
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Council Study Session
May 6, 2020
Via Teleconference

The study session was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 4:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers: Germaine Kornegay, Glenn Allen, Jared Couch, Chuck Owen, Karl de Jong, ,Brendan McGoffin and Brenda Kinzer (absent). Staff Members: Planning Director John Coleman, Assistant Planner Katherine Weir, City Supervisor Eron Berg, Finance Director Doug Merriman and Public Works Director Mark Freiberger.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Tucker – reported on a motor vehicle accident that resulted in a fatality. He noted the WSP has taken charge of the investigation along with the Mount Vernon Police.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported a busy six weeks with initial problems with personal protection equipment (PPE). He stated call volumes are starting to increase again and reported on a house fire on N. Reed. Chief Klinger also addressed COVID transports.

Planning Director Coleman – reported in January the Council Planning committee discussed having one read for preliminary and final plat approvals. The topic will be brought back for further discussion. He also reported the Natural Hazard mitigation plan has received FEMA approval and a resolution will be brought forth later. Coleman noted he has been receiving a number of inquiries regarding the use of Accessory Dwelling Units.

Councilmember de Jong questioned parking on Township for a mobile vendor.

Finance Manager Scott – stated Finance is continuing with limited staff and staggering schedules.

IT Director Chambers – reported on Phase 1 of the AV upgrade.

Councilmember de Jong thanked IT Director Chambers for helping him through his technical difficulties.

Public Works Director Freiberger – reported on the SR20 lane widening. He noted items to be on the May 13 Council agenda to include an interlocal agreement with Skagit County and the BNSF agreement for undercrossing. Other projects in the works are the Jameson overlay project and street prep for chip seal projects.

Freiberger addressed a late materials item for the Transportation Impact Fee update with no action required. He noted a 16% increase in impact fees and pointed out a comparison provided in the packet.

City Attorney Thompson – reported she is excited to be a part of the team and looking forward to working with everyone.

SHB 1406 Affordable House Sales Tax: Options to Consider

Mayor Johnson reviewed options for consideration 1). Adopt, levy revenue and administer as a city program, 2). Adopt, levy revenue and partner with County to administer the funding or 3). do not adopt and the revenue will default to the county.

Discussion ensued regarding pooling resources

City Supervisor Merriman spoke of each option. He noted that if we do nothing the Skagit County area would miss out on the funding.

Further discussion included funding to be collected over the years, representation on the board and a deadline of July 28, 2020.

Revenue Impacts of COVID-19

Mayor Johnson turned the topic over to City Supervisor Merriman but stated she has given a mandate that we do not want to lay anyone off.

City Supervisor Merriman discussed revenue impacts of COVID 19. He referred to a late materials graph and noted that the revenues lag about two months behind. He noted anticipation of a 30% sales tax reduction for the year. Citywide it will be approximately a 17% overall decrease in revenues. The general fund will be the hardest hit. Each department will be looking at areas to be streamlined and Merriman gave some examples. He addressed use of the strategic reserve fund. Challenges are a 1.5 million downfall with an \$800,000 hit to the general fund. Merriman entertained questions from the Council.

Discussion ensued regarding most of businesses returning, phased opening,

Miscellaneous

Councilmember Owen – questioned renewal of a CPL permit,

Councilmember Kornegay – announced the availability of forms for applying as an essential business.

Councilmemeber McGoffin – questioned the Library progress payments.

City Supervisor Merriman – reported the library project is now back up and running. While work was not being done, no progress payments were being made. We were still paying interest on the loan and he addressed the final loan draw.

Councilmember Allen – commented on the great police work and questioned an arrest made in the city parking lot.

Councilmember de Jong – thanked Chief Tucker on rollover accident. He commended neighbors and the community for their actions on the accident. He announced at Riverfront Park the ceasing of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement planting activities as well as the Skagit Watershed meetings have been cancelled. He reported he is keeping up with conference calls for elected officials and spoke of a great job of the Food Bank and the help from the National Guard. de Jong also addressed the proposed federal bill for helping municipalities.

Councilmember Couch – questioned plan for services and meeting the needs of the construction industry to help them to get back up and running.

Meeting adjourned.