
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 24th, 2021 – 6:00 P.M. – Via ZOOM

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers: Brenda Kinzer, JoEllen Kesti, Glenn Allen, Brendan McGoffin, Kevin Loy, Karl de Jong, and Chuck Owen.
Staff: Public Works Director Mark Freiberger, Police Chief Lin Tucker, IT Director Bill Chambers, Assistant Fire Chief Frank Wagner, IT Specialist Glen Gardner, City Supervisor/Finance Director Doug Merriman, Finance Manager Jill Scott, Planning Director John Coleman, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, and Recorder Trina Wolf. Special Guests: Officer Katie Wilson, Officer Maxwell Rosser, Officer Brady Moore, and George Sidhu, General Manager of Skagit PUD.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember de Jong moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kinzer seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including March 3, 2021 Study Session)
2. Finance
 - Claim Checks #194946 to #195045 plus EFT's in the amount of \$382,419.32
 - Payroll Checks #60318 to #60328 plus EFT's in the amount of \$324,066.07
3. Lease Agreement with Skagit Valley Farm

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 thru 3. Councilmember McGoffin seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Mayor Johnson swore in three new Police Officers: Brady A. Moore, Maxwell R. Rosser, and Katie P. Wilson.

PUD Annual Update presented by George Sidhu, General Manager of Skagit Public Utility District. This included replacement of 1 of the 2 reservoir water transmission lines from the Judy Reservoir. Once that project is completed, the Sedro-Woolley transmission line will be the next project. Also discussed was the new building project on the Skagit PUD campus, Ecology/Seattle City Light agreement for Water Mitigation for Wells from the Gorge Dam to lower parts of the Skagit River to about Hamilton, and the Division Street pump station installation of a micro-hydroelectric systems to offset electrical use. Lastly, the COVID water bills were discussed with the moratorium on the water shut-offs being extended to July 1st.

Mayor Johnson acknowledged Councilmember Brenda Kinzer's years of service from 2014-2021 as both City Council and as Mayor pro tempore in 2017.

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Frank Wagner – Planning stages for 100th year celebration of the Volunteer Assoc. on May 21st. COVID numbers are the lowest they have been. Vaccinations are looking good. Skagit County is # 7 in the state in terms of vaccines.

Police Chief Tucker – Seth Bass is on board and working, just waiting on his academy date. New hire, Rachel Humberg, has already completed the academy and should be on board in May. So we will have 10, maybe 11, new officers by the end of the year, all while locked down for COVID. Thanked council and mayor for helping to get Prop. 1 passed so that could happen.

Planning Director John Coleman – don't have any agenda items for council to review this time. Planning Commission finished up the electronic reader boards regulations throughout the city. Regulations will be recommended and amendments will be presented at the next council meeting. Depart of Ecology updates to the Shoreline Master Program will also be presented. Planning committee met just before this council meeting.

Director of Public Works Mark Freiburger – Presentation later on the ADA Transition plan. Electronic improvements at the WWTP are moving along. Received BNSF draft of the agreement for the under-passing.

IT Director Bill Chambers – RFP for cemetery software has been sent out. Avidex is still 6 weeks out for AV upgrade to council chambers. Met with Tech committee. Working on public surplus listings.

Finance Manager Jill Scott – Researching America Rescue Plan and how it affects Sedro-Woolley. Working on the payment side of iWorQ for permit payments.

City Attorney Nikki Thompson – thanked Councilmember Kinzer for her service.

City Supervisor Doug Merriman – Finance Director position is open once again. The annual report has new formatting requirements from the State Auditors in regard to reporting cash. Employee Policy Manual is being updated since most recent version is 31 years old. Cara Turner, HR Consultant, is helping go over the policy. 2nd project is performance evaluations for staff to help set goals. Also looking at leadership training.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Brenda Kinzer – Planning Council Committee non conform use of regulations has no further action for tonight but might have items come up again at future meetings.

JoEllen Kesti – Thanked Councilmember Brenda Kinzer for her years of service and for her mentorship. Spoke of the vandalism at Northern State Hospital and referenced a 1994 Courier-Times article stating that a plaque was supposed to be placed in honor of the patients buried at the cemetery and asked to have the bronze plaque placed in place of the brick memorial.

Motion made by Councilmember Kesti and seconded by Councilmember Kinzer to replace the big brick wall and add a bronze plaque to the fencing using monies that were designated for the cemetery and if necessary, monies from the Council's discretionary fund. Discussion followed regarding the fencing going up and the cost of the bronze plaque that is being proposed. Motion carried (7-0).

Chuck Owen – don't have much. Just want to wish Councilmember Kinzer well.

Kevin Loy – noted that lots of new trail building is going on at Northern State Hospital grounds. Which means lots of people coming to Sedro-Woolley to hike the trails.

Brendan McGoffin – thanked Councilmember Kinzer for service and wished her the best.

Karl de Jong – acknowledged the increased emphasis patrols the PD has been doing. Thanked Councilmember Kinzer for her leadership.

Glenn Allen – was on the Northern State trails people are still livid about last 4th of July and all of the fireworks. There will be complaints and just want to give you a heads up.

Mayor Johnson –speaking with Pola and Monique at the Chamber about the summer festivals and spoke with Doug Woods about the rodeo and we will have a few events and maybe one or two festivals over the summer. All will depend on what the governor decides to do. Also inviting Burlington Mayor Sexton to come to our next council meeting to go over the Pease Rd Shelter Project and will have proposal for 4/14. Study session for council on 4/7 will be to interview applicants for Ward 3 and swear in a new Councilmember.

Public Comments

7:31 P.M.—open to public comments

7:31 P.M. – closed to public comments

New Business

ADA Transition Plan (1st reading) – Mark Freiberger presented the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to remove barriers to accessibility within the city in regards to Building Facilities, Parks, Public Right of Ways as well as programs, services and activities. A slide presentation covered the Self-Evaluation in depth. Discussion followed.

