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CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
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Regular Meeting of the City Council  
September 23, 1998 – 7:00 P.M. – Senior Center

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Walley, Councilman Anderson, Miller, Tesarik, Beitler, Pearson, Crosby and Silves. Staff Members: City Supervisor/Clerk-Treasurer Stendal, City Attorney Hayden, City Planner Rivera, Police Sargent Wood, Fire Chief Klinger and City Engineer Barnet.

Consent Calendar

--Minutes from the Previous Meeting

--Finance

- Claim Vouchers #35686 to #35768 for \$221,146.52
- Payroll Warrants #21271 to #21357 for \$119,548.75
- Resolution No. 623-98 Canceling Certain Claim & Payroll Warrants

Councilman Anderson moved to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

Items from the Audience

Roger Horton – lives 100 feet outside the City Limits. Presented written request to connect to City Sewer due to failing septic tank.

Mayor Walley stated from a preliminary review of the site there were two options for connecting to sewer. It could be done either by Council approval or annexation.

Shirley Grant – 1972 Sterling Drive. Building and business owner in the downtown area, requested the Council consider a multi purpose center at the Metcalf Street Park with a walking track around the perimeter, tennis courts and a skate board park to give kids a place to go and skate board, roller blade and bike. Grant felt that this would take them off the downtown streets where they are becoming a nuisance.

Mayor Walley referred her request to the park committee.

Faye Engberg – representing JJ's Cruisers who recently sponsored a car show at Riverfront Park. Engberg requested permission to present a check in the amount of \$549.00 towards the Thermo-Imaging Gun to the Sedro-Woolley Volunteer Fire

Department. The check represents a \$100 donation from the Majestic Classic Car Club of Mt. Vernon and proceeds from the Car Show sponsored by JJ's Cruisers.

Councilman Miller moved to allow Fire Chief Klinger to accept the funds presented. Seconded by Councilman Tesarik. Motion carried. Stendal noted for the record that this donation was to the Sedro-Woolley Volunteer Fireman's Association and would not be receipted through the City.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### Continuation of Public Hearing for Adoption of Comprehensive Plan and Amended Development Regulations

Mayor Walley opened the Public Hearing for the Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

City Planner Rivera requested the hearing be continued to the next Council Meeting to allow for adequate time for review of the published document.

It was moved by Councilman Crosby to continue the Public Hearing to October 14, 1998. Seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Walley.

### Garbage Rates

Mayor Walley Opened the Public Hearing on Garbage Rates.

Councilman Crosby requested permission to step down. Permission Granted and Councilman Crosby stepped down from the Council table.

Supervisor Stendal reviewed information within the Council Packets which included a letter from Jeff West.

Councilman Miller questioned if garbage went privatization and a pick up was missed, how would it be handled. Stendal directed Miller to the representative from the private sector for an answer.

Jeff West, General Manager of Rural Sanitation and combined Waste Management Companies, indicated the way they handle missed pick-ups is no different than the current program for the City. With the volume collected, occasionally a can will get missed and they would go back and get legitimate misses.

Miller questioned how pick up would handle grass collection. West responded that depending on the workload they would schedule appropriately to make sure it was moved.

Stendal stated that currently the City runs the grass dump area. He also stated that if the Council decided to look into privatization, the grass dumpsite would have to be discussed as part of that issue.

West indicated that grass dumping is a level of service that they do offer and if it were the desire of the Council to provide that service it could be done.

Larry Binschus – a resident of Burlington and a staff member of the City Sanitation Department, stated that for the last 4-5 years the department has run on the good old boy system. He indicated if cans are too heavy, they throw it because they know they will be called to go back and pick it up. They felt they were saving money by going ahead and throwing the can rather than having to go back for the pick up. He feels there needs to be a system for extra weight in order to not lose money. If the direction is to run like a private company he felt that money could be made. He also believes a private company couldn't do it any cheaper. Some solutions would be to get addresses on the can and weighing dumpsters. He questioned the Council if they wanted to set the rules and have the department make money or be nice guys?

Councilman Beitler questioned the percentage of overweight cans.

Binschus estimated on the route he ran today for just garbage cans he had 20 cans that were overweight. If you charge \$5 a piece that's \$100. Binschus stated he had called a couple of private companies and their weight limit was 65 pounds. Anything over 65 pounds they don't pick up.

Beiter questioned what Sedro-Woolley's rate is at.

Mayor Walley stated that we currently do not have an ordinance that specifies.

Jon Stables – Union Representative for the Non Uniform Employees of the City, pointed out that on behalf of the employees of the Garbage Department he requested an opportunity to present information from the staff perspective to the Council in order for them to make a fully informed decision.

Jeff West – Spoke on the overweight issue, he indicated that a review of tonnage should be available on a volume basis to see if figures are running higher than normal. There is an easy way to verify the volume to weight ratio. Regarding the complaints on overweight cans, he stated they also pick them up as well, unless they are a safety hazard. The same issues happen in the County.

Sharon Dillon – 1116 Fidalgo. Questioned if this was a Public Hearing for rates or for privatization?

Stendal indicated that after continuation of the Public Hearing and a worksession in which privatization came up that both items are on the table.

Dillon stated that she feels it should have been advertised that way because people are not aware that both issues are on the table. She felt it should be continued to give people the opportunity to voice their opinion on privatization.

Larry Binschus – stated the reason here was to raise rates. He believes there are some things that can be done to put the Department back on track.

Councilman Silves questioned why solutions weren't stated from the Department prior to talk of privatization.

Binschus indicated that some things have been requested but not supplied, such as route slips.

Councilman Anderson commented that in 1992 this same issue was visited and wanted to know what changes have been made since that time. Anderson stated he feels it's not the workers fault, but a management concern.

Councilman Beitler stated that rates haven't been raised since 1992 but other expenses have gone up. Through former administration, staff had been given strict orders not to talk with Council or management or else. The loss has only happened in the last two years. He would like to see the Department get on an even keel and go to automatic cost of living increases.

Binschus reminded Council of the drop in rate due to the change to every other week recycling. Because of the recycling not being picked up as often, he believes it has contributed to an increase of items in regular garbage pick ups. He thinks this is going backwards and also indicated that the issue of working Saturdays regarding the grass collection was a union decision which had to be followed.

Jon Stables – Union Representative for City Non Uniformed Employees, addressed the Council's questions regarding the grass issue. The Union had provided administration with two cost neutral proposals to deal with the issue which were turned down. Stables stated that last December he was approached with concerns about the budget in the Sanitation Department and raised the question at that time of not collecting for waste being picked up by the City and explained that they were going to have to change some of their practices in the way that was collected. He stated from information he has gathered, this has not happened. That is one of the issues the Union would like to address, he also invited any Council members to be present for contract bargaining which begins tomorrow.

City Attorney Hayden stated that it would be inappropriate to extend the bargaining to the City Council as the City has a representative. Labor negotiations could be addressed in Executive Session.

Gary Frizzell – 9392 Thresher Avenue, believes like many people, Council included that Sedro-Woolley is a great town. He spoke against privatization and felt that the City

should be looking at running the Department similar to that of a private company in order to maintain service at the City level. He felt that residents would be losing the City if privatized.

Councilman Anderson moved to continue the public hearing to October 14, 1998. Seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Resolution Regarding Annexation – Janicki

Rivera reviewed the request for Annexation and Staff Report. Rivera stated that this property is not contiguous to the City but is directly west of the Issacson property which the Council has been considering for annexation and which the City is currently trying to negotiate a sewer agreement with property owners. Rivera stated that in order for this property to be annexed, the Issacson property would have to be annexed since it is not attached to the City.

Councilman Beitler expressed concern of squaring off annexations.

Councilman Anderson expressed concern of the power lines. Rivera indicated that there are setback requirements pertaining to the utilities.

Kevin McGoffin – representative for the Janicki Family Trust, applicant of the annexation request, indicated at this point in time they do not have a development concept except for the fact that when building single family residences it is not as desirable to be close to power lines. McGoffin also stated there are legal setback requirements. The primary residential spots on the property lies to the East of the power lines and topographically it slopes down to the East. He stated at this point we are asking to be annexed into the City and any development concepts would come at a later date. McGoffin also stated that Bonneville is restrictive as to what can take place under the power lines and from a development standpoint, the power lines will be taken into account when you put in lots. He believes some of the benefits it will provide to the City include single family residences which bring in more people, more jobs, more tax money and more revenues. Utilities will be taken care of through the Issacson development in conjunction to this request by extension of sewer and utilities. It will bring more good people into the City.

City Planner Rivera indicated that this had been advertised as a Public Hearing.

Mayor Walley opened the Public Hearing with reference to include comments made to date.

The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Walley.

Councilman Crosby moved to accept Resolution #624-98 Janicki Annexation. Councilman Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Change Order #1 for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Engineer Barnet reviewed Change Order #1 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Barnet indicated because of the type of project, Council could expect to see a number of Change Orders throughout the project.

Councilman Crosby requested an update on the project. Engineer Barnet stated he would present something at the next Council meeting and will schedule a review once every three months in order to keep Council up to speed.

Councilman Tesarik moved to accept Change Order #1 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$5,478.68. Seconded by Councilman Beitler. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

Councilman Anderson – requested input from Council regarding SKAT charging fares. Anderson indicated as the City Representative to SKAT, this is just in the exploratory stages and a worksession is being held next week. Anderson also requested the exploration of a City Web Page for the Internet utilizing funds from the increase in the Hotel/Motel Tax recently approved.

Councilman Miller – complimented the City and the Mayor for allowing the cars from the Crusiers Club at Riverfront Park, he felt it should be considered for future events.

Councilman Beitler – requested an update on the Ferry Street Sidewalk project. City Engineer Barnet indicated that the issues remain the same as before with the funding. Barnet stated he would put together a progress report on this project for the next Council meeting. Beitler also questioned the response from DOT on the Intersection of Highway 20. Mayor Walley indicated that they had done a traffic count and indicated that more counts needed to be taken. Engineer Barnet indicated that there have been some adjustments made to traffic lights during the P.M. peak time and a Hwy 20 Corridor Study is beginning as well.

Councilman Pearson – expressed concern of communication with regards to the Sanitation Department. He also requested on behalf of the family of Bill Pearson that the City consider doing a bench in his honor. Mayor Walley indicated that it could be done but would have to wait until next year. Pearson indicated that the family would be willing to pay for the bench.

Councilman Crosby – presented an update on the ball field. Crosby indicated that LeFebur Turf had indicated that at the present time there is approximately a 2 week window period that is good for seeding for grass for next year. There is considerable difference in price with seeding or hydroseeding versus laying sod. Bids are still being received for the fencing and backstop.

Councilman Miller moved to sod the ball field. Seconded by Councilman Anderson. Motion carried.

Councilman Silves – requested direction for tree trimming within power lines. She indicated that she had been referred to Puget Power and Puget Power referred back to the City. Mayor Walley referred the matter to the Street Department.

City Planner Rivera – updated the Council on a recent Planning Commission decision for the storage units located at 701 Township St. The applicant had requested permission to place three additional storage units on the lot. The Planning Commission approved to allow the applicant to widen two of the existing units but in return he could not build the third unit. Rivera stated also within the conditions of the approval is all existing buildings need to be completed prior to additional building permits being issued.

City Engineer Barnet – presented an update on the Bassett Road Landfill. Barnet indicated that a meeting at the site had been held with the Skagit County Health Department and Public Works Department. They were pleased with the work that has been completed and a review of the remaining work was done. Barnet commended the Street Department for their great effort, he also indicated that the Grass Clippings on Third Street would be continued through the end of October and will then be shut down.

Police Sargent Wood – stated all the computers at the new building were installed and up and running and working well. Also on Sunday at 3:00 dispatchers will be relocated to the Central Dispatch center.

Police Chief Klinger – reminded everyone of the Open House scheduled for October 10, 1998 from 1 – 4:00 P.M.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and labor negotiations with no decisions expected at 8:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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