
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 13, 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, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch and Pola Kelley. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (including November 6, 2019 Study Session)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #191848 to #191963 in the amount of \$815,719.33
 - Payroll Checks #59918 to #59928 plus EFT's the amount of \$393,497.68
- SMART Interlocal Agreement (Updated to add Island County and Oak Harbor)
- Proposed Purchase Order No. 2019-PO-17 – EDI Fixed Aeration & Mixing System – Environmental Dynamics International
- New Electrical Service for Winnie Houser Park – PSE
- Final Acceptance – Contract 2018-PW-04 – 2018 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project – Fisher Construction Group, Inc.
- Possible Surplus Equipment (*Resolution 1040-19*)
- New Verizon Wireless Blanket Purchase Order
- Approval of Request to Surplus Police Department Equipment

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 thru 9. Seconded by Councilmember Couch. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Mayor Johnson recognized Councilmember Kelley for her time on the council. She spoke of Councilmember Kelley's two years as Councilmember for Ward 4, always thinking of the city first. Councilmember Kelley gave a thank you for the opportunity and stated she looks forward

to pursuing a collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and the City. She acknowledged Brendon McGoffin and Chuck Owen on their Council seats and stated the city needs their ongoing support for continued growth and uniqueness. She expressed her wishes to see longer parking spaces for long bed trucks and for a change in how the Lodging tax committee is chosen.

Mayor Johnson presented outgoing Councilmember Kelley a plaque recognizing her contributions.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported that Sgt. Eaton is part of a peer support program that is a collective of officers from different agencies. He noted this has already been happening and is now being formalized. Chief Tucker also reported on the Public Safety testing event held at Sedro-Woolley High School. He noted Officer Wilson was down recruiting and spoke of the need of a pool of people to pull from. There is a possible six positions for hire within the next year. He also spoke of needed changes in the civil service rules.

Fire Chief Klinger – announced the Burn the Boot dinner and auction raised over \$30,000. Final numbers will be available shortly.

Planning Director Coleman – reported on a meeting on the 2020 US Census to find out how the city can help. He stated it is important to get an accurate census count because it can affect funding of grants. The census will start sometime in mid-March. Coleman also reported on an 85 lot planned residential development application in review. He noted it would be an age restricted development and reviewed the process for approval.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reminded Council the development mentioned is a quasi-judicial matter and the council role will be to look at the merits of the project and see how it balances with the code. Berg introduced a late materials item regarding an easement for PSE on the Winnie Houser park property. The recommendation is to approve. Council approved. (7-0).

Finance Director Merriman – stated he has updated the budget and ordinance to reflect Proposition 1 and 1976. He pointed out the Audit Exit Report for the financial statement audit. Stating it was a clean audit and opinion letter and gave compliments to the Finance Staff.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Owen – reported a semi-trailer parked on Ferry Street with no safety cones. He expressed concern that it was hazardous. It was noted it was a temporary situation due to the homeowners moving.

Councilmember Kornegay – reported on a Habitat for Humanity volunteer lunch and noted that the Batey Street project will be complete mid next year. She also spoke on the Skagit Trail Builders volunteer event with the next one scheduled for December 14th. Other topics addressed was a training session with Dr. Sharon Knight and the disabled parking at the American Legion.

Councilmember de Jong – encouraged naming the FEMA site at Riverfront Park. de Jong also spoke on the trail building being headed by the Fisheries Enhancement group. He requested consideration of a joint resolution regarding inclusion at the next meeting. He reported the Senior Center has been connected with the census. Other topics mentioned were a walk through at Riverfront Park to connect with various groups to apply for grants to replace invasive noxious plants with native plants, the upcoming watershed council meeting, input on traffic concerns by Ward 6 residents and the 2020 Legislative agenda.

Councilmember Kelley addressed legislative updates and the opportunity to meet with legislative representatives on December 9th hosted by the Skagit Business Alliance. She also spoke of upcoming events in December.

Mayor Johnson extended a thank you to police for their service on Friday for the Mary Purcell Veterans parade. She also stated she had attended the American Legion luncheon on Veterans Day.

Councilmember Couch expressed concerns of citizens on Orth Way regarding the recent chip sealing and trying to find a solution as the gravel is not adhering. He commended the Sedro Woolley Fire Association for the Burn the Boot event and Chief Tucker for his work on the Skagit Domestic Violence event. Couch thanked Councilmember Kelley for her time on the Council.

Mayor Johnson spoke on the recent Cultural Responsive education provided by Dr. Sharon Knight.

Proclamations

Declaring Sedro-Woolley a City of Inclusion

Mayor Johnson spoke on the recent Cultural Responsive education provided by Dr. Sharon Knight and requests by Councilmember's Kelley and de Jong to name the city as a city of inclusion. She then read a proclamation declaring Sedro Woolley a city of inclusion and to proclaim that we reaffirm our communities shared values of compassion, inclusion, respect and dignity and our commitment to building and environment and a community in which everyone is valued and everyone has the opportunity to thrive and we encourage the citizens to likewise affirm these values of inclusion.

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period 7:39 P.M.

Claus Joens -- Skagit County Democrats, addressed the Council to give context to a recent newsletter published by the Sedro-Woolley Museum. He provided a brief history of slavery, the formation and disbanding of the Ku Klux Klan, the universal declaration of human rights, and his support of the Mayors proclamation.

Dorothy Defremery – 316 Garden of Eden, addressed the inclusion statement and noted it should also include a land acknowledgement statement. She also suggested consideration of an indigenous name for the land at Riverfront Park.

Phillip Murray – 223 State St. suggested the name of the unnamed land at Riverfront Park be named “Bug”, as it was the first name of the town.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comments at 7:47 P.M.

Public Hearings

2020 Annual Budget

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the 2020 Annual Budget at 7:47 P.M.

Dorothy Defremery – 316 Garden of Eden Rd., stated she would like to see a pocket of money reserved for improvements to areas impacted by growth. She specifically spoke on the ditch and culvert on the north side of F & S Grade Road where it meets Garden of Eden. She also addressed the centerline down Garden of Eden Road and noted the road was not intended for the type of traffic it is getting.

Dennis O’Neil – 109 Talcott St., questioned the library fund with how much the County vs. the city has spent on the library, and how much the county will spend in 2020.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing at 7:52 P.M.

Finance Director Merriman reiterated that the two adjustments to the budget were the Proposition 1 increase and the 1976 results, which reduced the transportation benefit districts fund. Some discussion has been held of moving \$100,000 from REET funds to cover some projects.

Councilmember Kelley referred to the lawsuits filed by King County and Seattle and questioned if the city has considered joining the lawsuit package.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg stated he has not, with some discussion held regarding what options there may be.

Continued discussion of Mayor’s Balanced Budget (Including Summary of Estimates for Council Chambers A/V Update)

Discussion ensued regarding estimates for Council Chambers A/V Update. Councilmember Couch stated he does not want to spend the money for a partial fix. The goal he envisions would be to fix the issues in chambers and to provide better quality for those who watch by video. Couch stated he is not against the project but wants to spend the money properly.

Councilmember de Jong concurred with Councilmember Couch and would like to include better teleconferencing equipment. Other items reviewed were the equipment, a more detailed presentation and installation.

Councilmember de Jong expressed a thank you for the opportunity to include the public in the budget process as well as the support for his budget recommendations.

Unfinished Business

Revenues for 2020 Budget – Utility Taxes and Utility Rates Options

- *Ordinance 1939-19*, Increasing the city's utility tax rate on sewer, stormwater and solid waste by 1.0%
- *Ordinance 1940-19*, Increasing rates for the sewer utility
- *Ordinance 1941-19*, Increasing rates for the stormwater utility
- *Ordinance 1942-19*, Increasing rates for the solid waste utility

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed ordinances for utility tax and utility rates. He noted in the solid waste ordinance there is a reduction in the cost to dispose of specific items, where the customer often pays in cash and the additions of specific fees to pick up sofas, recliners and mattresses.

Discussion on the solid waste building utilization of existing buildings vs. new construction on city property, recycling quality and price escalation was held.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve Ordinance No. 1930-19 an ordinance increasing the city's utility tax rate on sewer, stormwater and solid waste by 1.0%. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember de Jong opposed).

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve Ordinance No. 1940-19 an ordinance increasing rates for the sewer utility. Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember de Jong opposed).

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve Ordinance No. 1941-19 an ordinance increasing rates for the stormwater utility. Councilmember Kornegay seconded. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember de Jong opposed).

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve Ordinance No. 1942-19 an ordinance increasing rates for the solid waste utility. Councilmember Dunn seconded. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember de Jong opposed).

New Business

Comprehensive Purchasing Policies

- *Ordinance* adopting a comprehensive purchasing policy for the City
- *Ordinance* amending Chapter 2.104 SWMC consistent with the newly adopted purchasing policies

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed background information on the update to the purchasing policy and procedures, noting the Bainbridge Island policy was used as a model. Berg credited the work of Julie Rosario on working through a complete revamp of the city's purchasing policies to make them clearer, complete and updated, with current law references and authorities. He also reviewed delegated authority, consistency with the budget and noted any big-ticket items or real estate would have to come before Council for authorization.

Council discussion was held regarding the signing authority to include the current authority level for public works, rationale behind the dollar amount chosen and issues that have justified raising the signing authority.

Council expressed wanting to know what is being purchased and the feeling that Council should stay involved in money matters. After discussion, signing authority limits were recommended to be \$10,000 for department heads and \$25,000 for the City Supervisor and Mayor.

Further discussion ensued regarding potential fraud, especially within the area of surplus equipment.

Information Only Items

- Fire Department Monthly Incident Data – October 2019
- Misc.

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.