

-----  
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
-----

Regular Meeting of the City Council  
December 14, 2016 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Keith Wagoner; Councilmembers: Judith Dunn Lee , Germaine Kornegay, Brenda Kinzer, Julia Johnson, Chuck Owen, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman and Police Chief Tucker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Wagoner.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including December 7, 2016 Worksession)
- Finance
  - Claim Checks #185068 to #185175 in the amount of \$522,711.27.
  - Payroll Checks #59116 to #59132 plus EFT's in the amount of \$286,985.31.
- Interagency Agreement with Washington State DES for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services at the North Cascade Gateway Center (Swift Center)
- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Skagit County for Legal Representation at Skagit County District Court
- Ordinance 1864-16 – Salary Ordinance
- Ordinance 1865-16 – 2016 Budget Amendment #4
- Amendments to Professional Services Agreements – 2016-PS-02 Skagit Surveyors Inc., 2016 –PS-07 Hanson Consulting LLC, and 2016-PS-10 Scott Thomas, ESQ
- Personnel Policies
  1. Dual Insurance Opt Out Incentives
  2. Resolution 947-16 Amending Resolution 516 to Increase Meal Reimbursement Rates and Establish a Per Diem Rate
- Resolution 948-16 – Library Board Appointments

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent calendar items A through J. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried (7-0).

Public Comment

Dr. Neil Ishihara – 801 McLean, addressed the Council regarding a letter received from the Mayor regarding him and his wife. He stated that he had applied for a position on the Library Board but did not expect to be appointed. He applied to show that there are many city residents who want to serve. He addressed his wife Christine speaking with two councilmember regarding the beliefs of one of the applicants which was addressed in the

Mayor's letter. Ishihara also spoke on the effort to shut down private citizen's first amendment rights are appalling and him being misrepresented to the public.

Ed Koogle – 501 Fidalgo St., thanked the Council for the improvements that were done on Jameson Street. He then spoke on his opposition to the Library merger due to the choice of the head librarian and the loss of sovereignty when turned over to the County. He addressed spending of funds should the library be turned over to the county with more money going to administration.

Mary Andersson – 928 Beachley Rd., addressed the three interlocal agreements, with all three boiling down to annexation without a vote. She stated it is claimed the binding agreements will protect the citizenry from losing all. Andersson spoke of the collections offered by the library. The interlocal agreement would transfer the precious collections to the Central Skagit Library. She addressed the building that would focus on activities rather than collections and the actual physical collection will be shrinking under a merger. Physical books are not a primary concern for the Central Skagit Library and people need to be asked before this transfer goes through. She encouraged the Council to listen to their conscience and allow citizens to vote.

Helge Andersson – 928 Beachley Rd., addressed Councilmembers service on the council for those they represent. He questioned whether all the information and facts have been provided to make a proper decision on the partnership proposal. Andersson spoke of decisions having consequences often turning well intended projects into a monster. He also addressed taxes and the legacy at stake.

Debra Peterson – speaking on behalf of the library, Peterson addressed rumors that she was responsible for the moratorium placed on the Alfy's building. She stated she was not aware of any moratorium and was not responsible, nor did she suggest it.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott, stated he can see the benefits of consolidation but there was great disservice done when the right to vote was taken away from the citizens. He stated it reminded him of the Deluxe Recycling issue a number of years ago. A lot of the Councilmembers then did not like what occurred but they let it happen. He also addressed the low election turn out and the lack of selection of candidates. He also noted the Library could be one of the biggest taxes in county.

Mayor Wagoner stated for the record that everyone's property taxes should be going down this year.

David Andersson – 928 Beachley, addressed the Council on the lack of democracy with decisions regarding the Library.

Kim Devany – 738 Fidalgo St., stated the library issue should be brought to a vote.

Julie Anderson – 314 Hawthorne, noted she agrees with everyone who has spoken and the citizens should have the opportunity to vote.

Christine Johnson – 801 McLean, stated she has been following the Library issue from beginning and it comes down to money. Even together we can't afford a new building and the estimated 5 million might not be enough to cover everything. She addressed other options such as the District to contract with the city for library services and reviewed one of the major concerns is having no voice on the district board. She referred to the Mayor's appointments on the board confirms it. Johnson addressed transparency and public meetings being nothing but for show and encouraged Council to listen to city residents and hold an annexation vote.

Keith Woods – Grip Road, questioned if the Library was broke and if it is not broke it does not need to be fixed.

Loretta Saarinen – 821 Park Cottage Pl., said she is opposed to the Library merger. She also addressed the current climate and international identity and what is going on in our political structure. She spoke of the importance of democracy and how it was a process when it began with many voices and took years to ratify. She stated she is concerned about the tone surrounding the Library issue and requested everyone to honor the process. She questioned the projected budget and where are the details.

Wendy Grandberg – 1009 Polte Road, stated she finds it disturbing the nine of you (including Berg) are in the minority of wanting the Library merger. The majority wants more information and the opportunity to vote and there is zero response. She noted it is our library and is the heart of the community. There is no interest in what the public says. She addressed the language within the proposal regarding the employees being very vague and an agreement should have pages and pages of detail.

Melissa Macomber – 417 Spring Ln. spoke in favor of the merger and noted everyone should have access toward a county system. Libraries are in the business of sharing information and this is a way to share. She also addressed the need for community meeting spaces and work with 3-D printers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Available Property Tax Refund Levy

Finance Director Nelson announced that the Skagit County Assessor's office has informed the City that the full amount of the property tax was not collected primarily due to the Skagit Valley Hospital applying for and being granted an exemption on the property tax. She noted this would be the final piece of property unless they would buy more. There are two refund levy's available to take. The refund levy's are outside of the 1% property tax and the purpose is to make the taxing entity whole. She requested direction from the Council to respond to the Assessor's Office.

Councilmember Kornegay expressed her wish to take no levy. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted there is no action necessary if the Council chooses to take no levy refund. No action was taken.

### Library Partnership Concept

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the adoption of Resolution 943-16 adopted on June 8, 2016 to establish procedures for a formal public participation plan regarding the Library partnership concept. Berg reviewed the steps noting the beginning of the public process. The agenda item is to establish a meeting date to ask questions in an open house format. Berg noted the importance of having all Councilmembers in attendance and questioned if the Council would like the use of a facilitator.

Discussion was held regarding dates and the Council consensus is to use a facilitator with a 6:00 P.M. start time.

Mayor Wagoner addressed the partnership concept and the public process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

Written Reports to Council

Informational Items

Late Materials

### STOP Grant

Police Chief Tucker addressed the late materials item for a STOP Grant.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to ratify the City Supervisor's signature on the attached grant agreement with Commerce for a \$10,200. STOP grant. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief Tucker – reported that they will be dividing up the City into different zones with an officer assigned to each zone. This type of action has proven to work in other jurisdictions. He also reported on the recent Walmart Shop with a Hero Day.

Planning Director Coleman – reported on an upcoming public hearing on a proposal for some apartment buildings.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported on passing the first hurdle on a complete streets grant through TIB. He also reported on the updates to the public works standards.

Councilmember Sandström questioned a walking arterial plan for the City.

Mayor Wagoner reported on a letter received from Mr. Mangold regarding the Jameson Street Arterial.

Public Works Director Freiburger reported on the upcoming traffic counts.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg -- reported on the 2016 milestones to include SWIFT Center, EMS, Skagit 911, DEM and the Jail. He also announced the Employee Recognition lunch to be held at noon on December 22, 2016.

Finance Director Nelson – reported on the update of the Washington State Department of Licensing software. The software is GIS based which should help with mischarged TBD Tax.

Councilmember Kornegay – wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Johnson – thanked the City Staff (JoAnn and her department) for decorating City Hall and the Fire Department for the lights on the truck in the parade. She also thanked Nathan and his crew for their work in making the City beautiful. Johnson then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Owen – announced the Senior Center Christmas Dinner tomorrow.

Councilmember Lemley – addressed comments received regarding the recent snow with major arterials being cleared but minor arterials missed. He requested attention if the resources are available.

Mayor Wagoner – acknowledged Ann Sweeney of the Dept. of Enterprise Services in the audience. He also acknowledged the great response on an overturned vehicle on Hwy 20 and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

With no further business or reports the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.