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CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
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Council Worksession  
January 4, 2017  
Public Safety Training Room

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

Flag Salute

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Wagoner, Councilmembers: Judith Dunn Lee, Germaine Kornegay, Brenda Kinzer, Julia Johnson, Chuck Owen, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: City Supervisor/Attorney Berg.

Guests: Judge Brock Stiles, Library Board Trustee Macomber, Dennis O'Neil and Karl DeJong.

**Department Update: Municipal Court**

- Mayor Wagoner introduced Item A and Judge Brock Stiles. Judge Stiles presented a departmental update on the Municipal Court. Judge Stiles' first point was that the court is not technically a department, but a separate branch of government just as it is at the state and federal level to ensure the independence of the court and the rule of law. Our court includes a part-time judge, part-time clerk, contract defender and contract prosecutor. All of the people working in the court system are working well together and performing the duties of their positions. Judge Stiles discussed jury trials and the process of obtaining jurors. Councilmember Sandström asked about the jurisdiction of the municipal court. Judge Stiles discussed the structure of the courts in Washington State including detail about the type and nature of cases heard in municipal court. Judge Stiles reported on 2016 statistics from the court. Councilmember Kinzer asked if marijuana legalization has impacted the increased DUI statistics. Mayor Wagoner asked about sentencing and who sentences defendants to the city's work crew. He also asked about jury duty and juveniles.

Judge Stiles mentioned that one of our problems is that defendants with warrants often do not appear in court as ordered. This is related to the lack of jail beds in Skagit County. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg discussed the status of the jail project. The offender work program was discussed in more detail. Court is every Thursday from 8:30-12:00 with a monthly trial date on the fourth Friday each month. In 2017, the court is adding an additional Friday for possible trials. Councilman Owen asked how many outstanding warrants exist in Sedro-Woolley. Judge Stiles indicated that about a dozen are issued each week. Mayor Wagoner thanked Judge Stiles for the report.

## **Additional Dates for City Council's 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Library Proposal**

- The facilitator hired by the city in 2016 has retired. On recommendation from Councilmember Johnson, the Mayor interviewed Mary Dumas who is interested and available to assist on the library facilitation. She is not, however, available in January. Additional dates were requested for February and the consensus of the City Council is that the following dates could work: February 24 at 5:00 P.M..

## **Council Roundtable**

Councilmember Kornegay asked about increasing recycling opportunities at special events and expressed an interest in increasing recycling opportunities during events. She also asked about the snow and ice removal plan.

Councilmember Kinzer asked about the AWC conference in Olympia and requested that a committee meeting be scheduled to discuss legislative priorities prior to the conference.

Councilman Owen relayed a conversation on bars and taverns he had with Sergeant McIlraith as follow up to questions raised at a prior council meeting. Discussion followed with ideas ranging from response fees, city provided training for bartenders and staff and additional cameras.

Councilmember Johnson asked when the council would actually sit down and discuss the library proposal. Mayor Wagoner responded that it would be on February 24th.

Councilman Sandström asked about impounding vehicles for suspended drivers. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg stated that they already have that tool and use it with discretion. Sandström also relayed a concern about vagrancy downtown that was reported to him in an email from a local engineer.

Councilmember Johnson expressed a concern about traffic turning left into Floyd's at SR 9 and West State Street. Is there a physical solution to discourage those illegal left turns?

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg discussed the recent audit and some of the recommendations from the State Auditor's office as well as his progress on the revised draft governance manual for the city council.

Mayor Wagoner adjourned the worksession at 8:15 P.M.