
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 8, 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, 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

Mayor Johnson reported Public Works Director Freiberger requested Item 4; STBGP Grant Approval and Match Requirements be pulled from the consent calendar.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the agenda with Item 4 of the consent agenda pulled. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Counter Checks #4949 to #4951 in the amount of \$300.00
 - Claim Checks #190665 to #190758 in the amount of \$219,300.10
 - Payroll Checks #59800 in the amount of \$300.00 (re-issue)
 - Payroll Checks #59801 to #59811 plus EFT's the amount of \$395,391.74
- NC Machinery Co. – Caterpillar Snow Push 10', IT, R. Trip Purchase Order No. 2019-PO-06
Northend Truck Equipment Inc. – Boss Hopper Spreader VBX 9000 – 9' V-Box
Spreader Purchase Order No. 2019-PO-07
- STBGP Grant Approval and Match Requirements (*Item pulled from consent calendar*)

Councilmember Kinzer questioned Item 3 of the consent calendar (purchase of the snow push and hopper).

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 thru 3. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Library Operations Annual Report – Jeanne Williams, Library Director

Jeanne Williams, Library Director gave a PowerPoint presentation and spoke on the first year of consolidated Library services. She commended the staff and spoke on staff transition that included sessions in communications, strengths and the team building. She reviewed training opportunities for staff members and presented a financial snapshot. Other upgrades to library services included electrical upgrades, computers, new furniture, interior upgrades and security cameras. Williams noted \$150,000 was spent on new collection and replacement books and reviewed statistics regarding usage. She reported 48,996 visits to the library with 150-250 visits per day on an average day, 1,096 new borrowers, 117,097 items checked out, 2,846 computer uses, free Wi-Fi, and expanded programs and services. She also noted changes in the operating hours. They have seen a 25% increase in digital services with the addition of lending.com, practice testing, Ancestry.com and other programs. Williams reviewed some of their adult and young adult programs, continued growth in early literacy, the addition of a multi-generational program and another successful City works day. She reported on plans for the upcoming year and entertained Council questions to include how to reach out to young adults, free student cards and being impressed with the looks of the library,

Williams announced the ground breaking ceremony for the new library to be held on June 5th 2019 at 2:00 at 100 W. State Street.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported on staffing issues due to injuries. He also stated they will be hiring for a replacement officer. The officers have been having fun with lunches at various schools to meet the kids. Tucker reported on a shooting in the 700 block of Sapp Road over the weekend with no injuries reported and the investigation is continuing. He also reported he will be out of town at the next Council meeting.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported that Asst. Chief Olson has secured funding for transporting the tanker rail car. It should be in place for use sometime soon.

Planning Director Coleman – announced the hiring of Permit Tech Michelle Grace as the replacement for JoAnn Lazon who is retiring. He also announced the hiring of a Planning Intern Katherine Weir. She will be working on the Urban Village Mixed Use Overlay project.

Public Works Director Freiburger – spoke on the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program through Council of Governments. He spoke of funds available in 2024. The projects originally proposed have been reconsidered based on the rules for grants. He noted the John Liner improvements are currently listed in the longer termed TIP but will be modified with the upcoming TIP. Projects must also be arterial classified and in the TIP to qualify. The two projects staff recommends for grant applications are:

John Liner Road, Reed to Township Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement Project and;

Jones Road Arterial Improvements Project

Councilmember Korengay moved to authorize staff to apply for the grants identified in the memo and to commit the local match dollars identified in the memo. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (7-0).

Public Works Director Freiburger noted Commissioner Wesen in the audience. He stated the Commissioners authorized an operational analysis on Rhodes Road due to the increased traffic volumes after the opening of the Jameson roundabout. The analysis has been completed and posted on website. He stated there have been several recommended low cost solutions to include chip seal and installing edge lines, widen and repair the curve and widen the shoulder on the east/west side. Repairs will be done this summer.

Mayor Johnson welcomed Commissioner Wesen, former Mayor/Commissioner Dillon and Senator Wagoner all in the audience.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – announced funding approved within the legislative budget to benefit Sedro-Woolley in the following amounts: 1.0 million for the Library, 298,000 for Winnie Houser Park, 368,000 for environmental clean-up at the Swift Center, 1 M for the military department at the Swift Center and 6.6 M for the Evaluation and Treatment Center as part of Skagit County’s Behavioral Health Campus going next to Life Care on SR20. Berg spoke of the great support from the State of Washington and to Senator Keith Wagoner for his participation. He also reported the Swift Center partnership is hitting all marks and is exploring visiting a Varcor unit in Texas. Berg spoke about an upcoming meeting with the Mayor, Nathan Salseina and himself with the YMCA to discuss a YMCA-W (Woolley) summer rec program for the summer of 2019.

Finance Director Merriman – gave an update on the library bond issue. He noted RFP’s were sent out to 15 banks with 7 responses received. One response did not meet the minimum requirements. He noted interest rates came in at 3.21% - 3.98% with Banner Bank having the best terms and the least total interest costs. Included in the terms is an interest rate of 3.21%, a draw down feature, 20 year maturity and no pre-payment penalty. Merriman also reported an autographed copy of the biennial budget in narrative form at each council seat.

Councilmember and Mayor’s Reports

Councilmember Couch – thanked the community and elected officials for showing up tonight. He also thanked Mayor Johnson for her action on vetoing of the salary ordinance and stated he looks forward to reasonable and robust discussions on the topic of council salaries.

Councilmember Owen – acknowledged Commissioner Wesen and former Commissioner Dillon in the audience and thanked them for coming. He also acknowledged Senator Wagoner and thanked him for his hard work during the last legislative session.

Councilmember Kornegay – announced Community Action’s Robert M. Gates Vet Connect ribbon cutting will be held on May 18th from 4-7P.M. with an open house and dedication.

Councilmember de Jong – reported on the Kids fishing derby at the Swift Center. He noted he was able to connect Kelsey from the Skagit Fish Enhancement Group with the Wildcat Steelhead Club. He commented on rough pavement at Jameson and Township, an upcoming trail building at Northern State on May 11th and a food drive sponsored by the letter carriers.

Councilmember Kelley – reported on a very successful Woodfest event and gave a preview of the next event June 6,7 &8th which will be Blast from the Past.

Mayor Johnson – announced the first day of the Farmer’s Market will be on May 22nd. She then wished all mothers in the audience a Happy Mother’s Day.

Proclamations

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period at 7:48 P.M.

Peggy Suryan – 635 Jennings, noted they have been longtime residents of Sedro-Woolley and love the town. She questioned Councilmember Owen if the garbage man in her area would also be getting an 80% increase? She expressed a growing concern with the Senior Citizens of what is being asked for in a raise.

Dennis O’Neil – 109 Talcott, expressed support of the increase for Council members. He addressed the Washington State minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour and asked if Councilmembers aren’t worth \$12.00 per hour, and what we get for less. He also noted Councilmembers should be involved in city business at least 14 hours per week. He spoke of city employees having received raises when the Council has not and stated the pay increase should have been brought up by the Mayor at budget time. He encouraged Council to stick to their guns for the pay increase.

Tina Chapeaux – 1641 SR9 stated she was disappointed in the 80% stipend. She spoke on a salary commission that is supported by RCW’s and reviewed the workings of a salary commission, noting it would give greater transparency to the city. She recommended the Mayor and Council have a serious discussion regarding forming a salary commission. Chapeaux handed out copies of an application for the commission used by Lake Stevens and a handout on Salaries for Elected Officials written by Paul Sullivan.

Sally White – 423 Talcott, expressed her disappointment after the last meeting. She read part of a letter she had sent to all Councilmembers urging the Mayor to not sign the ordinance in order for the money to be better spent for the citizens. White posed questions to the council such as why are you here, to push through an agenda or to improve your cv, do you feel power by being a councilmember, do you work for the citizens of your ward and how well do you work together. She stated the citizens are their boss and the Mayor their supervisor and by approving a raise they are depleting the citizens and city of money for important infrastructure.

Harold Beitler – 1207 Jameson, commented the article in the paper was misleading, he spoke of staff increases and the amount stated is nothing compared to the millions of dollars in the budget. He commended those that voted no and noted the council is starting to think. He stated that if there is no increase all you will get is unqualified candidates and encouraged council to take another look at the topic.

Brenden McGoffin – 277 Klinger Street, expressed thanks for the officers and staff for visiting the schools. He posed the question to council; Are we doing everything we can for our kids to make them feel safe.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment period at 8:04P.M.

Public Hearings

Home Trust of Skagit: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Request

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing at 8:04P.M.

Paul Schissler – representing Home Trust of Skagit as a consultant for affordable housing addressed the Council. He noted the information has been in the packet for the past two meetings. He spoke of the process noting this is a once a year opportunity and is a federally funded grant processed through the State of Washington. He stated a resolution would need to be passed should the council approve to proceed after the public hearing that provides an opportunity for citizens to comment.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing at 8:07P.M.

Deferred Impact Fees for Schools – Ch. 15.64 SWMC

Mayor Johnson opened and closed the public hearing at 8:07P.M. with no comments received.

Unfinished Business

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to adopt Resolution 1024-19 a resolution formally authorizing a CDBG grant application. Councilmember Kelley seconded.

Councilmember de Jong expressed a thank you for responses to his questions regarding greenhouse gasses and peaceful disruption or protests.

Mayor Johnson stated that Councilmember de Jong's questions were addressed in Ordinance No. 822-10.

Motion carried (7-0).

Deferred Impact Fees

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the deferred impact fees as a housekeeping item. This places into code a practice we have been following since 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding the deferred impact fees. (Planning Director Coleman's comments were inaudible).

Councilmember Kelley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1925-19 to adopt amendments to the Chapter 15.64 SWMC to clarify that school impact fees may be deferred and specifying the deferral method. Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Salary Increase for City Councilmembers

Reconsideration of Ordinance 1924-19

Mayor Johnson stated the Ordinance No. 1924-19 was passed at the last meeting but was vetoed. In her veto message she recommended a 3% raise which equals the same amount received by city staff.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the procedural background. He noted under RCW35A.12.130 the Mayors veto returns the ordinance to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a super majority, adopt a different ordinance, take no action or table to a future time for future discussion.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1926-19 decreasing the pay for members of the City Council from \$500.00 to \$400.00. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1924-19 to give the council a raise from \$500 per month to \$900 per month. Seconded by Councilmember de Jong.

Councilmember Couch expressed his disbelief noting they are public servants and elected to serve the community and staff. He addressed a more appropriate time for having this discussion would be at budget time. He cited the needs of the city such as a new facility for the mechanic and fleet storage, more police officers, the presentation outlining the police needs and the addition of paramedics. He stated the increase is absurd and he is willing to work with the council to come to a reasonable increase because the city budget cannot handle what is proposed.

Councilmember Kelley commented that revisiting is important and the need to reconsider everything involved. The Council also needs to look at the fact that no increases have occurred in eleven years and the Council should be considered as part of the government, as is the staff. All do a great job however the council is also a department and part of this government and should be fairly compensated.

Councilmember Kornegay – stated this is not a job and Council is not earning wages from this. Everyone has full time jobs or retirement and cannot be compared to staff. Being a Councilmember is a service and is not a job. The pay is a stipend to pay for daycare while we are at meetings or transportation and a little for the time. Kornegay stated she would rather see

that money going for flower baskets or something for a department. Serving on the Council should not be for the money.

Councilmember Owen noted the police are under union contract and their salary is negotiated and the council does not have anything to do with it.

Councilmember Couch stated if voted down he would go with what the Mayor proposed and be glad to reconsider at budget time as a compromise. He also addressed Councilmember Owen's comment on the police are a collective bargaining unit. If passed a precedent will have been set and could have an impact on negotiations.

Councilmember de Jong – read a prepared statement thanking the public and stated he loves serving the community. He spoke of the time and knowledge necessary, quality of life he chooses for Sedro-Woolley, investment in good government, corruption and low pay and affordable and reasonable investment in the city council. Quality governance, customer service attentiveness and responsiveness top priority.

Councilmember Couch – noted the great involvement of the Rotary club with various projects throughout town and stated Councilmembers should abide by the Rotary motto: service above self.

Motion declined (4-3, Councilmember Kinzer, Kornegay and Couch opposed)

Councilmember Couch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1926-19 an Ordinance granting a pay increase from \$500 per month to \$589.73. Motion died for lack of second.

Councilmember Kelley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1926-19 to do a Councilmember pay increase from \$500 per month to \$600 per month, with an amendment that it be revisited biannually. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Couch moved to table the topic to the next budgeting cycle. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion denied.

Councilmember Kinzer moved to readdress the topic at the next worksession (September). Councilmember Couch seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding the next available worksession date and the need to make a decision prior to the next election in order for the increase to go into effect with the next election.

Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember de Jong opposed)

Councilmember de Jong noted he opposed because it is at a worksession which is not recorded.

Mayor Johnson stated that the discussion could take place at the worksession with any vote at a regular Council meeting in order to be recorded on record.

New Business

Information Only Items

- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status
- Misc.

Good of the Order

Councilmember de Jong reported on the Planning committee meeting held prior to tonight's meeting with the purpose of meeting to discuss auxiliary dwelling units. The consensus of the committee is to direct the Planning Department to work on a policy for Sedro Woolley to be worked on with the 2019 Comp Plan amendment schedule.

The Council consensus was in agreement.

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for attending.

Councilmember Couch noted that Candidate filing week approaching.

Executive Session

Adjournment

With no objections the meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.