
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 12, 2020– 6:00 P.M. – Via ZOOM

Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers: Brenda Kinzer, JoEllen Kesti, Chuck Owen, Brendan McGoffin, Karl de Jong and Glenn Allen. Staff: Finance Manager Scott, City Supervisor/Finance Director Merriman, IT Director Chambers, Planning Director Coleman, Public Works Director Freiburger, Fire Chief Klinger, Police Lt. McIlraith and City Attorney Thompson.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion carried (6-0).

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #194106 to #194195 in the amount of \$327,726.07 (Void Check #194105, 194193, 194194)
 - Payroll Checks #60200 to #60214 plus EFT's in the amount of \$426,497.25
- Ambulance Purchase with Braun Northwest
- Final Acceptance – Contract 2020-PW-20 – 2020 Winnie Houser Park Irrigation System Installation Project – Transblue LLC
- Final Acceptance – Contract 2020-PW-36 – 2020 Sedro-Woolley Municipal Building Touchless Access Control Project – A-1 Mobile Lock and Key Inc.
- Award of Fuel Bid – Associated Petroleum Products, Inc. DBA World Fuel Services Inc.
- Digital Imagery Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County
- Surplus of City owned Police Vehicles – Resolution 1060-20
- Amendment to Professional Service Agreement 2019-PS-01
- Contract Extension with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

Councilmember de Jong moved to approve the consent calendar items 1 thru 10. Councilmember Kesti seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Klinger – gave a COVID update with 170 new cases in Skagit County.
Police Lt. McIlraith – no report. Councilmember de Jong questioned a rumored shooting.

IT Director Chambers – reported the completion of the 2nd phase of the touchless entry systems at Fire Station 2. He also noted the email migration will be delayed 2 weeks and he has been busy with public records requests.

Finance Manager Scott – reported she has been busy with various projects. The CARES reimbursement deadline is November 30 and progress is being made on the Accounts Payable position replacement.

Planning Director Coleman – reported the Planning Commission will be holding public hearings November 17 on the Reed Street rezone request and downtown parking regulations.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported on the public meeting held on the ADA transition plan. He also reported on the Rita Street paving, design for SR20/SR9/Township intersection projects, WWTP electrical improvements, WWTP Lab building relocation and the Public Works building.

City Attorney Thompson – stated she has been busy with public records requests and behind the scenes items.

City Supervisor/Finance Director Merriman – noted final touches are being done on the 2021/2022 budget. He also gave a brief update on the possible purchase of the Reed Street property, the audit and the Accounts Payable position replacement.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember de Jong – expressed condolences to Councilmember Allen. He addressed the upcoming rain and wind and he announced the loss of longtime community member, former Sedro-Woolley Police officer and Councilmember, Harold Beitler.

Councilmember McGoffin – expressed a thank you to Officer Carr and Public Works Director Freiburger for their quick response on a Sapp Road trash issue.

Councilmember Allen – thanked the Council for their recent support.

Mayor Johnson – spoke on Governor Inslee's media address regarding COVID and holiday gatherings. She encouraged everyone to read the CDC guidelines and noted holiday guidelines are on the city website. She also announced Council at large applications are being accepted until November 20. Mayor Johnson gave a reminder that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Proclamation(s)

Public Comments

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period at 6:16 P.M. With no comments received, the public comment period was closed at 6:17 P.M.

Public Hearings

2021 Property Tax Levy Ordinances 1963-20 and 1964-20

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the 2021 Property Tax Levy Ordinances at 6:17 P.M.

Mayor Johnson read a letter into the record received from Helen Wheeler of Sauk Mountain Dr. Wheeler commented on increases in property tax and utility rates and questioned how the money is being spent.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing at 6:19 P.M.

City Supervisor/Finance Director Merriman led a discussion on the 2021 property tax levy. He reviewed the implicit price deflator, which is an inflation measurement. He showed a graph reviewing the past 19-year's rate of inflation, comparing property tax growth. He spoke of the importance of narrowing the growth curve, reviewed substantial needs within the budget and COVID impacts. A tax comparison of the city portion was viewed with staff recommending passing the ordinances.

Council discussion ensued regarding exemptions from property taxes, equitability, response to Wheeler letter, increases in assessed property values, and city tax portion vs. other portions, impacts due to Covid and time deadline for the ordinance.

Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve Ordinance No. 1963-20 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro Woolley, Washington approving the 2021 Property Tax Levy at an increase of 1.0%. Councilmember Kesti seconded. Motion carried (5-1, Councilmember Allen opposed).

Mayor Johnson took a roll call vote for Ordinance No. 1964-20 A Ordinance of the City of Sedro Woolley, Washington making a declaration of substantial need for setting the property tax levy for 2021. Councilmembers Owen – Yes, Kesti – Yes, Kinzer – Yes, McGoffin – Yes, Allen – No, de Jong – No. Motion carried 4-2.

2021 Utility Rate Ordinances

- Ordinance 1965-20 Sanitary sewer rates
- Ordinance 1966-20 Solid waste rates
- Ordinance 1967-20 Storm water rates

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the 2021 Utility Rate Ordinances at 6:44P.M.

With no comments received, the public hearing was closed at 6:45 P.M.

City Supervisor/Finance Director Merriman led a discussion on the 2021 Utility Rates for Wastewater, Solid Waste and Storm Water funds.

Sewer: Merriman reviewed capital improvement plans and operations for treatment and collections.

Solid Waste: Merriman highlighted capital improvement plans, vehicle maintenance and the cost of the recycling program.

Storm Water: The capital improvement plans and operation costs were reviewed.

A 2.3% CPI increase was recommended for all utilities.

Council discussion ensued regarding timing of decision, fairness of utility taxes, survey of utility tax comparison to neighboring cities and the recycle program.

Councilmember Allen moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1965-20 adjusting 2021 Sanitary Sewer Rates. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Owen - Yes, Kesti - Yes, Kinzer - No, McGoffin - Yes, Allen - Yes and de Jong – No. Motion carried (4-2)

Councilmember de Jong moved to table to a third reading Ordinance 1966-20 and Ordinance 1967-20. Councilmember Kinzer seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Unfinished Business

New Business

Information Only Items

- Library Project Cost Summary
- Fire Department Monthly Incident Data – October 2020
- Minor Contracts approved under SWMC 2.104.060

Good of the Order

Executive Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:
