
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 27, 2020– 4:00 P.M. – Via Teleconference

Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 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: Recorder Brue, City Supervisor Merriman, Finance Manager Scott, Planning Director Coleman, Asst. Fire Chief Wagner, Police Chief Tucker and City Attorney Thompson.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including May 6, 2020 Study Session)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #193079 to #193183 plus EFT in the amount of \$898,631.93
 - Payroll Checks #60060 to #60069 plus EFT's in the amount of \$316,996.49
- Township St. (SR9) & Johns Liner/McGarigle Rd Intersection Improvements Project Grant Approval and Match Requirements
- Possible Contract Award – Contract 2020-PW-01, 2020 SR20 West Lane Widening and Safety Improvements Project – Allied Construction Associates, Inc.

Councilmember Kornegay moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 through 4. Councilmember Kinzer seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Staff Reports

Finance Manager Scott – reported she has been working on the 2019 Annual Report, which had received a 60-day extension due to COVID 19. Another extension was anticipated however, no notification has been received so work continues towards completing for the first extension deadline of May 31, 2020. She also indicated the Finance staff continues to stagger staffing to get all essential tasks completed.

Councilmember de Jong questioned the 1st Quarter financial status. City Supervisor Merriman noted the 1st Quarter financials look good. He is waiting for the May reports, which will give a better indication of the impact from COVID 19.

IT Director Chambers – reported working on web updates, meetings and Facebook posts.

Police Chief Tucker – reported being in flux as to how to shift back to normal operations. He also reported Officer Whitt should complete the academy July 10, 2020 and they are hoping for a June date for the next officer to report to the academy. He noted he has been receiving many questions regarding the State plan for reopening. He gave an update on the park protester and noted the radar car has had windows broken out twice.

Asst. Fire Chief Wagner – noted the call volume has increased by 10% and they are still having PPE battles but the cooperative purchasing agreement seems to be working. The department is prepared and ready to move into Phase II. Other items reported were transports being down, training and a house fire on Orth Way.

Planning Director Coleman – stated things are moving along and the building community seems to be happy. He noted receiving many emails regarding long plat applications after the article in the Skagit Valley Herald regarding a proposed long plat.

City Supervisor Merriman – reported he has been working on a return to work policy and spending a lot of time on emergency funding programs. He explained each program. CARES funding (up to \$350,000 for Sedro-Woolley), FEMA (grant funding) and HERO'S funding (a federal program for premium pay for front line employees during COVID).

Councilmember de Jong noted he has been following the HERO'S program and asked what more can be done to help educate legislation.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Mayor Johnson – reported on the press conference by the Governor. She reported on joint letters being sent to the governor requesting Skagit County be allowed to move to Phase II, which was denied. She also reported on a small but meaningful Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cemetery. Mayor Johnson announced the parks will be working on a couple of \$500,000 grants for Olmstead Park, the flowers are up, and flags were up for Memorial Day.

Councilmember Owen – addressed the cancellation of the summer celebrations.

Mayor Johnson noted the Lions Club is looking into a virtual parade and the Wildcat Steelhead Club is sponsoring a World War II squadron fly over on July 4th.

Councilmember Kornegay – concurred with Councilmember Owen's comments regarding the cancellation of the summer celebrations. She also gave kudo's to Brent Frisbee for his continued mowing of a retention pond near her residence.

Councilmember Kinzer – requested on behalf of a resident within her ward to ask the railroad if the rail crossing at the intersection of Ferry and Hwy 20 could be a quiet zone at night.

Councilmember McGoffin – followed up on an email sent regarding a video dance competition for citizens. He encouraged residents to take part.

Councilmember Allen – thanked Mayor Johnson for her part in laying the wreath at the Memorial Day services.

Councilmember de Jong – commented on how nice the cemetery looked for Memorial Day. Noted people are being industrious in their back yards and gardens. He thanked Nathan Salseina for working with DNR on the native planting at Riverfront Park. De Jong reported that 1 in 5 people are now unemployed and spoke of the Safe Start program in moving from Phase I to Phase II and gave a reminder to continue physical distancing, wearing of masks and washing of hands.

Mayor Johnson – noted kudo's for the food bank.

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson reported public comments are closed at this time during the meeting however, if anyone would like to email or mail in comments they will be read into the record. She also noted the City is exploring options for meetings.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

Ordinance #1956-20: Imposition of Affordable Housing Sales Tax

City Supervisor Merriman reported on the affordable housing sales tax. He noted it is not a new tax but the State will be giving up a portion of their tax.

Councilmember de Jong moved to adopt Ordinance #1956-20.

Councilmember Kinzer questioned setting up a rental assistance fund with other discussion on joining with the County.

Councilmember Couch seconded the motion and called for the question.

Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

Information Only Items

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 P.M.