
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 23, 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: Splane, Storrs, Colgan, Galbraith, Lemley and Anderson. Staff: City Attorney Hayden, Clerk/Treasurer Nelson, Engineer Blair, Planner Lahr, Police Chief Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #52993 to #53130 for \$522,798.54
 - Payroll Warrants #34538 to #34633 for \$135,679.49
- Waiver of Fees – Community Center – Santa Breakfast – December 11, 2004
- Appointment of Sharon Whiting to Sedro-Woolley Library Board
- Purchase of Used Vector Truck from City of Burlington – Sewer Department
- Contract for Services – E.D. Hovee & Company
- Contract – Humane Society of Skagit Valley

Councilmember Splane moved to approve consent calendar Items A through G.
Councilmember Storrs seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mark Wallis – 216 Reed Street, spokesperson for Sedro-Woolley Police Public Safety Guild, addressed the Council to inform them of a press release the Guild is preparing. Wallis expressed the Guild's opinion about the Council's study on the feasibility and viability, long term of the Police Department. Wallis stated the Guild specifically supports the continuation of the Police Department. This is a unanimous commitment of the Department to continue to work for the City of Sedro-Woolley. The Guild invites the City to continue with the study because it is the Guild's belief that the numbers from the study will show the Department can provide a good service for the cheapest amount of money. Wallis noted the difference in pay between the Sedro-Woolley Police officers and Skagit County Sheriff deputy's.

Mike Peterson – 699 Brickyard Blvd., addressed the Council regarding the issue of disbanding of the Police Department. Peterson stated he has been in law enforcement for 26 years and has lived in Minnesota and Montana and settled in Sedro-Woolley. One of the reasons he chose Sedro-Woolley is because of the City services such as fire, police,

garbage and sewer. He encouraged the Council to make sure they compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges when doing their study and cautioned them of response time and enforcement of City ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance – 2005 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Nelson thanked the Councilmembers and Department Heads for their time and effort of preparing the 2005 Budget. She reviewed changes made to the preliminary budget which include decreasing general fund revenue by \$16,401.00. Nelson noted that the total City budget for 2005 is 18.7 million with a balanced budget. She also noted the elimination of four positions compared to the 2004 Budget and the addition of a custodian in replacement of contracted janitorial services and a 3/5 time sewer department employee in the 2005 Budget. Nelson also dispelled various rumors and answered Council questions regarding the budget.

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

Councilmember Anderson questioned the comparison of Sedro-Woolley budget to the City of Mount Vernon.

No public comment received.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the hiring of a janitor. Councilmember Splane expressed his feeling to leave the service as a contracted service.

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt Ordinance #1490-04 An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2005. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Splane – Yes (with reservations regarding the Janitorial position), Storrs – Yes, Colgan – Yes, Galbraith – Yes, Lemley – Yes and Anderson – No. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilmember Anderson opposed due to the Janitorial position).

OLD BUSINESS

Correction to SWMC Section 2.90.010

Attorney Hayden reviewed a proposed correction to SWMC Section 2.90.010: the missing “or”.

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve Ordinance #1491-02 An Ordinance Correcting a Typographic Error in the Administrative Procedures Ordinance, Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code Ch. 2.90, Regarding Design Review Hearings. Councilmember Splane seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Anderson – Yes, Lemley – Yes, Galbraith – Yes, Colgan – Yes, Storrs – Yes and Splane – Yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance – Adoption of International Property Maintenance Code

Attorney Hayden reviewed the background for the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code, 2003 Edition, as part of the International Building Code Series. Hayden noted that Councilmember Splane objected to section 302.8 Motor Vehicles. His concern was that people like to work on restoring vehicles in their garages or shops and omitting this section would permit them in doing so.

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt Ordinance #1492-04 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Amending Section 15.04.010 of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code, and “Adopting the International Property Maintenance Code, 2003 Edition” with the Removal of Section 302.8. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith and Splane.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Splane – Yes, Storrs – Yes, Colgan – Yes, Galbraith – Yes, Lemley – Yes and Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Resolution – Declining to Adopt the Proposed Skagit County Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan

Mayor Dillon reviewed the process of the Skagit County Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan. She noted in 2004, cities entered into an interlocal agreement with Skagit County making Skagit County the exclusive City solid waste transfer facility for the next ten years. She noted that if the proposed Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan is adopted it opens the door for a second transfer station and the potential to take away some of the tonnage that would go to the current facility and possibly raise tipping fees. She noted the interlocal agreement was entered into in “good faith”, the City was led to believe it would be exclusive to their site through the year 2013. The Mayor stated that it is her belief that opening the door for another transfer station is a breach of the interlocal agreement.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt Resolution #706-04 A Resolution of the City of Sedro-Woolley Declining to Adopt the Skagit County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan as Presented. Councilmember Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Mayor Dillon noted she had received a letter which will be provided to Councilmembers. The letter is from John Hunter regarding his opinion that Sedro-Woolley needs to remain in the Police service business.

Councilmember Storrs – inquired on the paving schedule for Metcalf Street.

Engineer Blair noted the Street Department will be filling in the gaps in the trenching and a complete overlay will be done in 2005.

Discussion of timing of projects was held between Council and Staff.

Councilmember Splane – questioned how many Councilors are participating in the upcoming Christmas Parade. All noted they would be participating. Mayor Dillon gave her regrets as she will be out of town.

Councilmember Colgan – questioned the status of the study of wastewater at Northern State.

Engineer Blair noted the study is still ongoing.

Councilmember Galbraith – questioned the status of the Ellis project.

Planner Lahr noted a meeting has been scheduled with the developer on the project status and to begin steps for a final binding plat application.

Councilmember Lemley – reminded everyone of the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner. He also noted the upcoming Christmas Parade and Tree Auction the following Saturday.

Councilmember Anderson – expressed his support to the Mayor regarding SKAT's commitment to the Transit Station in Mount Vernon.

Clerk/Treasurer Nelson – reminded Councilmembers of the upcoming Exit Interview with the State Auditors to be held Wednesday, November 24, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the receipt of certification of nine department members for the HAZ/MAT Tech course.

Interim Chief Wood -- updated the Council on the junk vehicle removal. He noted a total of 51 cars have been towed, with only three at a cost to the City thanks to Art's Auto Wrecking. Wood also clarified some of Officer Wallis' comments regarding the study of services for the Police Department.

Engineer Blair – informed the Council that the City was not successful in obtaining TIB funding for the Skagit site access project. He noted the competition was tough and the Northwest area was effected. Blair also pointed out a stormwater article placed in the back of the Council packets and addressed the renovation of the benches throughout town that has been completed by the Parks Department.

Mayor Dillon – encouraged everyone to enjoy the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Michelle Blasdell – 213 W. Talcott, addressed the Council regarding the lack of a contract on the work done on the road. She also noted the difficulty with mail service due to the road work.

Attorney Hayden reviewed background on the project which was done with property owner involvement and some of the difficulties with the project including mail delivery.

Michelle Blasdell again addressed the Council regarding the lack of a contract or agreement prior to work being done and the lack of mail delivery after the fact. She noted her frustration in being caught in the middle between the City and the Post Office.

Attorney Hayden noted the City's willingness to work with the Post Office.

Steve Blasdell – spoke on the lack of preparation, notifications and arrangements on the project.

Mayor Dillon stated she will personally follow this project and try to facilitate in resolving some of the concerns and issues.

Councilmember Lemley – questioned the status of Hammer Heritage Square.

Mayor Dillon noted the pavers are all ready to go but the difficulty has been finding a cement contractor. She wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.