
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 10, 2004 – 7:00 P.M. – Community Center

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Dillon, Councilmembers: Meamber, Splane, Storrs, Colgan, Galbraith, Lemley and Anderson. Staff: City Attorney Hayden, Clerk/Treasurer Nelson, Planner Lahr, Police Lt. Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
- Claim Vouchers #52885 to #52992 for \$515,716.94 (Voided Warrants #35898 through #52905)
- Payroll Warrants #34442 to #34537 for \$164,910.59
- Street Closure Request – Christmas Parade – December 4, 2004
- Waiver of Fees – Community Center – SW Cooperative Preschool – December 17, 2004
- Interlocal Correction/Detention Agreement – City of Wapato
- Setting Public Hearing – 2005 Budget Ordinance
- Contract Amendment – Metcalf Street Sewer Project
- Appointment – Interim Police Chief Doug Wood
- Setting Public Hearing – Annexation of FEMA Property
- Contract for Services – Aqua Terr Systems, Inc. (ATSI)
- Contract for Services – The Transpo Group

Councilmember Meamber requested Item K, Contract for Services – The Transpo Group be removed from the consent calendar for discussion.

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt the consent calendar Items A through J. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance – Property Tax Levy

Clerk/Treasurer Nelson presented background information regarding the Property Tax Levy. She reviewed a visual aid showing how property tax is divided and reviewed preliminary estimates received from the Assessor's office for the 2005 property tax values. Nelson noted that staff recommends Council approve the proposed ordinance authorizing the maximum allowable property tax levy rate.

A discussion of "banking" ensued.

Mayor Dillon opened the public hearing at 7:14 P.M.

Mayor Dillon closed the public hearing at 7:15 P.M.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance #1489-04 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving an Increase in the Regular Property Tax Levy, in Addition to any Amount Resulting From the Addition of New Construction and Improvements. Councilmember Colgan seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – No, Splane – No, Storrs – Yes, Colgan – Yes, Galbraith – No, Lemley – Yes and Anderson – No. Motion denied 3-4 (Councilmember Meamber, Splane, Galbraith and Anderson opposed).

Councilmember Anderson moved to pass Ordinance #1489-04 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Regular Property Tax Levy at 100% in Addition to the Amount Resulting From the Addition of New Construction and Improvements. Councilmember Galbraith seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – Yes, Splane – Yes, Storrs – No, Colgan – Yes, Galbraith – Yes, Lemley – No and Anderson – Yes. Motion carried 5-2 (Councilmember Storrs and Lemley opposed).

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance – Utility Tax on Solid Waste & Cell Phone Service

Councilmember Meamber moved to take the item dealing with utility tax Item #6 off the Agenda and move it to the next worksession. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried.

Contract for Services – The Transpro Group

Councilmember Meamber questioned the proposed contract for a Transportation study and a similar study done several years ago.

Planner Lahr noted that the Transportation Element was updated in 2003 by David Evans & Associates. What was done in 2003 was an update of the basic plan but did not provide information on the traffic impact fee ordinance. She also stated that there will be traffic counts and more in depth studies done with the proposed study such as computerized traffic modeling.

Attorney Hayden stressed the importance of the study in order to have information to demonstrate development impacts to be able to collect the impact fees. Hayden noted that all the cities in the county are developing a computer model that will allow the analysis to be done on a countywide level to include the Urban Growth Area.

Discussion ensued to include timing of the study and updating of data.

Councilmember Meamber moved to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract for professional services with The Transpro Group in an amount not to exceed \$113,734.00. Councilmember Galbraith seconded. Motion carried.

Report on Contracted Police Services with Skagit County Sheriff

Mayor Dillon reported on a recent meeting with Sheriff Grimstead of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office on the topic of contracting Police services through the Skagit County. She reported that the County believes each officer costs about \$94,000 per year, not including Jail costs, Court costs or any other sundry items. It was suggested that a consultant be hired to be a neutral party for any future discussions. She reviewed the process which would include disbanding the current police department, officer testing, entry level positions, and necessary negotiation with the current police guild.

Dillon reviewed conversations with the City of Stanwood who contract their police services through Snohomish County. She noted she spoke with their Finance Director and their reasoning for their move was because they had a department that was in disarray with serious problems at the top level. They have been contracting services with Snohomish County for six years and have just signed a contract for another three years. Above and beyond the contract they have an ER & R fund for new vehicles which are replaced on a 5-year interval. Snohomish County has a bidding process for officer work territory where Skagit County utilizes a two year rotation officer work territory. One provision of a contract would be a one year notification of cancellation. Should the Council wish to explore further Mayor Dillon recommended public input and public hearings. She noted that in her conversation with the City of Stanwood it was stated they did not believe it was a cost savings to the City. She emphasized that they had made the move for other reasons than to save money.

Mayor Dillon requested guidance from the Council as to whether or not they wish to pursue the topic.

Discussion ensued to include cost, records clerk, personal commitment of officers, enforcement of municipal ordinances, commitment of Council, public perception and consultant costs.

The Mayor was directed by Council 4-3 to try to come up with an approximate cost analysis by the end of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Councilmember Anderson – questioned the status of the sewer project on Highway 20.

Councilmember Storrs – thanked the Mayor for her effort in obtaining information regarding the Police department. He also noted the pothole repairs going on.

Councilmember Splane – noted a manhole cover missing in the vicinity of N. Reed and Highway 20.

Councilmember Meamber – thanked Attorney Hayden for the information regarding the transportation topic.

Fire Chief Klinger – thanked everyone who supported the Volunteer Boot to Burn event. The event raised approximately \$15,000. Klinger also reported on the status of the training center.

Police Chief Wood – thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as interim Police Chief.

Attorney Hayden – reported that staff is currently working on a sub area transportation plan for the upper Highway 9 area.

Councilmember Meamber – stated that someone questioned him about an old sewer line along Fruitdale Road. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Colgan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.