
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
June 10, 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, IT Director Chambers, Planning Director Coleman, Public Works Director Freiburger, Fire Chief Klinger, Police Chief Tucker and City Attorney Thompson.

Mayor Johnson provided an update on COVID 19 since moving to Phase II. She encouraged continued wearing of masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing and limited travel. She also noted that City Hall is a government building and not allowed to open until Phase III.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #193184 to #193254 in the amount of \$207,681.42
 - Payroll Checks #60070 to #60083 plus EFT's in the amount of \$424,954.72
- Possible Surplus of Units (Resolution 1052-20)
 - Unit No. 109 2000 Ford New Holland 60"
 - Unit No. 512 1994 Ford F-150 XL
 - Unit No. 513 1984 Ford Back Hoe with Grapple
 - White Ford Ranger Canopy
- Grant Application: CARES COVID-19 Grant

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve consent agenda items 1 thru 4. Councilmember McGoffin seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Staff Reports

Mayor Johnson thanked Chief Klinger and his staff for meeting all requirements set forth for COVID and their accomplishments during this time.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on an uptake in fires otherwise things are going well.

Mayor Johnson spoke of the difficult time for Police Officers and stated she has heard over and over what a great job our department does. She thanked Chief Tucker and his staff for their continued efforts in keeping the community safe.

Police Chief Tucker – reported the recruits are helping at the COVID testing site. They are gearing up for July 4th even though the Loggerodeo events have been cancelled and spoke of a possible July 4th Freedom Protest. He noted they would be doing a social media campaign regarding 4th of July, fireworks and social distancing.

Councilmember de Jong questioned the move of one of our firefighters. Chief Klinger noted Captain Josh Carpenter is the interim Fire Chief for Fire District #8, but will also continue to be a volunteer with Sedro Woolley.

Councilmember de Jong then questioned Chief Tucker regarding a hit and run accident over the weekend. Tucker addressed traffic issues and noted plans for an emphasis in traffic enforcement.

Councilmember Allen questioned the speed limit in alleys.

Planning Director Coleman – reported they are expecting permit applications to start coming in. He addressed fees for accessory dwelling units and stated the county wide natural hazard mitigation plan for FEMA has been approved by FEMA. Now each jurisdiction will be requested to adopt the plan.

Councilmember Couch requested more than one proposal be brought to Council regarding accessory dwelling units as he does not agree with the pro-rated approach.

Finance Manager Scott – reported all staff is back in the office and she has been impressed with how the crisis has been managed. She has been working on a bulletproof vest partnership program, which will reimburse up to 50% of the vests. She noted there has been an increase in online utility payments.

Councilmember de Jong questioned the impact of the State's 15% cut to programs.

Finance Director Merriman addressed de Jong's question noting he has not yet heard of any reductions or plan changes at this time that affect Sedro-Woolley.

Mayor Johnson welcomed Jill Scott noting the challenges since coming on board and has done an excellent job through it all.

IT Director Chambers – gave an update on phase I for the AV upgrade. He also reported on the progress for fiber optics with the Port of Skagit and miscellaneous staffing changes and looking at office equipment replacement for 2021.

Mayor Johnson commented on the great job Chambers has done with all the zoom meetings and other technical needs during COVID 19.

Chambers noted comments from public regarding the meeting time change, which has been updated on the website.

City Attorney Thompson – stated she is looking forward to moving through the phases so she will be able to work closer with Council.

City Supervisor Merriman – updated Council regarding working on the CARES grant. He also has been working on with Department of Revenue on the affordable housing sales tax. Collection of the tax will start in August. Merriman stated he has been monitoring sales tax through Department of Revenue. He also reported the library construction is ongoing and should reach substantial completion mid-September. Also, staff are back in the office, following safety guidelines.

Mayor Johnson addressed the work of the staff and the support of Council during this crisis.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Owen – credited the work of IT Director Chambers, City Supervisor Merriman and Mayor Johnson for their hard work in keeping things running during the COVID crisis.

Councilmember Allen – expressed his thanks to city staff.

Councilmember Kornegay – concurred with comments of other Council regarding city staff. She noted she is looking forward to the other phase and questioned if we are prepared for any relapse in Covid cases. She also stated to the Police Department that as a person of color, she has always felt safe in both Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County.

City Supervisor Merriman – stated in the event of a relapse we would go back to how we were working prior.

Mayor Johnson – noted one of the requirements of moving to Phase II was to have things in place in case of a relapse.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted we would be well covered

Councilmember McGoffin – reported on the dance video contest.

Councilmember de Jong – reported neighborhoods looking good. He has been a resource on the HEROS act to federal folks and encouraged washing of hands, social distancing and wearing of masks. He also stated it is nice to get something to eat in town.

Mayor Johnson – spoke on CARES act grants for small businesses. She reviewed some of the criteria for small businesses, noting we will work through EDASC and are waiting for Commerce for further details.

Mayor Johnson then addressed the Proclamation on Inclusion to celebrate everyone, which is available on the city website.

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.

Freiberger – reported on the status of various projects and gave an update on the leadership transition at the WWTP with the retirement of Debbie Allen. He also reported on issues with the rotors on the oxidation ditch, final plans for the electrical upgrade, diffuser upgrade and aeration basins, BNSF Bridge, public hearing on the Transportation Improvement Program and has been busy writing Skagit County economic development grants. Other items for Council to look forward to will be the Sewer Comp Plan.

Councilmember McGoffin – questioned fencing at Winnie Houser Park.

Councilmember Kornegay – questioned extra parking on Stacey Street.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

New Business

Preliminary Plat of Garden Meadows

City Attorney Thompson read a series of questions to determine appearance of fairness regarding the Preliminary Plat of Garden Meadows.

Planning Director Coleman reviewed background information on the Plat of Garden Meadows. He noted it is a 28 lot (31 unit) residential subdivision located at 606 F & S Grade Road. He also reviewed the Hearing Examiner's findings of fact, conclusions and recommendations.

Council questions included what is currently located at the property, impact fees and alignment on Jones/John Liner Corridor project.

Councilmember Couch moved to approve Resolution 1053-20 to approve the preliminary Plat of Garden Meadows subject to the conditions contained in the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendation. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (7-0).

Preliminary Plat of Brickyard Park – A Planned Residential Development

City Attorney Thompson read a series of questions to determine appearance of fairness regarding the Preliminary Plat of Brickyard Park.

Councilmember Owen acknowledge the property is in his ward and he has addressed concerns from citizens. He stated he felt he could still be impartial in his decision-making.

Planning Director Coleman reviewed background information regarding the preliminary Plat of Brickyard Park as a planned residential development. He noted it is a proposed age-restricted development (restricted to residents 55 years or older) and is located on McGargile Road. He reported an appeal had been filed and heard by the Hearing Examiner who rendered a decision that the MDNS was sufficient. The preliminary plat is recommended for approval subject to the Hearing Examiner's findings of fact, conclusions & recommendations.

Council discussion ensued regarding traffic and safety issues, transportation impact study, age restriction development, if unable to sell lots as age restrictive what options do the developers have, CCR enforcement, intersection of concern, support of transportation impact fees, easement and setbacks of Brickyard Creek.

Councilmember Allen moved to approve Resolution 1054-20 to approve the preliminary Plat of Brickyard Park subject to the conditions contained in the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions & Recommendation. Councilmember de Jong seconded. Motion carried (6-1, Councilmember Owen opposed).

Information Only Items

Library Project Cost Summary
Fire Department Monthly Incident Data – May 2020

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.