
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
October 25, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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, Asst. Fire Chief Wagner and Police Sgt. Eaton.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Lemley moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #187056 to #187146 plus EFT's in the amount \$207,847.35
 - Payroll Checks #59407 to #59419 plus EFT's in the amount of \$267,803.24
- Approval of Grant Agreement – FY 2017-2019 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant Funding Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology
- Ambulance Transport Billing Agreement with Central Valley Ambulance Authority (CVAA)
- Resolution 974-17 – Appointing Brock Stiles as Judge for the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-5. Seconded by Councilmember Dunn Lee. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

State Representative Carolyn Eslick

Mayor Wagoner introduced new State Representative Carolyn Eslick. She provided background information of being the Mayor for the City of Sultan and her experience of being a city leader. She spoke of unfunded mandates, opioid issues and prevention and capital budgets. She will be trying to focus on what is best for the people and has a lot of work to do.

Council questions were entertained regarding empty commercial buildings, absentee landlords and the Grow Washington program.

Helping Hands Food Bank Update – Rebecca Schlaht

Rebecca Schlaht started her presentation stating the Food Bank served 926 families today. She then presented a power point presentation to include grocery rescue, distribution (750 families and 350 back packs per week), mobile food, CHOW backpack program for Sedro-Woolley School District students, pantry program at the high school and middle school and fundraising. She stated that 86% of their funding comes from the community. Schlaht also announced that the recently held Brewfest raised \$15,000 profit. She spoke on the new building with a January 2018 move in and thanked the Council for their support. She then addressed the economic benefit of having a food bank in the community.

Schlaht entertained questions from council regarding volunteer opportunities.

Staff Reports

Sargent Eaton – reported the department is updating their uniforms and showed an example of the new outerwear vests. He also reported that four Sedro-Woolley officers were involved in the arrest of Curtis Cameron. They are preparing for the Halloween Parade coming up. Eaton stated that carbon monoxide detectors have been placed in the patrol vehicles as a precaution and updates to the Facebook page on any impending weather conditions will be done.

Asst. Fire Chief Wagoner – reported that call volumes continue to rise and the volunteers continue to do a great job. He also spoke on the GEMT project conference recently attended along with Finance Director Nelson on the federal reimbursement program,

Planning Director Coleman – reported letters have gone out to property owners in the potential annexation area. They are trying to find out who else may want to join in annexation. He reported that he has been in contact with the owner of 801 Metcalf and are making plans as to what to do with the property.

Public Works Director Freiberger – referred to the snow and ice policy placed at the Council dais. He reviewed the policy, equipment in place and explained the call out order. He also noted they coordinate with DOT as well as the county. The main focus is the downtown area, school zones and then they will work outward. Freiberger spoke of the area in and around Portobello and Gateway Heights Loop and the special conditions in that area and touched base on flooding and the availability of sand bags to the public.

Councilmember Kornegay questioned the crosswalk at John Liner and Hwy 9. Public Works Director Freiberger stated it is scheduled to be part of an upcoming project in 2018 for ADA upgrades and will include flashing lights. He also reported on other areas that will be updated.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported the Library predesign committee met to review draft reports from the architectural team. The committee continues to grapple with site selection and budget. The target for the draft report is still the end of the year. Berg also informed Council the 2018 Budget will come before them at the next meeting. Within the budget in the ERR Fund is a proposed purchase of a tractor with a 30’ boom mower. If we are able to issue a purchase order for it by the end of October there will be a price discount of \$5,400. Some discussion was held regarding the use of the mower, cost savings and the Sub Flood Control District. Berg requested authorization to execute a purchase order to take the opportunity for savings.

Further discussion ensued regarding staffing cost, maintenance and sub flood control funds.

Councilmember Lemley moved to authorize the City Supervisor to execute a purchase order saving the city approximately \$5,000. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Kinzer opposed).

Finance Director Nelson – noted she has been busy putting the finishing touches on the Mayor’s 2018 budget. She also announced the audit exit interview scheduled for tomorrow and requested a show of hands of Councilmembers planning to attend. If more there are 4 or more they will conduct two sessions.

Councilmember and Mayor’s Reports

Councilmember Dunn Lee – reported the damage to Cook Road from the construction still seems to be a patch.

Councilmember Owen – thanked the Public Works Department for cleaning up the briar patch on the property he reported.

Councilmember Sandström – reported on a recent SCOG opinion regarding high density developments to be placed on the edge of town. He stated that high density does not belong where there are no services and questioned if the Council would be interested in opposing the opinion.

Mayor Wagoner stated he was referring to a recently completed study with recommendations. He does not agree with the findings and the report is not binding.

Councilmember Sandström requested a list of code enforcement properties be generated to include overgrown lots to abandoned houses so the Council can direct focus. Discussion on sending it to a Council committee for action was held. Sandström also questioned the status of the business development tax break.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg stated that we may not qualify for the program due to population.

Councilmember Sandström expressed concern of a large group of kids hanging out at the skate park.

Sgt. Eaton addressed the questions and noted they are aware and continue to monitor the park. He also suggested checking with Code Enforcement Officer Carr to see what properties she has on her list so we don't duplicate.

Councilmember Sandström questioned the role of Roberts's Rules of Order within the new Council Procedures.

Councilmember Johnson – questioned the status of the Video West property.

Mayor Wagoner– stated he will be out of town from October 27th – November 6th. He thanked Public Works Director Freiburger for the snow and ice policy.

Proclamations

National Hospice Palliative Care Month – November 2017

Mayor Wagoner read a proclamation declaring November as National Hospice Palliative Care Month. The proclamation encouraged citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

Public Comment

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., expressed his confusion about when and what he can comment on since the new procedures have been implemented.

Phillip Murray – 223 State St., thanked the Council for implementing the 3 hour parking and signage. He reported that what parking patrons are doing is moving a space forward or backward every three hours so the change is not working. He believes the parking rules should be reworded and should also extend to Warner Street.

Carl de Jong – 1030 Warner St. – thanked Public Works and the Police Department with the recent storm. He also commented he was glad the Public Works was planning ahead with the snow and ice policy and thanked the Council for the opportunity of the candidate's forum.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Ordinance – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 2.90 SWMC – Consolidated Planning Procedures

Planning Director Coleman reviewed the second read on SWMC Chapter 2.90 that is the processes the Planning Department follows. The ordinance makes minor changes and corrects inconsistencies.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to approve Ordinance No. 1884-17 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington Adopting Amendments to the Consolidated Planning Procedures in Chapter 2.90 SWMC. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

General Property Tax Levy Ordinances

- Ordinance approving the property levy at an increase of 0%, 1.0% or 4.439%

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the property tax ordinances and the county assessment process. She noted since 2009 the City has taken a 0% tax increase and reviewed the breakdown of where property taxes go. She also addressed the low income senior and disabled exemption and noted there are 3 sample ordinances for review. A public hearing has been scheduled for November 8th. She also noted the Mayors proposed budget calls for a 0% property tax increase.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St, wishing to speak on the utility rate ordinances was asked to wait to address at the appropriate time on the agenda.

Utility Rate Increases

- Ordinance increasing sewer rates by 2.99% plus \$.80 per ERU
- Ordinance increasing solid waste/recycling by 2.99%
- Ordinance increasing stormwater rates by 2.99% plus \$2.00 per ERU

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinances noting they are consistent with our standardized increase using the CPI of 2.99%. The sewer rate is proposed to have an additional \$.80 due to the compensation increases in the Sewer Department in 2017 and the \$2.00 increase in stormwater to pay for additional staffing to internalize the Brickyard Creek maintenance. Berg addressed the site capacity at the sewer plant, being over half the life span of the plant and utilization of the plant. He noted significant costs in future years. Berg also spoke on Solid Waste noting the County is due to increase tipping rates with the possible need for a mid-year rate increase. Stormwater was reviewed noting we have the same linear feet as sewer, maintenance of lines and failure of culverts. Berg reminded Council that the 2018 Budget has been built on the assumption of rate increases.

Mayor Wagoner pointed out that the fines for non-compliance in Stormwater are very steep with City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewing the process for reporting non-compliance.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., questioned the rate increases and the previous funding for Brickyard Creek. He also expressed concern that the rate increases are shown in percentages and not dollars and cents. O'Neil stated through the freedom of records act he found there was \$225,000 in the domestic water tax that could go towards paying for a mower and instead of using funds available taxes are being raised. He suggested to use the money in savings and keep the taxes down for the taxpayers.

Councilmember Lemley pointed out the dollars and cents figures are shown in the packet for reference.

Tony Splane – 714 Sapp Road, addressed the fact that costs are going up but speaking on behalf of people on social security for basic income with no raise in site he would like to see the utility rates cut in half.

Harold Beitler – 1207 Jameson St. – spoke on billing fairness and stated the rates should be based on the amount of water used (volume based billing).

Discussion ensued regarding volume based billing and previous Council discussions on the subject. The senior low income/disabled rate was also discussed as well as deduct meters.

Information Only Item

Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status
Miscellaneous Information

Good of the Order

Executive Session

The meeting adjourned to executive session for the purpose of Collective bargaining discussion under RCW 42.30.140(4) and real estate under RCW 42.30.110.1(b) at 9:01 P.M. for approximately 25 minutes with a possible decision.

The meeting reconvened at 9:38 P.M.

Councilmember Sandström moved to authorize the mayor to sign a purchase and sale agreement for real estate purchase as outlined in executive session, Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Owen opposed).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned without objection at 9:39 P.M.