
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 22, 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 (Absent), 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 Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Lt. McIlraith

Councilmember de Jong moved to excuse Councilmember Kinzer. Motion seconded and carried (6-0).

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Couch requested the late materials be added to the consent agenda as item 8. Councilmember Dunn Lee seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

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

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #190759 in the amount of \$116.00
 - Claim Checks #190760 to 190854 plus EFT;s in the amount of \$1,006,882.42
 - Claim Check #190855 in the amount of (Late Materials)
- Payroll Checks #59812 to #59819 plus EFT's the amount of \$291,895.94
- Skagit County Job Request Forms RD97-122 & RD97-124 – City of Sedro-Woolley Projects performed by Skagit County Public Works
- Final Acceptance – Contract 2018-PW-07 – Central Skagit Library Pre-Load Project— SRV Construction, Inc.
- Final Acceptance – Contract 2019-PW-22 – City Street Crack Sealing Project – CR Contracting LLC
- Chamber of Commerce Agreement: Tourism Support Services (Lodging Tax)
- Proposed Resolution (1025-19) declaring certain items surplus
- Payment to RICOH USA for DocuWare Implementation (*Late Materials*)

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the consent calendar with the addition of the late materials item. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Helping Hands Food Bank Update with Rebecca Schlaht, Executive Director (*delayed to later in the agenda due to technical difficulties*).

Staff Reports

Police Lt. McIlraith – reported he recently attended a Police Resource Allocation course. He stated they had some good information that might be beneficial to the department.

Fire Chief Klinger – Reported that both Marnie and Richard Fox have retired from the department after 10 years and both will be missed. He reported that the train car will be coming in tomorrow sometime in the morning. Klinger also reported we will be seeing a lot of EMT students as they will be coming soon for training with the department.

Planning Director Coleman – reported on two new employees in the Planning Department. Katherine Weir who is an intern and Michelle Grace was hired as the Permit Tech to replace JoAnn Lazon upon her retirement. Weir is currently working on the Urban Village/Mixed Use project. He noted the Planning Commission is almost complete with the final draft and will hold a public hearing and then it will be brought to the Council for review and adoption. Coleman reported at the last Planning Commission a public hearing was held on the 6 year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Public Works Director Freiburger – spoke on the 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted the Planning Commission recommended it come to Council for approval. The TIP will be set for a public hearing at the June 12th meeting. He reported on two grant applications sent to Skagit Council of Governments. Freiburger reported the State Street striping is now complete and the project is closed out. The SR20 Lane Widening will be going out to bid soon and Public Works Operations is preparing the Library site for removal of the pre load. He briefly spoke on the Olmstead Park, tree removal on Highway 9 and reported that the BNSF track removal on Ferry Street will take place on Tuesday.

Councilmember de Jong – questioned the removal of the hump on Ferry Street and reported on a citizen complaint regarding the striping on State Street and the impact to the retail businesses.

After resolving technical difficulties the meeting paused to allow the special presentation of the Helping Hands Solution Center.

Rebecca Larsen, Executive Director along with Brandon Fullerton Development Director, both of the Helping Hands Solutions Center presented a power point presentation. The presentation highlighted the Board of Directors and Staff. She noted they have 120 regular volunteers on a weekly basis but are up to 400 volunteers overall. In 2018 there were 38,000 volunteer hours were donated. Larsen spoke of their CHOW (Cutting Hunger on the Weekends) and served

44,200 meal bags in 2018 with 1200 youth served per week. Their mobile food deliveries in 2018 delivered 5,200 boxes. She also spoke of their community partners, (Job Corps, WSU Extension, Knights of Columbus, Skagit Community Foundation, Boeing ECF and the Blackburn Family). Larsen noted they were honored with receiving the Food Lifeline Agency Excellence Award. Overall in 2018 they served 17,000 unduplicated people and 157,000 individuals. She spoke on the need for their services and noted they rescued 1.3 million pounds of food in 2018.

Fullerton spoke on their upcoming projects to include an upriver food distribution center which will be a three phase project. He also addressed their solar project for energy savings and the donation by Robert M. Gates of an emergency generator.

Larsen then spoke of participation in upcoming events will be a Safety Day on June 15th and Brewfest in September and addressed their internship program.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported on the Library bid opening noting there were six bidders. He noted the bid tabs placed at the Council dais and an updated budget summary. Valdez Construction of Oak Harbor was the apparent low bidder. Berg reviewed the bid, budget summary and alternate funding. He also addressed the process and Resolution 989-18 regarding signature authority Berg stated a budget amendment will be on the agenda at June 12 meeting.

Council questions regarding the district and city split were answered by Berg.

Finance Director Merriman – announced the closing of the bond on the Library project on June 5th. He stated Banner Bank was the successful bank for the private placement bond. Terms are 3.21% for 20 years with a 1% draw at closing. Subsequent draws will be taken throughout the project with a permanent takeout at the end of construction. Merriman also reported the 2018 Annual Report has been filed with the State Auditors. Copies will be sent to Council for their review.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Couch – stated he is looking forward to a good discussion regarding the levy lid lift and wished all candidates who filed for office the best of luck.

Councilmember Kornegay – reported on the opening of Skagit Vets Connect and her participation with the Skagit Trail Builders working on the Northern State Trails.

Councilmember de Jong – spoke on the upcoming Memorial Day being a time for remembrance. He spoke of being in Marietta, Georgia for Memorial Day a few years back and that it was very moving and something he will always remember.

Councilmember Kelley – thanked the City for allowing the use of the council chambers for the May Chamber luncheon.

Mayor Johnson – highlighted a flyer regarding the YMCA Sedro-Woolley swim night and summer programs that will be coming out in the utility bills. She also announced the Memorial Day services at the Union Cemetery on Monday at 11:00 A.M.

Proclamations

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period up at 7:59 P.M.

Corrienne Jensen – 739 Sapp Rd. spoke on the Sedro-Woolley Arts Council and stated they will be teaming with the summer concert series for Art in the Park. She also reported on August 25th the Arts Council will be sponsoring a Community Talent Show.

Dennis O’Neil – 109 Talcott St., spoke regarding city council salaries and the need for an increase, as its been 11 years since Councilmembers have received an increase. He also stated he was disappointed the discussion has been pushed out until September. O’Neil requested to allow more time for statements and a time for questions to be answered.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment period at 8:05 P.M.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Proposed Amended Comprehensive Plan Amendment List – 2019 Docket

Planning Director Coleman reviewed the 2019 docket. The original docket included one item; minor amendments to the transportation element. Since that time discussion has been held regarding creating regulations for accessory dwelling units (ADU’s) before State Legislature enacts rules that would infringe on the city’s rights to enact ADU regulations that fit local needs.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve Items 1 and 2 for inclusion on the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Docket. Councilmember Couch seconded. Discussion held, Motion carried (6-0).

New Business

Levy Lid Lift for Police Department Staffing

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed work done by Police Department staff, Finance Director, Mayor and himself. The question being should Council adopt the attached ordinance which asks the voters to increase property taxes to provide staffing for the police department. Berg reviewed options to include the proposed single year levy lift. He reviewed the cost of an officer, officer and staff shortages and impact to property owners. Berg stated the policy questions would be how much to ask for and whether or not to exempt senior and low income

property owners. The recommendation is \$2.50 per 1000. In order to put it on the ballot the deadline is August 6th which would require a Council decision no later than the July 24th Council meeting.

Council questions and comments were entertained to include being opposed to passing on to general public and the need to cut instead of add, is it possible to offer choices on the ballot, importance to take to the voters, possible loss of small town sense of service and essential public services, exemption of senior and disabled, appreciation for law enforcement and public safety officers, number one goal is to expand public safety and the need to happen, what tool are we going to use and comparison and contrast of general election cost vs councilmatic.

Further discussion ensued regarding utility tax, cost of election, levels of service to the community and ballot wording.

The consensus of Council is to proceed with an ordinance to include a senior and disabled exemption.

Information Only Items

- Fire Department Monthly Incident Data
- Library Project Update
- Misc.

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Litigation – RCW 42.30.110(1) (i)

The meeting was adjourned to executive session for approximately 20 minutes with action anticipated at 8:41 P.M for the purpose of Litigation under RCW 42.30.110(1) (i).

The meeting reconvened at 8:54 P.M.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to execute the agreement between Country Class LLC and the City. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (6-0).

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.