

-----  
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
-----

Regular Meeting of the City Council  
June 12, 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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Kelley moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Dunn Lee. Motion carried (7-0).

### **Consent Calendar**

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
  - Claim Checks #190856 to #190960 in the amount of \$327,055.31
  - Payroll Checks #59820 to #59831 plus EFT's the amount of \$399,858.92
- Facilities Related Budget Amendment for 2019 – Fire Alarm System and Community Center Chairs
- Ordinance 1926-19 Amending Section 17 of Ordinance 1923-19 LTGO Bond
- Deeds Establishing City Rights-of-Way

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 thru 5. Councilmember Kornegay seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

### **Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations**

SWPSG Donation of Shadow Boxes in Memory of Police Officer Carl Strom

Police Sgt. Eaton of the Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild (SWPSG) made a presentation of two shadow boxes honoring past fallen officer Carl Strom. Sgt. Eaton thanked numerous individuals and companies as well as the SWPSG for their role in gathering information and items for the shadow boxes. Sgt. Eaton noted that Night Watchman Carl Strom was killed in the line of duty on April 14, 1933. The shadow boxes will hang in honor in the lobby outside the police department.

Family members of Carl Strom, Gloria Shawstad and William Strom were in the audience for the presentation.

#### Relay for Life – Paint the Town Purple (Proclamation)

Monique Brigham chair of the Relay for Life introduced Amber who told her cancer story. Amber stated she has made her life worthy of the extra years through her work with Relay for Life.

Brigham stated the Relay for Life will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. It begins at 2:00 P.M. Saturday with a survivors and first responders walk. She then showed a power point presentation highlighting the walk and spoke on Paint the Town Purple to celebrate the 15.5 million survivors in the United States. The highlight of the event is the memorial ceremony at 10:00 P.M. Saturday night. Brigham also noted the color Purple represents all types of cancer.

Kim Taxdahl, a cancer survivor spoke on their volunteer program ride to recovery.

Mayor Johnson read a proclamation proclaiming June 2019 as “Paint the Town Purple Days” and encouraged citizens to help lead the fight for a world without cancer.

#### **Staff Reports**

Police Chief Tucker – reported they are gearing up for Loggerodeo. He also reported of a motor vehicle accident where a pedestrian was hit in a cross walk by Handi Mart. They have called in the State Patrol to investigate. Tucker also reported on receiving funds from the DEM that will be used for mobile and portable radios.

Asst. Fire Chief Wagner – reported on being busy in the Fire Department with their busiest month in their entire history with 279 calls. He noted calls are up 22% up from last year at this time. Wagner reported they are losing Firefighters Tye Thompson and James Boze and will be testing this weekend. He also reported on the recent audit of System Design who is our third party billing agent for ambulance calls.

Planning Director Coleman – reported the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on Urban Village/Overlay at their meeting next week. The Planning Commission will then be reviewing the topic of accessory dwelling units. Coleman announced at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, a public hearing will be held for a small 1.25 acre annexation on Jones Road. A council planning committee meeting is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported on the work on the removal and smooth over of the Ferry Street railroad tracks. Fisher Construction is working at the Wastewater plant with the bypass project. He noted the streets around town are being prepared for chip seal in August and Public Works will be working on the foundations for relocating reader board sign. He also stated the 2020/2025 TIP will be presented at the next council meeting. The Planning Commission met on the TIP and will be recommending adoption. Freiburger reported on the SCOG grant funding of the shared use path on John Liner to Hwy 9.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – thanked everyone who came out for the Library ground breaking ceremony. He noted there is a lot going on and an executive session will be held after tonight's meeting.

Finance Director Merriman – reported that Friday will be the closing date on the Library bond. Closing costs will be lower than originally anticipated. With the consent agenda action, Council passed the final bond ordinance. He also pointed out information on TVI (Time Value Investments) with a third party safekeeping feature. Merriman then reported on the Systems Design on site visit and audit on third party transports.

### **Councilmember and Mayor's Reports**

Councilmember Owen – stated the Blast from the Past was an excellent celebration with a good turnout and crowd.

Councilmember Kornegay – reported on the Pump House Trail building work party with approximately 20 volunteers. She also reported she attended an event for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and had received compliments from Executive Director, Allen Rozema for the work the planning department is doing here.

Councilmember de Jong – questioned the cause of the burned semi-truck and spoke of the track removal on Ferry Street. He also commented on the road patching within his ward. He announced the next Skagit Trails work party will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. de Jong wished all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Councilmember Kelley – thanked all the city workers for their help with Blast from the Past. She stated the Color Run was great but there was a lower turnout at the family games. Overall it was a great event. Kelley also encouraged everyone to support Relay for Life.

Mayor Johnson – reported on attending the graduation for Startup Sedro Woolley an entrepreneur course through Leadership Skagit and the Downtown Association. She also noted that Soroptimist will be turning 70 and will be holding a party at the Walnut Tree on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Johnson announced at the next meeting a public hearing will be held on the Six Year TIP.

Councilmember Kornegay – acknowledged receiving the list of property owners from Dick Aldridge who have traffic concerns around Longtime Lane.

### **Proclamations**

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Johnson opened the public comments at 7:55 P.M.

Harold Beitler – 1207 Jameson St. – requested a definition be given of a public meeting. He questioned the time limit on speaking and reminded Council they represent the citizens of Sedro

Woolley and the citizens should be able to have their say. Beitler also addressed parking issues in the downtown area and the need for more police officers.

Phillip Murray 223 State St. requested to relinquish his time to Mr. Beitler.

Richard Aldridge – 717 Reed St. addressed traffic concerns at the intersection of Longtime Lane and Sapp Road. He suggested the word “STOP” be painted on the pavement at the bottom of the hill. Aldridge turned in a petition signed by neighbors with the same concerns.

George Wolner – 1641 State Route 9, thanked the Council for being transparent and holding their meeting in public. He spoke of the concerns of people and the city’s open door policy to speak of those concerns. He also spoke of building a better means of communication.

Mayor Johnson read a letter written by local 4<sup>th</sup> Graders in support of a plastic bag ban.

Public comments closed at 8:08 P.M.

Public Hearings

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Final Plat Approval of the Plat of Arbor Glen (File #06-SD-02)

Planning Director Coleman gave a brief introduction on the Final Plat Approval of the Plat of Arbor Glen. He noted it was supposed to be on the consent agenda but due to a miscommunication it was not included. He noted it is located at the corner of Cook and Trail Road and all the site work has been completed.

Councilmember Dunn Lee moved to approve Resolution 1026-19 for the Final Plat of Arbor Glen. Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

#### Levy Lid Lift for Police Department Staffing

Mayor Johnson addressed the council goals noting the first goal is to increase public safety in and around Sedro-Woolley. She reminded Council in 2012 the citizens voted to increase taxes in order to fund Police/Fire and in 2014 the council increased utility taxes in order to fund two new officers. She addressed the increased level of service with the addition of the paramedics to the fire service and stated it is only right that we adequately staff law enforcement to provide community safety. She noted under the action steps it was listed to ask the voters to approve funding for additional officers to the department.

City Supervisor/attorney Berg – reviewed the scope of services for the police department to include pro-active enforcement and commercial truck enforcement. Berg stated we have 17 officers authorized and are currently down 1 and actively looking for a replacement. He reviewed the challenges for law enforcement in 2019 that are becoming greater due to the amount of time to process each call, citing increased documentation, court preparedness, and

court time and defense attorney interviews. Berg noted we are currently at a fork in the road with an expected level of service. It is believed we are unable to maintain or enhance that level of service without more staffing. He noted the Council has spent a year or more of work on how to fund additional officers.

Berg discussed revenue sources for one time projects versus sustainable revenue sources and introduced for a second read a property tax increase. He reviewed the changes from the first read being 1) Senior/Disabled-low income discount language, 2) passage of a levy lid lift with any banked or annual increase going away and 3) language of the ballot proposition. This tax increase would be specifically limited to funding the police department. He also addressed the addition of Section 6: regarding the pro/con arguments.

Councilmember questions regarding wording on senior/low income discount, exemption for property owners, any known programs for renters, falling behind (13 officers in 2002, 17 in 2019), putting to voters will give direction for what citizens expect for service, senior citizens being on the edge of being able to maintain their homes, what to do if it doesn't pass, looking at other avenues such as cutting each department budget by 1% and a recommendation of a third reading.

Councilmember Couch moved to approve Ordinance No.1927-19 to ask voters to consider increasing property taxes to provide staffing for the police department. Seconded by Councilmember Kelley.

Further discussion ensued regarding the public information consultant, highest priority and use of the funds, process of hiring, providing a safe community is the council's number one goal, living within the means of the budget, regulatory restrictions on various funds within the budget and time frame.

Motion carried (7-0).

## **New Business**

### Parking on Nelson Street

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg introduced the Sedro Woolley School Districts request to remove parking restrictions on Nelson between Third and Walley.

Councilmember Kinzer stated she lives in the area and spoke of the amount of traffic and number of accidents resulting in property damage and does not encourage any change in the restrictions.

Berg commented that as part of the process it is being looked at to make it into a one-way street.

Councilmember de Jong requested to see what the school district can do in the way of education and enforcement.

Councilmember Kelley requested since there is not rush on the topic it be moved to the next meeting.

### Weight Limits on City Streets

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed adjustment to the code noting the original code is from 1973. Rhodes Road is anticipated to be the first road for it to be implemented. The purpose of the change is to protect the city's infrastructure.

### **Information Only Items**

- Fire Department Monthly Incident Data
- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status
- Misc.

Good of the Order

### **Executive Session**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:54 P.M. for the purpose of litigation under RCW 42.31.10.1 (i) for approximately 5 minutes with no action anticipated.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 P.M. and immediately adjourned.