
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
October 9, 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 (absent), Judith Dunn, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch and Pola Kelley. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiberger, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker

Councilmember Kelley moved to excuse Councilmember Owen. Seconded by Councilmember de Jong. Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #191653 to #191746 in the amount of \$471,946.94
 - Payroll Checks #59897 to #59907 plus EFT's the amount of \$388303.12
- Approval of Request to Surplus Police Department Equipment
- Request for Approval of Grant Agreement – FY 2019-2021 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant Funding Agreement
- Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN) Agreement
- Possible Surplus Equipment Resolution (1036-14)

Councilmember Dunn moved to approve the consent calendar items 1-6. Councilmember Couch seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Special Recognition – Rick Lemley – Community Information Board

Mayor Johnson presented Rick Lemley with a plaque for his 12 years of service in maintaining the community information board. She spoke of his dedication and working through all kinds of weather to keep the board updated. Lemley received a round of applause and a standing ovation.

Councilmember Kelley stated she had worked with Lemley for 12 years and he has been amazing. She noted his service has been appreciated.

Staff Reports

SWPD Traffic Enforcement Update (Officer Dan Eddy)

Officer Dan Eddy, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer gave a presentation on the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement program within the city. The primary focus is to address commercial vehicles traveling through the city. He said many travel on Hwy 9 to avoid the State Patrol truck stop and the most complaints from citizens are regarding the use of air compression brakes and speeding. Eddy reviewed the training necessary to become a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer and the number of complex inspections required per year in order to maintain the certification. He showed examples of findings and the types of violations to include safety violations and criminal violations. Eddy also addressed equipment that would be useful in the inspections. He then entertained questions from the Council.

Chief Tucker noted that Officer Eddy has put together an outstanding program and the commercial vehicle enforcement is in addition to his daily patrol duties.

Councilmember Couch – extended his thanks to Officer Eddy for making an impact.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the EOC training and mock earthquake drill held. He stated the training was good for all to go through. He also reported on the IV Tech class being taught and noted the pump testing has been completed.

Councilmember de Jong questioned if the new fire utility vehicle was compatible with the new bridge being built at the SWIFT Center.

Planning Director Coleman – reported they are working on census addressing. He announced an upcoming joint legislative task force meeting on October 17th on water supply in rural areas. Coleman also reported there are many applications coming in near Jones Road and Sapp Road.

Public Works Director Freiberger – reviewed projects around town to include the Borseth and Robinson sewer and the sidewalk/ramp project. He spoke on the update to the sewer comp plan with a financial analysis on the sewer system. A list of short-term projects has been put together with a look forward to a plant upgrade in 2026. Freiberger also acknowledged Wally Hoyt,

project inspector in the audience. The short-term projects were reviewed and also reported on was the annual meeting with public works crews regarding snow and ice.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported the library project is currently on time and on budget. He noted change order 1 has been signed for the addition of 14 days of construction time and \$113,000 in cost for a generator. Berg also addressed the historic cemetery grant.

Finance Director Merriman – reported on the budget work regarding payroll projections, utility and street projects. He hopes to have a preliminary draft budget soon. Merriman reported the State Auditors would be on site on Monday, October 14th – 23rd. He addressed the State Auditors Center for innovation, which provides education for cities and is working on a financial intelligence tool through them to be linked to the financial website page.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Kornegay – reported she attended the ribbon cutting at Swift Center for the new Dovetail Bridge and stated the trail is now open to the public.

Councilmember de Jong – reported October 26th would be a medication drop day sponsored by Sedro Woolley Rise. He also wished a happy birthday to Councilmember Dunn.

Councilmember Kelley – reported a great turnout of vendors for the health and wellness fair at Community Center.

Mayor Johnson – announced she would be participating in a homeless forum panel of mayors and open discussion on October 16th at McIntyre Hall. She also announced Finance Director, Doug Merriman has received the Washington State Professional Finance Officers Outstanding Achievement Award. She noted this is the 26th year Merriman has received the award. A round of applause was given for Dr. Merriman. Mayor Johnson also reported on the recent earthquake drill.

Proclamations

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened public comments up at 7:50 P.M. with no comments received she closed the public comments at 7:51 P.M.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles

Council discussion was held regarding wheeled all-terrain vehicles. Concerns and questions from council included what defines an approved, legal, authorized vehicle, how they will be

treated, minimum height seat level, insurance requirements, data from other cities and parking issues.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the criteria for all-terrain vehicles.

Further discussion regarding state law, parking, different classes of ATV's, modifications of vehicles and use as farm trucks.

Councilmember Kelley moved to approve the attached ordinance No. 1937-19 allowing city owned WATV/ORV to operate on city streets and to pass on other vehicles until more data is available. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer.

Councilmember de Jong moved to table. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion tied (Councilmember Kelley, Dunn and Kornegay opposed).

Councilmember Couch questioned what type of data council is looking to collect and what is being asked.

Discussion ensued regarding risk, dogs riding in vehicles, windshield wipers, taillights and parking.

Motion for tabling denied (3-4, with Mayor breaking tie).

Motion for Ordinance No. 1937-19 city owned vehicles. Motion carried (4-3, Councilmember Couch opposed).

New Business

City of Sedro-Woolley Proposition No. 1 – Public Safety Levy

Chief Tucker presented background information on the need of additional officers. He noted the Patrol Sergeants addressed the need for more officers due to safety of the public and officers. He addressed the amount of overtime and officers reaching the point of burn out. He addressed assignments and patrol shifts being covered by sergeants, the lieutenant and the chief and not being able to do pro-active projects. Chief Tucker stated officers are the city's most valuable asset and are hard to replace. He spoke of the length of time for hiring, training and the importance of records duties and evidence maintenance. The request in Proposition 1 is the addition of three full time officers, a School Recourse Officer and part time to full time records clerk. Tucker stressed the need is immediate.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the allocation of service between the school district and city for the School Recourse Officer. He also addressed mis-information in a letter to the editor regarding the levy lid lift and explained the process and regulations.

Councilmember Kornegay questioned the concept of the School Recourse Officer.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., speaking in opposition of Proposition 1 questioned the amount on the domestic water sales and the net effect.

Mayor Johnson opened Public Comment for the purpose of for or against Proposition 1

Sgt. Paul Eaton – 820 Thurmond, co-chair for the yes campaign addressed the need of why Proposition 1 is needed. He noted in 2004 he was hired by the city, there were 14 officers and today there is a total of 17. He addressed the growth in the city and the interactions with the public, which requires adjustment of schedules. He also addressed Facebook management and spoke of the time involved. He spoke of the officers struggles with lack of family time. Eaton spoke of upcoming retirements and the length of time for hiring and training. He noted the changes in law enforcement over the last 5 years that have increased the amount of an officer's time for documenting. He spoke highly of the other officers, staff, and spoke of the highly valuable commodity of a police officer. He encouraged support of Proposition 1.

Keith Wagoner – 410 Talcott St. speaking in favor of Proposition 1, addressed the importance of having a school resource officer as an investment in the kids future and the community. He also addressed the half time portion in records and the increased paperwork and record keeping due to the public disclosure laws.

Austin McCombs – 716 Dunlop St., speaking in favor of Proposition 1 as both a citizen and employee. He stated he is the elected guild president for the Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild and spoke of the extremely hard working employees who are overworked and he wholeheartedly asked for council and the public support of Proposition 1.

Mayor Johnson extended a last call for anyone wanting to speak for or against Proposition 1.

Councilmember Couch – spoke of the level of service that cannot be maintained with the current level of staffing. He spoke of the importance of increasing the staffing in order to keep citizens safe and to avoid burn out. Couch also addressed the number of suicides in law enforcement and stated as a council we owe it to the officers to take care of them. He spoke of Proposition 1 being the only way to work towards properly funding police department.

Councilmember Kornegay – spoke of the rapport her former foster child had made with Chief Tucker and the other officers. She noted that is the type of relationship a child should have with officers. The SRO would help to establish rapport with the students. She also stated that suicide is a real thing and should be considered when voting.

Councilmember Kinzer – spoke of the tremendous strides the officers have made in the drug world. She spoke of the length of time in hiring officers and the potential retirement of officers coming up. Kinzer expressed the need to keep the level of crime to what it is or surpass the current level rather than going backwards and allow the officers to enjoy their lives with their families.

Councilmember de Jong stated according to council procedures meetings are to end at 9:00 P.M. Councilmember de Jong moved to continue the meeting to 9:30 P.M. Councilmember Couch seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Councilmember de Jong stated he supported Proposition 1.

Councilmember Dunn spoke in support of Proposition 1.

Councilmember Kelley – addressed the decision to go with a ballot initiative for the importance to have support of the public. She noted she is supportive and encouraged the public to support Proposition 1 as well.

Councilmember Couch moved to support the City of Sedro-Woolley's Proposition 1 and stand with the partners in law enforcement. Seconded by Councilmember Kelley. Motion carried (6-0).

Dennis O'Neil – comments not audible.

Preliminary Approval of the Plat of Samish Estates (file #LP-2019-092)

Councilmember Kelley moved to table. Seconded by Councilmember Couch., Motion carried (6-0).

Information Only Items

- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status
- Fire Department Monthly Incident Data – September 2019
- Misc.
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement and Sedro-Woolley Parks Department – *Make a Difference Day* at Riverfront Park – October 26, 2019

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 P.M.