
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 11, 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 and Glenn Allen. Staff: City Supervisor Merriman, Finance Manager Scott, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Couch moved to add to the consent calendar Uniform Services for the Fire Department Personnel and COVID-19 statement and discussion under Reports. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #192620 to #192703 plus EFT's in the amount of \$571,941.87
 - Payroll Checks #60000 to #60012 plus EFT's in the amount of \$411,000.44
- Side Sewer Easement on Tract A of Sauk Mountain View Estates to serve Tract B
- Radio Shelter Use Agreement
- Possible Contract Award – 2020 Ford F350 Pickup 4WD – Columbia Ford
- Possible Sole Source Resolution Sewer Collection System CCTV Replacement – Dues Sales Order 000721528 REV 1 – Purchase Order 2020-PO-09
- Possible Contract Award – New Cat Wheel Loader – NC Machinery
- Possible Contract Award – 2020 Ford F450 Pickup 4WD – Columbia Ford
- Uniform Services (*late material addition*)

Councilmember de Jong questioned consent agenda items 5 Possible Contract Award – 2020 Ford F350 Pickup 4WD—Columbia Ford and item 8 Possible Contract Award – 2020 Ford F450 Pickup 4WD – Columbia Ford as to why the purchase is for new vehicles and not used.

Public Works Director Freiburger addressed the ERR program for the replacement of vehicles. He noted the proposed vehicles are replacements of some very old vehicles. He addressed the F450 as a replacement of a ¾ ton truck in the Sewer Department to include a hydraulic crane

suitable for servicing the twelve sewer and storm pump stations. Freiburger noted that there is sufficient funds within the budget for the purchase.

Councilmember de Jong moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Mayor Johnson called upon Eron Berg, City Supervisor/Attorney and presented him with a plaque for his service to the City for the past fourteen years. She praised his leadership and wished him well in his new position as Executive Director for the Port of the Port of Townsend.

Berg thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and noted the successes have all been a fully integrated team effort. Berg was met with a round of applause.

Update on Skagit PUD projects

George Sidhu – Skagit PUD General Manager addressed the Council and presented background information on the PUD including the Judy system. He highlighted projects, current and future, improvements to the Judy Reservoir and the transmission line project. Also addressed was the cost of service analysis and rate structure. Sidhu said their goal is to have communication relations which includes the community and school tours of the Judy Reservoir, regional solutions such as water line extensions to areas that do not have water access, bulk water fill stations, agriculture and locally working on surplus property at Riverfront Park to be transferred to the city and fire hydrant agreements with the cities.

Sidhu entertained questions from Council regarding miles of pipe, number of employees, frequency of testing, billing relief during COVID 19 and fiber optics.

Mayor Johnson called upon Don Wick who shared a limerick written especially for Eron Berg.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported on an injured officer and announced we have three new hires to start next week, limitations at the academy and a countywide meeting regarding COVID 19.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the late materials item and reported the land has been cleared at Station 1.5 and PUD Hydrant flushing.

Planning Director Coleman – reported on the late materials item.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported they continue the design on various projects and updated Council on the Community Center kitchen modifications and remodel.

City Supervisor Merriman – addressed the hiring and transition in the Finance Department. He then introduced Jill Scott, Finance Manager.

Public Works Director Freiburger – announced he was notified the BNSF undercrossing received last minute funding under the supplemental budget.

City Supervisor Merriman – updated Council on the Hammer Heritage Square project.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Couch – thanked Eron for guidance given to him as a new Councilmember.

Councilmember Owen – welcomed the new Finance Manager, Jill Scott. He also wished Eron Berg the best.

Councilmember Kornegay –announced the upcoming Skagit Trail builders work parties scheduled for the next two Saturdays and also thanked Mr. Berg.

Councilmember Kinzer – concurred with others wishing Eron Berg good luck. She also welcomed Jill Scott, Finance Manager and encouraged everyone to wash his or her hands.

Councilmember de Jong – stated he would miss Eron Berg and his institutional knowledge. He reported on the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement volunteer tree planting, noted the closure of the museum and Senior Center and the ongoing need for Meals on Wheel volunteers. He also addressed the food bank and other area meetings being cancelled. De Jong praised the work of Senator Lovelett for her support on the BNSF project.

Councilmember Allen – thanked the street department for the work on the alleys and thanked Eron Berg for the two-hour tour of the city and wished him well.

Councilmember McGoffin – welcome Finance Manager, Jill Scott and gave his farewell to Eron Berg. He also thanked the high school students for their quick reaction in saving a toddler.

Michael Stickels, Dawson Mills, Larik Graham, Francisco Ortega and Matt Porter were honored with a Letter of Commendation from the Police Department for their life safety action towards a toddler who had wandered into a busy street. Mayor Johnson presented her thanks on behalf of the City.

Mayor Johnson reminded Council of the library tour dates and time. She also stated she has send out several dates for a possible Council retreat. She expressed her thanks to Senator Wagoner for his work on funding for the BNSF underpass as well as Representative Eslick and Senator Lovelett. Mayor Johnson announced an update from Senator Wagoner would be presented to Council sometime in June. She thanked staff members Teresa Neshiem, Carole Knipper, Cheryl Brue, Amanda Miller, Lisa Pearson and Tamara Blunt for their help in putting together the Open House Farewell for Eron Berg. She spoke of the plastic bag ban passing on the state level.

Discussion was held regarding COVID 19. It was noted the city has a plan in place, which follows state guidelines for protocol. The Mayor spoke of a call in option for Council meetings and the staff procedures in place. She also noted telework would be available.

Councilmember Couch – questioned teleworking.

It was noted the city has a N1H1 Flu Epidemic policy in place. COVID 19 is expected to increase before getting better and Council direction was requested. It was suggested to consult with legal counsel regarding the open meeting act with the ongoing virus and the guidelines from the Attorney General.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – noted the public still needs a place to listen to the meetings; they will be able to call in and listen. Public comment will be accepted in written form to be read into the record at the meetings.

Councilmember McGoffin questioned technology upgrades and capacity for calling in. The GoTo meeting format was discussed with the public to listen only.

Councilmember Kinzer stated to just play it by ear, with the consensus to wait and see how it progresses.

Councilmember de Jong addressed the COVID 19 pandemic noting we are all in this together. He provided some suggestions for consideration of relief for small businesses.

1. Relief on B & O tax – none in SW
2. SBA economic injury disaster loans
3. Small Business stabilization fund
4. Utility payment relief, provide flexible payments, ordinance to waive late fees, utility discount program with one application form.
5. Small Business Recovery Task Force

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment at 8:26 P.M.

Dr. Mercer – 15436 SE 20th Pl. Bellevue, who is trying to establish a Volvo only non-project car rental and taxi service in the area, stated she keeps coming back to the valley because of the homeless situation and lack of housing. She noted she is a retired osteopathic physician and encouraged taking Vitamin C instead of being asked to put up more money. She spoke of the need to jump on legislature to get inpatient beds, half way houses and detox centers.

Ian Walker – 404 N. Township St., addressed complaints of trees on his property from citizens. He noted the trees are grandfathered in.

Eric Johnson – 910 N. Murdock St., thanked Eron berg for his friendship and work for the city.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment at 8:32 P.M.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Setting the Docket for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Docket (*Late Materials*)

Planning Director Coleman reviewed the late materials item, which is a follow-up to the topic discussed at the worksession. The staff recommendation is to move to include the two-rezone requests.

Councilmember Couch moved to include on the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Docket the two-rezone requests identified in the March 11, 2020 Council memo. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

2019 Comprehensive Plan Docket Amendments Including Regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units

Planning Director Coleman stated the Planning Commission has worked on this for the past year. This would be an update to the Housing Element and Municipal Code to allow ADU's. The ordinances will take effect July 2020 to give time to address fees. Coleman updated Council on the action regarding ADU's in the Legislative session.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to adopt Ordinance 1953-20 amending the Housing Element of the Sedro-Woolley Comprehensive Plan to address ADU's. Seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilmember Kinzer moved to adopt Ordinance 1954-20 amending the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to specify where and under what rules ADU's may be allowed. Councilmember McGoffin seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilmember de Jong thanked the Planning Commission and staff for their work.

Updates to the Building, Planning and Engineering Fee Schedule

Planning Director Coleman reported fees are reviewed periodically to make sure they are keeping up with the actual costs. He noted a fee was added for the ADU permit fee. Council questions were entertained to include how the ADU fee was determined, fees compared to other cities and basis for single-family residence.

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve Resolution 1043-20 a resolution adopting an updated Building, Planning and Engineering Fee Schedule. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Couch opposed).

New Business

Information Only Items

- Public Works Director Authority Record
- Letter of Appreciation to Mayor Johnson and Councilmembers from Eron Berg, City Supervisor/City Attorney
- Building Permit and Planning Permit Review Status

Mayor Johnson pointed out the letter of appreciation form Berg in the information only items.

Councilmember de Jong announced the Skagit Watershed Council meeting has been cancelled and questioned what options are available for Fingerprinting and CPL's.

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.