
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
October 24, 2018– 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers: Brenda Kinzer, Germaine Kornegay, Chuck Owen, Karl de Jong and Jared Couch. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Sgt. Eaton

Councilmember Kinzer moved to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Kelley and Dunn Lee. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Couch moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (5-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including October 10, 2018 Special Meeting)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #189357 to #189452 plus EFT's in the amount of \$805,368.61
 - Payroll Checks #59678 to #59687 plus EFT's in the amount of \$284,972.71 (Void #59683)
- Supplemental Agreement 3 – Additional Construction Phase Services – Professional Services Agreement No. 2016-PS-01 for Design & Construction Phase Services for the Fruitdale Road Arterial Improvements Project – H.W. Lochner, Inc.
- Proposed Local Records Grant Agreement for Technology Tools between Washington Secretary of State and City of Sedro-Woolley
- Approval of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) update and action items
- Agreement with Strategies 360
- Vending Machine Purchase (*item added*)

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-8. Councilmember Kornegay seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Hospice Presentation with Dana Brothers (*item added*)

Dana Brothers, Outreach and Communications Program Manager with Hospice of the Northwest addressed the Council stating November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. She reviewed their service area and reported they served 950 people in the last stages of life last year. She also spoke on a handout titled “Five Wishes” and reviewed the myths of Hospice, philosophy of care and addressing physical pain as well as spiritual and physiological care.

Mayor Johnson read a proclamation proclaiming the month of November as National Hospice and Palliative Care month and 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.

Staff Reports

Police Sgt. Eaton – reported the Washington State Patrol completed a business audit and they received an above average rating. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming Halloween parade noting the Police Department will be at the Gazebo handing out stickers and other items. He invited anyone who would like to help at the booth to let him know. Sgt. Eaton also reported on recent issues at the downtown bars.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported that conditional offers have been sent to seven of the eight paramedics. He also reported the Washington State Rating Bureau review rating is still at a 5. He reported on the continued work on the building and the amazing job by the city staff. Klinger reported on the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management advisory board meeting he attended and their wish to schedule a presentation to the Council.

Planning Director Coleman – noted he is working through the land use applications, public notices and projects. He stated the Planning Commission will be working on Urban Village/Mixed Use and a developer requested code change in the R-15 zone. He also reported the final paperwork for the annexation petition request has been completed.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported the Fruitdale project has been paved and is opened to traffic and gave status updates on the State Street Overlay project, the W. Bennet/Batey and W. Nelson sewer project and the Township/Fruitdale sidewalk project. He also reported on advertising for the Library pre load bid and will be advertising for the WWTP improvement project bid. The railroad tracks have been removed on State St. and the Ferry St. crossing is scheduled to be removed in a couple of weeks.

Public Works Director Freiburger reviewed a late materials request for an Emergency Contract Award to Ackermann Electric Company in the amount not to exceed \$10,000. The request is due to an emergency situation with an issue at the Jones Road Sewer Pump Station. Staff recommendation is to award.

Councilmember Couch moved to declare an emergency and authorize City Supervisor Eron Berg's signing of the attached Emergency Electrical Repair contract with Ackermann Electric Company of Mount Vernon, WA in the amount not to exceed \$10,000. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (5-0).

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported fencing has been put up around library site location. The Fire Department used the building for some training and demolition is scheduled to start tomorrow.

Finance Director Merriman – reported he has busy with the budget process. The preliminary budget should be balanced and available sometime next week. He also reported that Finance Department Employees Christine and Amanda are working hard on a scanning project of resolutions and ordinances. This will make easier access for citizens to look up online.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Owen – commented that Commissioner Dalsteadt was at the Senior Center for lunch. Next week Commissioner Janicki and Commissioner Wesen will be at the Senior Center during the lunch hour. He also reported that there are items for sale at the Senior Center with proceeds to benefit the Senior Services program.

Councilmember Kornegay – announced the upcoming program at the Library on Friday titled “A Plastic Ocean”. She also expressed concern of the vision triangle at the intersection of McGargile and Highway 9.

Councilmember Kinzer – thanked the Public Works operations for trimming the brush at the corner of Talcott and Walley Streets.

Councilmember de Jong – thanked law enforcement for allowing him to do a ride along with Code Enforcement. He had questions on the radar trailer on Railroad Avenue. De Jong spoke of the State Street project and requested a safer separation for pedestrians who have to use the crosswalks. He noted the opportunity to work with the Planning Department regarding 717 Township and questioned the plans for the city owned property on North Reed Street and the petitions.

Mayor Johnson – commented on her ride along with Code Enforcement and her invitation for lunch at the Senior Center by Councilmember Owen. She also thanked the citizens for their patience due to the work on State Street.

Proclamations

See Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period up at 7:36 P.M.

Marlin Miller – 713 Brickyard Blvd., addressed the Council regarding plans for the property located at 205 N. Reed Street. He encouraged Council to move forward with plans for a park and listed the number of housing developments and apartment buildings in the area for a total of 378 homes. Miller stated it is a perfect location for a park for the safety of kids.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – presented a brief history of the land in question that was purchased for stormwater. He also addressed a conceptual drawing for a park that was done and an offer to purchase the land from Habitat to Humanity. He stated the Council has not expressed or discussed what the plans for the property should be.

Jed Holmes – 7691 Delvin Hill Road, representing the Skagit Conservation District spoke on their application of a rate approach. He passed out a handout to the Council defining the programs and services and the benefits they provide.

Councilmember de Jong questioned what is being done at the riverbanks and rivers.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment period at 7:45 P.M.

Public Hearings

2019 Property Tax Levy (Ordinance 1907-18)

- Increase of 0%, or
- Increase of 1%, or
- “Unbanking” of Banked Property Tax Levy
- Increase of 1% and “unbanking” of banked property tax levy

Finance Director Merriman presented the 2019 Property Tax Levy first read and public hearing. A PowerPoint presentation was given to include inflation and how it impacts budget, perspective and how it relates to the city organization, economics and policy. He noted the Mayors budget is currently built with no property tax increase. He also reviewed factors such as the Implicit Price Deflator, purchasing power, growth factors, general fund revenue issues, compounding effect of property tax levies, options and what property taxes pay for.

Merriman entertained Council questions regarding unbanking, time frame of non-banking, concern for the Senior citizens on a fixed income and property tax exemptions.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the 2019 Property tax Levy at 8:16 P.M. With no comments it was closed at 8:16 P.M.

Utility Rate Ordinances

- Ordinance increasing sewer rates by 3.96%
- Ordinance increasing solid waste/recycling by 16.40%
- Ordinance increasing stormwater rates by 7.38%

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed utility rate increases. He noted the big increases are in the Solid Waste due the increases in the recycling fee and the tipping fees. The overall increase is 3.3% which is reflective of the CPI for Seattle. Spread across the board to the three utilities is a portion of the additional IT position. The last piece is the Public Works facility that Council has recognized as a priority. A three phase approach is being proposed for the building. Berg also addressed stormwater and the additional position for solid waste.

He entertained questions noting this was a first read. Questions included, new growth, need of additional employee, contracted services for the IT Specialist position and looking at existing commercial properties available for the public works facility for sale or lease that could save money.

Mayor Johnson opened and closed the public hearing at 8:28 P.M. with no comments.

Unfinished Business

Proposed Amendments to the Development Regulations and Design Standards for Planned Residential Developments

Planning Director Coleman reintroduced the proposed amendments to the Development Regulations and Design Standards for Planned Residential Developments (PRD) and entertained questions. A concern of smaller lots sizes was expressed by Councilmember Couch. No action taken.

New Business

Information Only Items

- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status

Good of the Order

Executive Session

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:35 P.M under RCW 42.30 for approximately 15 minutes with no action anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50 P.M.

Adjournment

Councilmember Kinzer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (5-0).