
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 27, 2019– 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 (absent), Chuck Owen, Judith Dunn Lee, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch and Pola Kelley. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Asst. Fire Chief Wagner and Police Chief Tucker

Councilmember de Jong moved excuse Councilmember Kornegay. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer. Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Couch moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (6-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting – Including March 11, 2019 Special Meeting (Retreat)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #190370 in the amount of \$174.00
 - Claim Checks #190371 to #190475 plus EFT's in the amount of \$368,012.59
 - Payroll Checks #59773 to #59779 plus EFT's in the amount of \$295,062.64
- Possible Bid Award – Public Works Agreement No. 2019-PW-22 – 2019 Crack Seal Project – CR Contracting LLC
- Possible Bid Award – Public Works Agreement No. 2019-PW-23 – 2019 On-Call Fence Repair and Installation Services – Northwind Fence Company
- Possible Contract Award – 2019 On-Call Asphalt Pavement Services – Contract 2019-PW-24 – JNR Paving Inc.
- Library Project Update

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Couch seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Police Department 2019 Life Saving Award – Officer Kerig Holmberg, Officer Zach Carroll, Officer Derick Lowe, Officer Austin McCombs and Sergeant Jason Harris.

Mayor Johnson announced the special event happening with the commendations of officers for their outstanding performance in public safety.

Sgt. Jason Harris was called to come forward. Mayor Johnson reviewed an incident of June 18, 2018 in which Sgt. Harris acted with extraordinary heroism while conscious of imminent danger to his personal safety. For his action he was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal and received a round of applause from the audience.

Mayor Johnson then called upon Officer Zachary Carroll. She reviewed an incident of March 11, 2018 where Officer Carroll and Detective James Hannawalt responded to a weapons offense in the parking lot of the United General Hospital Emergency Room. It was noted that both acted with extraordinary heroism while conscious of imminent danger to their personal safety. Mayor Johnson presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Officer Carroll for actions taken in this incident. Detective Hannawalt (unable to be present) also received the Distinguished Service Medal. Officer Carroll received a round of applause.

Officer Austin McCombs was called forward and Mayor Johnson reviewed an incident of August 12, 2018 in which McCombs took actions which saved the life of another. He was presented with the Life Saver Award for his actions in this incident. Officer McCombs received a round of applause.

Officers Kerig Holmberg and Zachary Carroll came forward. Mayor Johnson reviewed an incident of July 31, 2018 in which Officers Holmberg, Carroll and Officer Derick Lowe (unable to be present) took actions to save the life of another. They were presented with the Life Saver Award for their actions and received a round of applause.

Officer Kerig Holmberg was presented a second Life Saver Award for action taken in a separate incident of September 28, 2018 that saved the life of another. A round of applause was given for Officer Holmberg.

Mayor Johnson thanked all the officers for all they do.

Library Operations Annual Report with Library Director Jeanne Williams (*to be rescheduled*)

SKAT Presentation with Executive Director Dale O'Brien

SKAT Executive Director Dale O'Brien addressed the Council presenting statistical information regarding the number of vehicles, employees and their rapid growth rate. He reviewed priorities that have been set for 2019 by their Board of Directors. They will implement an electronic fare collection system and will begin the public meeting process to consider charging fees for the para-transit units. He noted they have provided para-transit services free of charge since 1998

and it is now time to gain the revenue allowed for these services. O'Brien stated during the public meetings they will also be addressing fare increases on fixed routes. He then reviewed their funding sources which include fares, sales tax and grants and spoke of their capital project in working to retrofit an old Fed Ex building that was purchased in 2015. The building is in the final design stages and they will be looking for federal grants to complete the retro-fit of the building. O'Brien stated the parcel and building will take the agency 25 years into the future.

Brad Windler, Planning and Outreach Supervisor reviewed their strategic planning process. He spoke of a ridership survey taken. The survey indicated that people want more bus shelters and seating. He then spoke of the possible urban area improvements for Sedro Woolley, splitting Route 300 in two routes with a dedicated bus and reviewed a limited stop service route.

Windler entertained questions from the Council concerning ridership, Sedro Woolley routes and para transit qualifications.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported on damage caused by a stolen vehicle over the weekend.

Asst. Fire Chief Wagner – reported on openings in the residence quarters and stated they are almost at full capacity. He also reported 7 of the 8 Firefighter/Paramedics have been signed off and starting their probation for the year. Call volume is higher than usual due to the new program which has been great for the response times.

Police Chief Tucker – reported on the upcoming Viet Nam Veterans parade, Saturday at 1:00 P.M.

Mayor Johnson commented on the efforts that went into the Firefighter/Paramedic program with many wheels in motion and the end result of a beautiful program being built.

Asst. Chief Wagner commended the involvement of all the city staff and departments in order to meet the deadlines.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – pointed out that visualizations on the Library have been placed on the dais. The Library project is scheduled to go to bid on April 15th with bid opening on May 10th. A potential ground breaking is scheduled for June 5th. He noted he emailed a link to a visualization of the interior of the building to Councilmembers. He reviewed upcoming action points regarding debt financing and stated the House and Senate have released their budget which includes funding for the Library. Berg then updated Council on the status of projects within the House and Senate budgets and spoke of a feeling of excitement and renewal in the downtown area.

Finance Director Merriman – reported the city debt policy and investment policy has received state certification. He also reported on the debt issuance on the Library and spoke on the process to include a preliminary offering statement (prospectus), bond ordinance and timing, with the anticipation of having funding in place by the end of May. Merriman also spoke on the current

investments being in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and noted that there are some ways we can still do better. He is researching information for other investments with a higher return.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Couch – requested that everyone keep the family of Deputy Ryan Thompson who was murdered in Kittitas County in their thoughts as well as his partner Officer Benito Chavez as he deals with the loss.

Councilmember de Jong – reported on the Skagit Watershed Council meeting he attended. He noted it was Steelhead Day and the topic was on steelhead recovery.

Councilmember Kelley – reported the upcoming Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held at Magnolia Hall due to the renovations at the Community Center being done by the Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club. She addressed the recent newspaper article on the growth in Sedro Woolley and the level of excitement in town due to the growth.

Mayor Johnson – announced applications are being taken for an opening on the Planning Commission. The city is also taking applications for the position of Permit Tech in the Building and Planning Department. She addressed a conversation with one of the bar owners in town and another conversation is schedule to be held with all the bar owners to communicate how to convey concerns, enhance safety and to reduce criminal activity. She also reported of interest by local artist Jay Bowen regarding a sculpture for the city.

Proclamations

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comments at 8:00 P.M. With no comments received she closed public comments at 8:01 P.M.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Governance Handbook Update – Council Committees

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg introduced the Governance Handbook Update and noted an omission of the Planning Committee from the document. The update was generated by a request from the Mayor to reinvigorate the Council Committees. The purpose of the update is to put detail around the committees, define the committees and define when they meet, how they meet and how they are staffed. Berg noted the goal to get direction on draft 1, with a future draft to follow.

Some discussion ensued regarding the utilization of underlines and strikeouts.

Councilmember de Jong expressed interest in utilizing council committees and believes it to be an effective use of time. He expressed concern if it was used to delay a Council decision. de Jong would also like to see language that allows public comment or what the engagement of the public would be at committee meetings.

Councilmember Couch questioned who decides who the staff liaison is. He also questioned the purpose of having the Mayor on committees.

Councilmember Couch requested to discuss the language further at the April 3rd study session.

New Business

Councilmember Owen addressed Council regarding salaries of the Council. He stated the City of Burlington is \$800.00 and Mount Vernon is at \$1,100.00. He noted Sedro-Woolley has been at \$500.00 for 15 years or more and it is time to look at salaries

Councilmember Owen moved Sedro Woolley Council salary be raised from \$500.00 to \$900.00 beginning with the next Election. No second received.

Discussion was held regarding the need for the change to be in ordinance format. Councilmember Owen moved to request an ordinance be drafted and placed on a future agenda. Councilmember Dunn Lee seconded. Motion carried (5-1, Councilmember Couch opposed).

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

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. under RCW 43.30.110 (1)(i) current or potential litigation for approximately 10 minutes with action requested.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 P.M.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to allow the Mayor to sign the agreement discussed in Executive Session. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (6-0).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.