
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
February 26, 2020– 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, Brendan McGoffin, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch (absent) and Glenn Allen. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Merriman, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiberger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker

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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Johnson informed Council of added agenda items.

Councilmember de Jong moved to approve the agenda with the additions of the retainer agreement with Weed, Graafstra & Associates and the Counter Check Register left out of the packet. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (6-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Counter Checks #4993 to #4999 in the amount of \$2499.50 (*added*)
 - Claim Checks #192521 to #192619 plus EFT's in the amount of \$488,544.51
 - Payroll Checks #59990 to #59999 plus EFT's in the amount of \$300,868.14
- Resolution 1043-20 – Declaring certain items surplus
- Resolution 1044-20 – Declaring certain items surplus
- Prosecutor Contract – Gilbert & Gilbert
- Interlocal Agreement with Skagit 911 for data sharing for SWFD
- Resolution 1045-20 – Ambulance Transport Fee Collection Policy
- Interlocal Joint Purchasing Agreement – Snohomish Fire Dist. 7

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 thru 8. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported on an accidental dump of manure at the Jameson/Hwy 9 roundabout. He said city staff helped with clean up and the Fire department came and hosed off the road. He also presented a synopsis from the radar car for Klinger & Railroad that were at the dais.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the department’s participation in the Unified Basketball game held at the High School. While at the game, they received an invitation to a birthday party. The volunteers made a surprise visit to the birthday boy. Klinger reported on Monday at the School Board meeting there were 13 lifesaving awards presented for teachers and staff who helped save the life of one of their own.

Public Works Director Freiburger – addressed projects in various stages. He reported on the bids and specs received on the electrical upgrade project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Finance Director Merriman – reported on an offer of employment to Jill Scott as Finance Manager. Her start date is scheduled for March 9, 2020.

Councilmember and Mayor’s Reports

Councilmember Owen – announced he would be seeking donations for the Meals on Wheels program at the Senior Center. He questioned the progress of the vision triangle at the intersection of Hwy 9 and McGargile. Some discussion followed.

Councilmember Kornegay – reported she was notified of a tagging on a stop sign at Sapp and Reed where it goes up to Longtime Lane. She thanked Public Works Director Freiburger and Nathan Salseina for the cleaning of the culvert on Central. She also reported on March 14 there will be another Skagit Trail building session and Kornegay welcomed the Earth Club from the High School in attendance for tonight’s meeting.

Councilmember Kinzer – spoke of the great job on the trail at Northern State.

Councilmember de Jong – stated he was very excited about the Olmstead park walk through. He announced the Skagit Salmon Enhancement group-planting event scheduled for March 7 and 14 at Riverfront Park. de Jong also noted it was Skagit County FFA Week.

Councilmember Allen – questioned the Riverfront Park intersection at Township and River Road.

Mayor Johnson – thanked everyone for their participation with the Olmstead Park presentation. She also thanked the public works crew for the cleanup at the roundabout. Mayor Johnson expressed her congratulations to the city employees for achieving the AWC Well City Award. It is an employee lead program to build a healthy workplace. Library tours are available to

Councilmembers on March 17 at 10:30 A.M. or March 19 at 2 P.M. Please RSVP. She also reported receiving word on the State Legislature funding which the Memorial park request was not included. They are still waiting final word on the funding for the BNSF underpass. Upcoming events mentioned is a homeless training sponsored by Community Action on March 25 and a half-day free presentation in Ferndale on March 24.

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment at 7:21 P.M.

Frank Bresnan 1004 McGargile Rd. – reported of a meeting with the school district about problems with the bus drivers getting out onto Hwy 9 due to trees. He also requested answers to his questions in writing in seven working days and questioned what is to be done about the Carter Road water issue.

Zoe Slabodnick – 754 Ferry St. addressed the Council and spoke on the effects of plastic bags and the impact on the environment. She encouraged a plastic bag ban in Sedro-Woolley to be replaced by a sustainable option - paper bags. She also recommended a mandatory fee of 5cents per bag.

Mayor Johnson noted a current bill in the legislature of a proposed state wide plastic bag ban.

Ekaterina Matsko – 700 N. Reed St. #53 addressed Senate Bill 5323, a Zero waste ban on plastic bags. She noted passage of bill is not immediate and noted Sedro-Woolley can act more quickly. She reviewed consequences and encouraged Sedro-Woolley take a stand for a better future. She closed by saying small towns can create large impacts.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment at 7:32 P.M.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for the joint establishment of the Skagit County Tourism Promotion Area (TPA)

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed background information regarding the potential creation of a countywide tourism promotion area (TPA). He noted it is a funding mechanism originated by hoteliers that have a certain number of rooms within the County. The goal is a countywide system with approximately \$500,000 per year for the purpose of tourism promotion with the County taking the lead for administration.

Pola Kelley – Executive Director of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce spoke on the history of past actions for a TPA. She noted Skagit County is one of the last counties to adopt a TPA and noted this is separate from lodging tax. The more heads on the beds would increase the lodging tax.

Kelley entertained questions from the Council as to who the target audience is.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the attached agreement with Skagit County and the other cities and towns in Skagit County, allowing the formation of a tourism promotion area (TPA). Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

New Business

Retainer Agreement for City Attorney Services (*added*)

Finance Director Merriman presented information for interim coverage and possibly longer-term coverage for city attorney services with the upcoming departure of City Supervisor/Attorney Eron Berg. He stated they are wanting to take time to review what the actual legal needs of the City are. After interviewing law firms offering legal services to municipal clients, the recommendation is to contract with Weed, Graafstra, and Associates of Snohomish. Merriman stated they specialize in small size cities and reviewed the points of coverage of services to include assigned counsel and consolidating legal services. He then introduced Grant Weed and Nicki Thompson.

Grant Weed, managing partner of Weed, Graafstra & Assoc. addressed the Council. He provided a history of the firm and reviewed their business model. He then introduced Nickki Thompson who would be the assigned counsel to the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Nickki Thompson introduced herself to the Council and provided information of her background and experience, which includes being the former City Attorney for the City of Oak Harbor. She stated she would be attending Council meetings as well as staff meetings and is committed to doing a good job for all.

Some discussion ensued regarding her involvement in the Wastewater Treatment Plant project at Oak Harbor, how many hours is anticipated per week and the percentage of time City Supervisor/Attorney Berg spends on legal work.

Councilmember de Jong move to retain the firm of Weed, Graafstra, and Associates for the provision of Municipal City Attorney legal services authorizing the Mayor to finalize and sign retainer agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (6-0). Councilmember Kornegay moved to appoint Nickki Thompson as City Attorney. Councilmember de Jong seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

2019 Comprehensive Plan Docket Amendments

Planning Director Coleman addressed the Council regarding the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Docket Amendments, which includes ADU, and updates to the housing elements, zoning code amendments and fees. Coleman provided a detailed review of the Planning Commission's proposal for ADU's. After the detailed review, he entertained questions from the Council regarding addressing of ADU's.

Coleman announced the March 4 Joint Council and Planning Commission worksession. He noted further discussion could be held at that time.

Updates to the Building, Planning & Engineering Fee Schedule

Planning Director Coleman addressed the Building, Planning & Engineering fee schedule. He noted this is a first read with no action required.

Information Only Items

- Building Permit & Planning Permit Review Status
- Report of Contracts approved under SEMC 2.204.060
- City Works Day Fire

Good of the Order

Councilmember de Jong questioned the progress on the Library regarding the roof.

Executive Session (*see City council Special Meeting at 6:30 P.M.*)

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.