
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 14, 2007 – 7:00 P.M. – Community Center

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tony Splane, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith and Rick Lemley. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Nelson, Attorney Berg, Engineer Blair, Planner Moore, Police Chief Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (including March 6, 2007 Worksession)
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #59758 to #59876 for \$174,931.46
 - Payroll Warrants #39717 to #39808 for \$205,595.60
- Fire Department Chassis Purchase
- Wallis Leave Agreement
- Street Closure Request – North Cascade Ford – Ferry St. – April 15, 2007
- Interlocal for e-mail with Skagit County
- Waiver of Fees – Community Center – SW Little League – March 10, 2007

Councilmember Meamber moved to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried 5-0.

Proclamation – Sedro-Woolley Lions Club Day

Mayor Anderson read a proclamation which proclaimed March 31, 2007 as Sedro-Woolley Lions Day and encouraged all citizens to join in recognizing their 70 years of service to our community.

Mayor Anderson also announced the Lions Club upcoming pancake breakfast on March 31, 2007 from 7 A.M. – 11 A.M. at the Community Center.

Special Presentation – Kenneth “Stu” Earnst – 30 Year Employee Award

Mayor Anderson presented Wastewater Treatment Plant employee Stu Earnst with a plaque in recognition of 30 years of employment with the City of Sedro-Woolley. Earnst was applauded by all in attendance for a great job over the 30 years.

Public Comment

David Bricka – Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director addressed the Council and audience regarding some of the future plans of the Chamber. He also invited Council and Staff to attend the Chamber’s after hours event to be held at the Pavilion. He noted this is a joint event with the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

Special Presentation – Sedro-Woolley School District on Upcoming Bond (Approx. 20-30 min.)

Mark Venn, Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent addressed the Council and audience members regarding the cohesiveness between the City and School District. Venn noted various representatives from the School District and bond committee in attendance and presented a power point presentation on the upcoming School Bond. The presentation covered how the bond proposal came to be, improvements to be completed with the bond funds, advantages to the community and the cost to the taxpayers. Venn left a flyer which addressed frequently asked questions and addressed specific questions from the Council and audience.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Hall Update

Attorney Berg reviewed a proposed resolution for award of the bid to the apparent low bidder. The resolution would also authorize the Mayor to execute all the construction contracts and delegates authority to the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee to authorize change orders on a rapid basis. Berg noted that this was information for Council consideration at the next meeting. A reference check will be completed on the apparent low bidder and staff will be meeting with them prior to the next Council meeting. Berg also provided an update on the progress of the USDA financing package.

Police Chief Wood addressed the issue of street lights which need to be approved through the Planning Commission. He reviewed a local source for street lights that are replicas of street lights reminiscent of the 1930’s. Wood noted the business owner is willing to work with the City and has done lights for the City of Seattle and Safeco Field. Wood also reported on a recent meeting with Carletti Architect’s to review upcoming roles and responsibilities with the project.

Attorney Berg noted that unless anyone has objections, it is the Mayor’s intent to proceed with the proposed light. Berg noted that the choice needs to be reviewed by the Planning Commission for consistency with the Central Business District design standards.

It was stressed by both Attorney Berg and Police Chief Wood that if any one had any concerns with the designs of either the building or lights to let them know immediately because of the tight time line the City is on.

Engineer Blair discussed maintenance of street lights which is currently done by Puget Sound Energy and the particular light standard being considered would not be supported under their program.

Councilmember Splane moved to move forward with buying light poles from American Pole. Councilmember Lemley seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement – Improvement of McGargile and Fruitdale Roads with Skagit County

Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for the improvement of McGargile and Fruitdale Roads and proposed funding for the project. Berg noted that Councilmember Requa as a member of the committee has expressed favor of the road section plans noted on page 13 of the agreement.

Councilmember Meamber concurred that Councilmember Requa wanted it stated into the record his approval of the road section noted on page 13. Meamber reviewed the proposed road plan.

Engineer Blair addressed the proposed 11 foot combined bicycle/pedestrian facility which is separated by a planter strip and noted the plan is a compromise with a 60 foot right of way. Blair noted that there are a lot of houses along the way that were problematic in acquiring right of way.

Council discussion ensued regarding needed right of way.

Susie Williams – 1058 Wedmore Pl., questioned the purpose of having such a wide road, current storm drainage ditches along McGargile, effect of Brickyard Creek and access to plans.

Councilmember Meamber noted the purpose of the road improvements is to be able to provide a safe access and to move traffic easier. He noted the stormwater would also be addressed within the project.

Attorney Berg reviewed the process of the project which includes time for public comment.

Allen Brinson – 1397 McGargile Rd., questioned the status of extending the sewer line within this area.

Engineer Blair stated the sewer is a separate project but it is being coordinated and are looking at improving the sewer along McGargile.

Councilmember Meamber moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal with Skagit County detailing the terms and conditions of the construction of improvement to McGargile and Fruitdale Roads. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Council discussion ensued to include citizen knowledge of the project, limited amount of time to obtain grant funding, public participation plan timeline, levels of involvement and public hearing requirements.

Councilmember Meamber withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to have the Mayor send a letter out to the citizens on McGargile and Fruitdale Roads stating the City and County's intent to improve the road on McGargile and Fruitdale. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion 5-0.

Update of Chapter 17.40 SWMC – Sign Ordinance (*First Reading*)

Planner Moore stated the Planning Department and Code Enforcement Officer have received numerous complaints regarding signs around town. The focus of the complaints seem to be banners and temporary signs. The Planning Commission has been updating the ordinance in order to help the Code Enforcement Officer with problems of enforcement. Moore indicated the research for the ordinance was done by Ryan Walters who was an intern with the City. He also reviewed the process that has been taken through the Planning Commission to gather input from the public and downtown businesses. He then reviewed the proposed ordinance specifically noting the areas of change or additions.

Councilmember Meamber expressed concern that the proposed ordinance is not favorable for attracting businesses in Sedro-Woolley.

Discussion was held to include obstruction of scenic views, temporary signs/banners, off premise directional signs, continue discussion at joint meeting with Planning Commission and height restrictions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Clerk/Treasurer Nelson – pointed out the annual Impact Fee report was in the Council packets. She noted it includes the impact fees the City has collected as well as those it's collected for the School District. It also includes a listing of items that are expected the funds will be spent on.

Engineer Blair – noted a memo in the Council packet of cost reviews for the Highway 9 Sidewalk project. Blair stated there are cost estimates for both the east and west sides

noting that the west side was the least expensive plan. Blair gave the Council several ideas for consideration.

Council indicated preference would be to proceed with the West side, doing sections A,B,C & D.

Engineer Blair also stated there has been a lot of vandalism and theft at the street department which has resulted in the loss of gas out of the 5 yard dump truck, propane tanks and oil cans disappearing. Blair expressed interest in extending the fiber optics to the Street Department in order to install some security mechanisms.

Police Chief Wood – noted that Sergeant Wallis will be leaving as of Saturday and the department will be starting the process to hire an entry level officer as well as administrating promotional exams to fill his position.

Councilmember Meamber – announced the move of the Helping Hands Food Bank to their new location this coming weekend. They will become a distribution center for the County. Meamber also reviewed the features of the building and future expansion plans.

Councilmember Colgan – questioned the status of the Township Street project.

Engineer Blair noted because of the weather change paving should be starting tomorrow.

Councilmember Galbraith – noted it was his personal opinion that the West side of Highway 9 would be the best placement for the sidewalks however, he is going to canvas the property owners within the area prior to making a decision. He stated his excitement for the project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 9:05 P.M. for the purpose of potential litigation and real estate for approximately 30 minutes with possible action.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 P.M.

Councilmember Meamber moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1568-07. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.