
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
June 12, 2002 – Community Center – 7:00 P.M.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers Meamber, Miller, Storrs, Lemley, Grandy and Anderson. Staff Members: City Attorney Hayden, Clerk/Treasurer Nelson, Planner Hallberg, Engineer Barnet (Late), Police Chief Cooper and Fire Chief Klinger.

Mayor Dillon announced the addition of Item M, Waiver of Fees – Riverfront Park to the consent calendar.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #45756 to #45912 for \$257,621.81
 - Payroll Warrants #29027 to #29120 for \$115,220.12
- Street Closure Request – Just for Fun Poker Run
- Train Station Picnic Area (Opening)
- Waiver of Fees – Riverfront Park
- Waiver of Fees – Riverfront Park
- Waiver of Fees – Memorial Park
- Waiver of Fees – Riverfront Park
- Street Closure Request – On Cloud 9 Car Club Charity Car Show
- Contract – Farmers Market
- Set Public Hearing (Sewer Hookup)
- Set Public Hearing (Requirement in UGA)
- Waiver of Fees – Riverfront Park

Councilmember Lemley requested the street closure request from On Cloud 9 Car Club be removed from the consent agenda and postponed in order to obtain further information.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar A through M, excluding item I. Seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Award

Don Seaburger, Unit Supervisor for Compliance and Water Quality for the Department of Ecology and Amy Jankowiak, Enforcement Compliance Officer presented Mayor Dillon and the

Staff of the Wastewater Treatment Plant an award for outstanding performance. Jankowiak reviewed the criteria for the recipients of the award and noted that the department is one of 27 recipients to receive the award out of 300 plants scrutinized. Congratulations to all the staff of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Dillon passed the plaque onto Dale Velasquez, former Plant Foreman and congratulated the department on their great team effort.

Public Comment

Kathy Gallagher – 720 Evans Dr., presented a document to each Council member and then addressed the Council on the Evans Drive street repair project. She stated the project was started in August of 2001 and to date is incomplete. Gallagher commented on the numerous excuses being given for the work not being completed. She requested Evans Drive residents in the audience stand to show their representation. Gallagher also quizzed Councilmembers Lemley and Miller on the condition of the street with both agreeing that it was not a quality repair. Gallagher presented picture documentation of the condition of Evans Drive in comparison to the recent work completed on Sapp Road.

Elliott Button – 814 Evans Dr., requested Council see that the job started gets finished. Button stated if for some reason it can't be finished an explanation is in order.

Bob McLaughlin – 615 Puget St., addressed bicycle riders on the downtown streets and the need to enforce the rules. McLaughlin also addressed the lengthy response to his call regarding the bicycle riders to 911.

Teena Brown – 1105 Fidalgo St., requested a clarification on the requirements of spending of impact fees.

Engineer Barnet addressed the spending of impact fees and impact fee credits and the correlation of the six-year TIP. Barnet noted that much of the maintenance and minor improvements that are done in the City are not on the 6-year TIP. The TIP includes larger projects that are of a regional significance.

Marshall Eberhart – 725 Evans Dr., questioned if the paving of Evans Dr. was up to City standards of the Public Works Construction Standards 15.

Engineer Barnet noted that the Evans Dr. project the City did was only an overlay project. Barnet said there is a difference between a maintenance overlay project and new construction standards.

Eberhart requested assurances that the road will be corrected.

Barnet said that he has requested the Street Department fix the driveways that have the crushed rock between the edge of the driveway and the new asphalt and also the end of the road that was left unfinished when the paving crew was out there.

Eberhart – questioned how to obtain an approved plan for the improvements for the 6 year TIP and Evans Drive.

Barnet reiterated that Evans Dr. was not on the 6 year TIP, it was only a maintenance project. Barnet explained the prioritization process that is approved by City Council and noted the list is available through the Engineering Department.

Mayor Dillon noted that the 6-Year TIP will be reviewed at the June 26th meeting.

Paula Torgerson – 722 Evans Dr., expressed concern of the end of her driveway and the collection of rainwater. She questioned the time frame of finishing the repairs and requested clarification on the repair to be made.

Barnet noted while the asphalt may not look aesthetically good, it is structurally sound. Barnet said he is committed to finishing the work that needs to be done to finish the project, but will not recommend spending more funds to make it aesthetically pleasing.

Torgerson expressed concern of the quality of the work coinciding with the work of private drives.

Tom Lazaron – 942 Presidio Pl., President of the Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild, encouraged Council to consider the staffing needs of the Police and Fire Departments due to the growth of the City as the City prepares to start the budgeting process for the upcoming year.

Connie Grandy – 1317 Jameson St., questioned how the City tests the asphalt?

Barnet noted that the City purchases asphalt from the asphalt plant. There are two different mixes and the mix is the same as is used by DOT and other companies.

Bob McLaughlin – encouraged placing patrol officers on the streets as in the old times.

Craig Cole – General Delivery, addressed the Council regarding a lawsuit against him and requested Council to look into the situation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Jameson Street Sidewalk & Street

Engineer Barnet noted that he intended to have some exhibits prepared for this topic, however, problems with the SR-20 Sewer Project has taken up much of his time. Barnet apologized for not having them prepared and gave the Council the option of proceeding or postponing the topic until the next meeting. The Council consensus was to proceed with the topic.

Dale Thompson – E. Jameson St., noted he had been out of state for 5 months and when he returned he said the first thing he saw was the alignment of the sidewalk. He requested Council to plan a site visit and stake out the plans for a visual aid to the residents in the area.

Council discussion followed to include inaccurate and contradictory information, numerous requests with no follow-up, location of city right-of-way, the need to place the sidewalk in the proper place, placement of no parking signs, maintaining a low volume road and costs of replacement.

Planner Hallberg addressed on-street parking and statistical information that supports on-street parking actually slows traffic.

Teresa Stoakes – 1210 Jameson St., emphasized that the traffic on Jameson St. is not slow, people drive to fast. She requested Council fix the sidewalk.

Teena Brown – 1105 Fidalgo St., expressed disagreement with waiting for new homeowners to help make the decision on the sidewalk. She believes its punishment to the people who live across the street and noted that street parking should have been thought of ahead of time.

Connie Grandy – 1317 Jameson St., reviewed the history of the street vacation and addressed the MDNS addressing the location of the street trees, which states that the trees should be on the applicants property rather than the right-of-way. Grandy noted the developer did not follow what was approved on paper and feels that he should replace the sidewalk. Grandy referred to an ordinance on the taking of property. She requested that if the additional property can't be obtained in front of 1207 Jameson, to place no parking signs and reseed. Grandy also addressed the upcoming decision by the Hearing Examiner regarding a new road and development.

Shane Stoakes – 1210 Jameson St., questioned Engineer Barnet if the plan is to go to the end of the road on the North side.

Barnet clarified an earlier statement, that if the sidewalk is moved back to mirror the property lines on the South side of Jameson, as you travel eastbound, you'll then be heading into the sidewalk sticking out in front of you. Barnet noted he does not think that is very safe. The right of way in that area steps down and it's very wide out towards the main street and as it works its way East it gets narrower. He also noted there were no plans to widen the North side of the road. If the developer was to do that as part of his development he would widen to the north so that it is just additional asphalt on the north side of the road. The City is not asking for him to do curbs, gutters and sidewalks on the North side.

Unidentified Audience Member – requested the Engineering Department go and mark out the rights of way.

Barnet noted that a survey could be done should Council authorize it, however he could informally "rag-tag" the line from the survey post of the Gentry development.

Connie Grandy – noted according to a survey that was done, the measurements were plus or minus 10 feet. She said she has found that isn't accurate because no one has ever heard of a survey being off plus or minus 10 feet. Believes another opinion is needed for the drainage and moving of the sidewalk. She also believes that moving of the sidewalk shouldn't affect the drainage.

Barnet questioned Grandy whether she wanted the curb and gutter moved because the drainage is in the curb and gutter. He also noted the need for recalculation of impervious surface should everything be moved.

Councilmembers questioned each other as to how to proceed. Councilmember Grandy noted there has been an on-site worksession requested with no follow-up and believes there to be simple solutions.

Councilmember Lemley requested an on-site workshop so that everybody is on the same page is recommended. Councilmember Storrs concurred.

Planner Hallberg requested Attorney Hayden review the regulations for hearing possible appeals for a potential long plat on the adjoining property.

Attorney Hayden noted should the 20 lot development be appealed, Council will hear it as an appellant body. If Council voices an opinion about that project prior to it coming to Council, Councilmembers may have to step down from hearing the appeal. Hayden did note that Councilmember Grandy may have to step down because he's within the 300 foot notification zone.

Planner Hallberg noted for the record that Councilmember Grandy has stated his intention to step down should there be an appeal hearing.

Hayden noted Council has to be careful to isolate whatever views they have, and discussion of those matters should be limited only to the short plat. Hayden recommended to wait until the other matter is resolved.

Hallberg noted a safe way to handle it would be to wait until the appeal period passed to review the short plat.

The consensus of the Council is to wait until the process has run it's course. Discussion followed on whether to proceed with a survey.

Resolution – Adopting Comprehensive Plan Update Schedule

Planner Hallberg noted a correction of a date included in the Council memo. She stated the Critical Areas schedule reads as 2004 and should be 2003. She then briefly reviewed the process for the update.

Councilmember Meamber moved to adopt Resolution #663-02 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, Setting Forth a Schedule Method for Updating the Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried.

Report from Building, Structure & Insurance Committee re: City Hall Task Force

Councilmember Anderson reported that there has been no action. He believes that it would be better to wait until Fall to get more citizen involvement.

Mark Christ – 810 Bennett St., a local architect and citizen. Questioned Council to think of what the vote was for. He suggested consideration of the following: 1). Was it a vote against taxes or the location and were they saying they want it downtown. 2). Suggested the committee look at the best place to put a City Hall and the needs for the necessity of being next to the Police Station. 3). To consider the emotional attachment to the Ball Park. 4). Space will be an issue and functions of City Hall need to be established. 5). Space and budget being an obstacle determine the physical requirements for City Hall. He noted the need to determine what growth is and how it's going to happen and suggested a parking analysis for staff and visitors.

Council discussion followed with Councilmember Storrs and Lemley being in favor of getting a conceptual idea of the needs and proceed from there.

Councilmembers Anderson and Meamber reiterated that summer is not the time to try to get citizen input and both believe the topic should wait until Fall.

Sue Ellen Eberhart – 725 Evans Dr., stressed the importance of having a plan of what is really needed. She stated timing doesn't play into it but having a set plan is the important factor and that educating the public is important. Eberhart noted that she does not agree with what the Council is saying and believes that the Council is keeping the Citizens of this town in the dark. The Council needs to get out there and tell the citizens straightforward what the City does want and give them the chance to give their ideas.

Discussion was held as to the reason for the vote, whether it was due to higher taxes or location. Councilmember Lemley informally polled the audience as to their reasons for their vote.

Teena Brown – 1005 Fidalgo St., noted she takes voting very seriously but admitted she did not vote on this issue because she did not feel like she had enough information to make a decision.

Mike Jensen – 804 Evans Dr., suggested Council look at alternative locations to place a ball park and encouraged placement of a City Hall to be near the Police/Fire Station.

Tony Splane – 714 Sapp Road, questioned if the Skagit Building has been booked into. Splane suggested the Skagit location be looked at.

Mayor Dillon suggested trying to get something going for citizen input during the upcoming Loggerodeo celebration.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Developments for the Library

Debra Peterson, 802 Ball St., City Librarian, informed the Council of the receipt of a check from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a Grant in the amount of \$16,355.00. The grant is for four computers, a server and printer and various connections, installation and training.

Ron Forshier – 1315 Railroad Ave., questioned if the Grant covers maintenance or if the City will need to budget funds for extra maintenance.

Peterson noted that the Library staff and Library Board have given great thought to the maintenance issue. She noted the grant covers maintenance through 2003 and that the local libraries are trying to work together and have someone who could go between the facilities for maintenance. She also reviewed other challenges that staff continues to look into solutions.

Peterson also explained the history of funding from Skagit County and announced the formation of a Library Task Force for Skagit County. She noted the Task Force has been charged with going out to the County residents and ask them what they want to see in terms of library service. She noted that there will be upcoming announcements for community meetings to include both City and County residents.

Peterson answered Councilmembers questions regarding Bellingham, Whatcom Co. and Snohomish Co. systems. Peterson noted that we are one of four counties in Washington that do not have a County Library System. Peterson encouraged Councilmembers to come to the upcoming meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Councilmember Miller – thanked the people from Evans Dr. that came tonight and that he agreed fully with what they are saying and would like to see the project completed.

Councilmember Lemley – congratulated Dee Denton on a great job on Blast from the Past. It was a great success.

Councilmember Grandy – requested a specific date for the Jameson Street meeting and requested the Council be updated on when the Evans Drive project is completed. Grandy proposed July 11, 2002 for the Jameson Street meeting.

Attorney Hayden suggested Council continue the July 10th Council meeting to the 11th at that location. Hayden noted if it is announced at the end of the meeting, because the other matter

might get appealed and then another date would have to be picked then publication of a special meeting would be wasted space in the paper.

(Note: The dates were incorrectly stated as July 12th and July 13th. They were corrected above for the purpose of the minutes.)

Councilmember Anderson – noted a newspaper article about the West Isle Virus. Anderson expressed concern over the retention ponds and breeding of mosquitoes. Anderson also requested an executive session be held at a future meeting for discussion of litigation purposes. He also questioned the status of police negotiations.

Councilmember Meamber – thanked the Street Department and Police Department for the barricading of some property for a function of a non-profit organization on April 27 and the first Saturday in May. Meamber also thanked Mayor Dillon for her presence at the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Cemetery.

Planner Hallberg – announced the opening day of the Farmer’s Market. Hallberg encouraged support of the market.

Engineer Barnet – noted the Curtis Street sewer project is progressing well. Thompson Lane is still in question. The pipe bursting project on Township and SR 20 has run into difficulties. Barnet noted he has been spending all of his time on site due to the problems that have arisen. The project will get done but will overrun on cost. Barnet further explained some of the difficulties that have occurred.

Police Chief Cooper – updated the Council on the “Click It or Ticket” campaign. The post event survey had increased from 76% prior to the emphasis to 86% post emphasis.

Councilmember Grandy – corrected the dates of his request for the Jameson Street site visit. Councilmember Lemley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 P.M.