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CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
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Regular Meeting of the City Council  
November 8, 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, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Wagoner requested the agenda be amended to add two special guests, Noah Bannister from Hospice of the North West and Andrew Miller from EDASC.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to approve the agenda with amendments. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer. Motion carried (7-0).

### **Consent Calendar**

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
  - Claim Checks #187147 to #187223 in the amount \$207,965.86
  - Payroll Checks #59420 (re-issue of EFT)
  - Payroll Checks #59421 to #59435 plus EFT's in the amount of \$306,255.91
- Phillips Publishing Agreement
- Peace Health United General Clinical Contract

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-4. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

### **Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations**

#### Oath of Office – Police Officer Derick Lowe

Mayor Wagoner administered the oath of office to Derick Lowe as Police Officer for the City of Sedro-Woolley. Lowe's wife Amanda had the honor of pinning his badge. A round of applause was given to Officer Lowe followed by comments by Police Chief Tucker.

## Hospice of North West

Noah Bannister from Hospice of the Northwest thanked the Council for their support with the proclamation of November as Hospice month. He spoke on the effort to raise awareness on the quality of care available.

Councilmember Lemley expressed a thank you to the organization from both a personal and professional level.

## EDASC

Andrew Miller from EDASC addressed the Council on the upcoming Winter birds Festival. He stated the idea came from the EDASC Arts, Culture and Entertainment cluster. The festival will begin in mid-January through the end of February. The idea for the festival is to capture and enrich the experience of citizens and visitors.

Miller entertained questions from the Council regarding the efforts being put forth, the number of people already out birding and how it fits with the Bald Eagle Festival.

Pola Kelley, Executive Director of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce stated she has spoken with North Cascade Institute, Eagle Haven Winery and Central Skagit Library about participating.

## Community Action Report and Update

Joan Penny, Campaign Coordinator for Community Action introduced Director of Operations Lynn Christofferson and Board Chair Ron Wesen also in attendance. Penny thanked the Council for the support in the budget for 2017. She spoke of the economic impact of Community Action and the contributions of Non-Profit agencies and addressed the need, housing shortage, and the inadequate service center. Penny then spoke of the challenges of funding a capital project. She requested Council consider a onetime capital fund request of \$50,000 toward their goal of a new service center and the common cause for the citizens we serve. Penny then entertained Council comments and questions.

Council questions included the percentage of administrative costs, proposed time line, cramped quarters and the schematic showing a majority of services within one location.

Mayor Wagoner addressed the timing and the amount of the request. Multiple year pledges, contribution for direct assistance and reconfiguring annual amount to allow to be used for capital projects were discussed.

## **Staff Reports**

Police Chief Tucker – stated he will be in training for the next couple of weeks. He reported on some tabletop scenarios for broader training for City Hall within their department meeting and announced they are happy to have Derick Lowe on board.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the Firefighter 1 certification being conducted.

Public Works Director Freiberger – reported being prepared for any snow and ice events.

### **Councilmember and Mayor's Reports**

Councilmember Dunn Lee – stressed the need for a crossing at Trail and Cook Roads.

Councilmember Kornegay – questioned the Middle School and Evergreen crossing at Highway 9. Public Works Director Freiberger reported the crossing is on the project list for 2018.

Councilmember Johnson – questioned if the 2018 road projects included Talcott Street from Central to Township.

Public Works Director Freiberger stated it was not on the list of projects for 2018 but he had been requested by Council to do an estimate on the project. It is on his list of things to do.

Councilmember Lemley – gave a reminder on the next Council meeting that will be on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. He also announced the upcoming Veterans Memorial Program at Lemley Chapel on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

Mayor Wagoner – stated he has been catching up after being gone. He announced that Senator Pearson will be taking a position at USDA and will be vacating his Senate seat. The Mayor stated Senator Pearson has worked hard for Sedro-Woolley and will be missed. He also announced that he will be putting his name in as a possible replacement for the Senate seat.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – requested a late materials item for the approval of a manual check in the amount of \$5000 as a refund to the Burlington United Lodge 93 for payment they gave for what was believed to be property owned by them. Berg stated after a title search it was found to be owned by the City and explained the history of the lots in question.

Councilmember Lemley moved to authorize the Mayor to cut a manual check in the amount of \$5000 to the Burlington-United Lodge 93, Free and Accepted Masons. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Councilmember Sandström recused himself due his membership in the Masons. Motion carried (6-0).

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the status of the Library predesign work, noting they are trying to narrow down a site recommendation. Berg reviewed a late materials item showing the city parking lot on Metcalf Street and how a Library could fit on that location. He questioned if Council would entertain the site for use as a Library. He noted also being looked at is the old Feed Barn property.

Council discussion ensued regarding the need for additional parking and willingness to continue a conversation for use of the property.

## **Proclamations**

### **Public Comments**

Mary McGoffin – 268 Burrows Ln. spoke on accessory dwelling units (ADU) not being an allowed use within the city and the housing shortage. She stated ADU's might be a way to help with the housing crisis and requested the city review zoning for the allowance of accessory dwelling units.

Tony Splane – 714 Sapp Rd. – suggested the Episcopal Church property might be worth a look at for a new Library site.

Phillip Murray – 223 Sate St. – addressed the Library property and the property around it. He asked why buy property when the city already owns available space. He also questioned and commented on the purchase of the brush mower.

### **Public Hearings**

#### General Property Tax Levy Ordinances

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

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg presented the second read of the property tax levy. He noted there are three options; 0%, 1% or 4.439%. All three of the ordinances assume the inclusion of new construction as taxable property. If Council approves the 0% ordinance it would be the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row of a 0% increase.

Mayor Wagoner opened the public hearing at 7:56 P.M.

No comments received.

Mayor Wagoner closed the public hearing at 7:56 P.M.

Mayor Wagoner noted this is a second read and the budget has been written to include a 0% tax increase.

Councilmember Sandström moved to approve Ordinance No. 1885-17 an Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley approving the property tax levy at an increase of 0%. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer.

Councilmember Johnson raised the question of consideration of a 1% increase. Council discussion was also held regarding banking of the property tax levy.

Motion carried (4-3), Councilmembers Johnson, Dunn Lee and Lemley opposed)

### 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 introduced and reviewed the utility rate increases. He noted that the 2018 budget assumes the rates passing and addressed a possible tipping fee rate at the Skagit County Transfer Station, as well as the impact of Brickyard Creek maintenance.

Councilmember Sandström questioned if there were other methods, other than the CPI to keep up with costs due to the concern of those on Social Security with tight budgets.

Mayor Wagoner opened the public hearing at 8:11 P.M.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., spoke on the use of percentages with the rate increases and would like to see it displayed in dollars and cents and what it means to the average person.

Mayor Wagoner closed the public hearing at 8:13 P.M.

Councilmember Sandström noted the information as requested by O'Neil is located in the packet.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve Ordinance #1886-17 to adopt the attached ordinance increasing sewer rates by 2.99% plus \$.80 per ERU. Councilmember Johnson seconded. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Kinzer opposed).

Councilmember Johnson moved to adopt the attached ordinance increasing solid waste utility rates by 2.99%. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt the attached ordinance increasing storm water rates by 2.99% plus \$2.00 per ERU. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

### Petition to vacate unopened Right-of-Way at SWIFT Center

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – stated this is the public hearing that was set by resolution 973-17 approved on October 11, 2017. He reviewed the map of the property and described the requested area for vacation. He stated there is no value to city to continue to own right of way. The value of the property would be a contribution toward the local investment in the SWIFT Center.

Mayor Wagoner opened the public hearing at 8:21 P.M.

Heather Rogerson – representing the Port of Skagit County, 15400 Airport Dr. Burlington, thanked the Council for the consideration of the request and stated she was happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Wagoner closed the public hearing at 8:22 P.M.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1889-17 an ordinance vacating unopened right-of-way at the SWIFT Center. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

Unfinished Business

### **New Business**

#### Available property tax refund levy

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the available property tax refund levy. He noted the Mount Vernon Hospital District #1 have removed certain parcels from the tax rolls. He stated as taxable properties become nontaxable there is a process that allows the City to request abatement of taxes. We have the option of levying the amount to make the taxes whole. Berg requested direction from Council with which of the three options they want to proceed with. The options are to take all, take a partial amount or to take none. The total amount is \$11,346.33.

Robert Stanley – 16624 Peterson Rd, Burlington and a District 304 Hospital Commissioner for United General Hospital, questioned what the Mount Vernon Hospital District is doing.

Council consensus is to proceed with the refund levy.

#### 2018 Budget

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg stated the detailed budget was presented on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The budget is currently on track to be presented as a second read on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Information Only Item**

Fire Department Monthly Incident Data  
Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status  
2016 Audit Report  
Miscellaneous Information

### **Good of the Order**

### **Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned to executive session for collective bargaining discussion under RCW 42.30.140(4) and 42.30.110(1)(b) Real Estate Acquisition for approximately 15 minutes at 8:32 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:49 P.M.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried (7-0).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 P.M.