buildings.

Council discussed the changes not being business friendly and the change of building placement.

Councilmember Sandström moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1729-12 An Ordinance Amending the Sedro-Woolley Design Standards and Guidelines and Municipal Code Regarding Development Standards for the Mixed Commercial Zone. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Splane opposed).

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg corrected a previous statement regarding extensions of the permitting and also gave information regarding the garbage policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the process for appointing a Mayor Pro Tem bi-annually. Councilmember Storrs’ term has expired and a Council selection is in order.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to appoint Councilmember Storrs as Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – noted one of the biggest complaints the department receives is speeding within neighborhoods. He spoke of a specific concern along Wicker Road. He said that officers have been spending time monitoring the speeds along Wicker Road with no major infractions found. He also noted they continually monitor various areas for speeding.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the department is now in possession of the hazardous materials decomp trailer. They will be spending some time cleaning it and putting it together so it will be useable. It will be housed in Sedro-Woolley.

Planner Moore – reported the Planning Commission has been working on the 2011 Comp Plan amendments. They are currently at the Department of Commerce for a 60 day review. The recommended changes will be coming to Council soon. He also noted the 2012 Request deadline is at the end of this month and the proposed topics will be brought to Council after the deadline.

Engineer Freiburger – noted the weather forecast is for snow and the Staff is set up and ready to go in the event we do get snow. He also reported on the Highway 20 project which is running a little behind but getting close to being finished. Striping is to be completed on Friday, weather permitting utilizing temporary stop bars which will be completed in the spring with better weather. A ribbon cutting is anticipated for sometime in March. Work will also be forthcoming for design projects for overlays and the 2012 sewer projects.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported on behalf of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce that they have raised enough money for the flower program. They are requesting to allow city staffing for watering at their expense. Berg requested a consensus from the Council, which all were in agreement to proceed with the arrangements. He also reported on the upcoming legislative conference issues which include the felony jail medical issue, grant money overseen by the County, impacts of bio-fuel, the Skagit River flood issue and interest in replacement of BNSF Railway bridge at Mt. Vernon. Also on the agenda is the Cook Road realignment.

There was some discussion on recording fees for liens and corrections in the law for fairness.

Berg noted that some of the meetings will be held jointly with Burlington and Mount Vernon for a united front and better response.

Finance Director Nelson – reported that the increase in stormwater fees became effective with the last billing cycle. She noted that staff has received numerous complaints via over the counter, phone and mail regarding the increase. She also reported that the Finance department has been preparing for the New Year and as well as working on the closure of 2011. She did report that staff will receive their W-2's with the January 20th payroll.

Councilmember Sandström – questioned the signage for the no smoking in parks.

Engineer Freiburger stated he will follow up on where the signs stand.

Councilmember Galbraith – questioned the status of a large pothole in the vicinity of AM/PM.

Engineer Freiberger noted it is the responsibility of the WSDOT and had been reported to them, he will re-contact them regarding the concern.

Councilmember Wagoner – questioned the retracted motion and what is involved.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the process which is required to be open, fair and transparent.

Councilmember Splane – questioned the trees planted on Sapp road which are not looking very healthy.

Engineer Freiberger noted the trees were placed there from City property and may need to be replaced.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.