
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 14, 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, Judith Dunn Lee, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch and Pola Kelley. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiberger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to allow Councilmember Kornegay's late arrival. Seconded by Councilmember Kelley. Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer. Motion carried (6-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including November 7, 2018 Study Session)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #189453 to #189591 in the amount of \$873,832.03
 - Payroll Checks #59688 to #59698 plus EFT's in the amount of \$327,075.40
- Possible On-Call Professional Services Agreement No. 2018-PS-30 – Design Phase Topographic Surveying Services for the SR20/Cascade Trail West Phase 2A Holtkamp Road to Hodgins Street Project – Semrau Engineering & Surveying, PLLC
- Possible On-Call Professional Services Agreement No. 2018-PS-31 – Design Phase Topographic Surveying Services for the SR20 West Lane Widening & Safety Improvements Project – Semrau Engineering & Surveying, PLLC
- Professional Services Agreement No. 2019-PS-01 – J&J Hanson Consulting Inc.
- Request to Surplus or Authorize the Destruction of 2007 Ford Crown Victoria #243 (Resolution 1008-18)
- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Skagit County for 2019 Senior Services
- Update to Public Defender Agreement with Skagit county for Legal Representation
- Resolution 1007-18 Petty Cash Accounts
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) update and action items

Councilmember Couch moved for the late materials “CVAA Asset Distribution List” to be added to the consent calendar. Councilmember Dunn Lee seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Councilmember Couch moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 through 11. Seconded by Councilmember Dunn Lee. Motion carried (6-0)

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

United Way Presentation with Debra Lancaster

Mayor Johnson introduced Debra Lancaster, Executive Director of United Way who presented a power point presentation on United Way. She spoke of their new focus on early childhood education and the commitment by 2025; All Skagit County Children entering Kindergarten are Ready to Learn.

Councilmember Kornegay arrived at 7:11.

Lancaster also spoke of four goals as outlined in a brochure titled “First 1,000 Days” and the importance of the sharing the information. She then entertained questions from the Council.

Staff Reports

Police Sgt. Harris – reported he is filling in while Chief Tucker is at the WASPC conference. He also stated Sgt. Blunt is out on medical leave. Sgt. Harris announced they will be doing a crosswalk emphasis in the downtown area and are compiling data for 2018 on the downtown core bar scene. He addressed an area in town of a hobo camp that was cleaned up thanks to the workers with the Offender Work Program.

Fire Chief Klinger – announced testing for volunteer residents scheduled for this weekend. The Burlington Northern Railroad (thanks to Asst. Fire Chief Olson and Representative Larsen’s office) will be donating an LPG tanker car for use as a training prop at the training site. Klinger also reported on the progress on the resident’s quarter and on the Teen Heart Screening held at Sedro-Woolley High School.

Planning Director Coleman – noted the Planning Commission will be working on the Urban Village, Mixed Use overlay and on a zoning change for R15 zone. He also reported that JoAnn Lazon will be out of the office over the next couple of weeks to help with the downtown Christmas decorations and upcoming Tree Lighting and Parade event.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – presented an updated on the Library project noting that demolition is almost complete. The railroad tracks have been removed and the paving is almost complete as well.

Finance Director Merriman – stated the finishing touches on an RFP for financing on the library were being worked on. The budget has been completed and Finance will be moving into year

end. He noted that a report for the quarter end in September will be coming soon and pointed out the new window in the finance office for the EMS Billing Specialist.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Kornegay – Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Helping Hands Food Bank from 12:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Councilmember de Jong – thanked the Police Department for the ride along with Officer McCoombs and the Firefighters and Paramedics for their help with the coat give away. He also commented the State Street paving was very smooth. de Jong questioned what the Sedro-Woolley legislative agenda was going to be for the new year and requested a presentation from our delegates on their preview as well as hosting a town hall meeting during the legislative session. de Jong also questioned the hobo camp.

Councilmember Dunn Lee – thanked the emergency services for their care with a call regarding a family member and thanked the United Way representative for their presentation.

Councilmember Kelley – thanked the city workers for their involvement with the Christmas decorations and parade, especially Nathan Salseina and his crew for everything they do. She also announced the shop local campaign and encouraged everyone to shop local.

Mayor Johnson– thanked the Chamber for all they do for the Christmas events and parade. She also thanked the downtown businesses and patrons for their patience during the road project and acknowledged JoAnn Lazon for her work on the city's wellness program.

Proclamations

Public Comments

Louie Requa – 310 W. Bennett and business owner at 806 Metcalf, Skagit Surveyors noted his company has been in business for 40 years. He presented a brief history of his business and noted since the passing of his business partner he has been thinking more of retirement. He stated the business and building is up for sale. Requa expressed gratitude to the city over the past 40 years for their business and knowledge noting it has been a great ride.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment period at 7:38 P.M.

Public Hearings

2019 Annual Budget (Ordinance 1908-18)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the 2019 Annual Budget at 7:39 P.M. With no comments received she closed the public hearing at 7:39 P.M.

Unfinished Business

2019 Property Tax Levy (Ordinance 1907-18)

- Increase of 0%, or
- Increase of 1%, or
- “Unbanking” of banked property tax levy, or
- Increase of 1% and ‘unbanking’ of banked property tax levy

Finance Director Merriman introduced the 2019 property tax levy and the four options each with its own ordinance.

Council discussion took place asking for a staff recommendation. It was noted an increase would be to keep pace with inflation.

Further discussion and comments ensued regarding unbanking, having a balanced budget, inflation, continuation of no increases, time sensitivity and the accumulative effect of no increase.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to accept the 2019 Property Tax Levy with the unbanking of the banked property tax levy. Motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Councilmember Kinzer requested the topic be moved to the next meeting. Some discussion was held regarding meeting county deadlines.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to increase the 1% of the 2019 property tax levy and the unbanking of the banked property tax levy. Seconded by Councilmember Kelley. Motion failed (3-4, Councilmembers Owen, Kinzer, de Jong and Dunn Lee opposed).

Councilmember Kinzer moved for the increase of 0% property tax levy. Councilmember Couch seconded.

Discussion held with Councilmember Couch stating the Council is being fiscally irresponsible and needs to look to the future for growth and proper staffing and by not increasing the tax they are doing the city a disservice. Councilmember Dunn Lee concurred.

Motion failed (1-6, Councilmembers Couch, Owen, Kornegay, de Jong, Dunn Lee and Kelley).

Councilmember Kelley moved for option 2, Increase of 1%. Seconded by Councilmember Dunn Lee. Motion carried (5-2, Councilmembers Owen and Kinzer opposed).

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 noted the time sensitivity in order to update any rate increases for notification and updates to the accounting system prior to implementation. He also noted the increases are necessary for implementation of the proposed budget and all have had public hearings.

Councilmember de Jong questioned the need for the utility rate increases now that an increase in property tax has been approved.

Finance Director Merriman answered Councilmember de Jong's question.

Ordinance Increasing Sewer Rates by 3.96%

Councilmember Couch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1910-18 increasing sewer rates by 3.96%. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Ordinance increasing solid waste/recycling by 16.40%

Councilmember Kelley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1911-18 increasing solid waste utility rates by 16.40%. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (7-0).

Ordinance increasing stormwater rates by 7.38%

Councilmember Couch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1912-18 increasing storm water rates by 7.38%. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

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

Planning Director Coleman introduced for a third reading the Planned Residential Development ordinance.

Councilmember Couch moved to approve Ordinance No. 1913-18 adopting amendments to Chapter 17.43 of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code and Chapter 8 of the Sedro-Woolley Design Standards and Guidelines manual regarding planned residential developments. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

Utility Tax Rates

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed utility tax rates which is necessary to implement the budget as presented. He reviewed the current rates of surrounding cities.

Council discussion took place to include rates restricted to support enterprise funds with utility taxes revenues to general government, no raise in utility taxes since 2014, increase is placed onto

service providers (outside utilities), 1% tax increase to deal with inflation, utility waivers and increase being part of the balanced budget.

It was noted this is a first read.

Updates to the Building, Planning & Engineering Fee Schedule and Changes to the Duplicate Plan Review Fee

Planning Director Coleman reviewed the proposed updated fee schedule stating most are minor increases that are currently too low to cover the actual time the Planning Department spends on those permit applications. He also reviewed changes to the building code which has a section of code that has a discount plan review. He noted no action is required as this is a first read.

2019 Salary Ordinance (1909-18)

Finance Director Merriman introduced the first read of the annual salary ordinance that establishes the salary and wages for elected officials and employees of the City of Sedro-Woolley for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019. He noted there are three wage groups, the Public Safety Guild, AFSCME and non-represented employees, with union agreements (Public Safety Guild and AFSCME) that provides for most employees. Merriman addressed the recent salary survey.

Discussion ensued regarding section 5 of the ordinance and the percentage of change (2.5%).

Information Only Items

- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status
- Report of Contracts approved under SWMC 2.104.060
- Misc.

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.