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CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
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Regular Meeting of the City Council  
May 28, 2008 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tony Splane, Louis Requa, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Dennis London. Staff: Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Frieberger, Planner Moore Police Chief Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Calendar
- Finance
  - Claim Vouchers #63443 to #63578 for \$614,533.84
  - Payroll Warrants #42569 to #42672 for \$169,320.15
- Request for Out of State Conference – Library
- Street Closure Request – Blast from the Past – June 6 & 7, 2008
- Interlocal Agreement – EMS Disposable Supply 2008

Councilmember Colgan moved to approve the consent calendar A through E. Seconded by Councilmember London. Motion carried (7-0).

Swearing-in Ceremony – Police Officer Heather Sorsdal

Police Chief Wood introduced Heather Sorsdal to the Council and audience members. He noted she was a recent graduate of the Police Academy and had the honor of being first in her class, a fete that has not been done by any other Sedro-Woolley Police Officer. Wood also stated she had received numerous accolades for her participating in the physical and agility testing. Sorsdal was met with a round of applause.

Special Presentation – Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award

Mayor Anderson presented Debbie Allen representing the Wastewater Treatment Plant a plaque for the 2007 Outstanding Performance Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Allen thanked the Council for their continued funding which allows them to do their job properly. The Wastewater Treatment Plant staff then introduced themselves. Those in attendance were Carrie Crisp, Rob MacReady, Stu Earnst and Bob Blakely.

## Public Comment

Mary McGoffin – 268 Burrows Ln., addressed Council on a recent article in the Sedro-Woolley High School “CUB” newspaper. The article addressed the need for a teen center in Sedro-Woolley. She spoke of the drug and alcohol problems among High School students and requested Council donate \$5,000 towards a feasibility study to explore a youth center.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### Post Enactment Public Testimony on Ordinance #1612-08 (addressing essential public facilities)

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the process regarding the passage of Ordinance #1612-08 and provided a brief description of the ordinance.

Mayor Anderson opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 P.M.

No public testimony received.

Councilmember Meamber requested to be placed on record that he was not in favor of the Ordinance due to the references to Solid Waste, but understood why it was mentioned.

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### S-W Bark Park and Off-leash Area

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance which would make an exception for dogs to be off-leash within the fenced confines of the S-W Bark Park and allows the Mayor to make rules for the use of the park.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the topic constituted a first or second reading. The Council consensus was that the topic is to be considered as a first read.

Councilmember Meamber noted that in his capacity of Mayor Pro-Tem at the last meeting he requested the topic be tabled because he knew Mayor Anderson had certain views regarding the park and felt his action was done out of a sense of fairness in order to get all views.

Councilmember Galbraith expressed his concern of the proposed park being a small area and noted concerns of potential congestion and ingress and egress problems at Bingham Park. He suggested Riverfront Park might be the better park to establish a bark park in.

Councilmember Meamber concurred with Councilmember Galbraith.

Ed Blanton – 309 Hawthorne St., addressed funding issues and noted that it seems difficult to come up with funding for activities for youth, but no problem to fund the bark park. He reviewed numerous improvements at other locations that could use the funds dedicated for the bark park. He noted if dog owners want the park, they should take responsibility for the funding and not place it upon non-dog owners.

Lindy Christofferson – 16690 Mountain View Road, Mt. Vernon, owner of Skagit Dog Wash and a board member of the Skagit Humane Society and is deeply imbedded in the dog community addressed the benefit of having a dog park for people traveling through the community. She referenced Bend Oregon's success in their dog oriented town and stated she has no opinion on where the dog park should be located only that there should be one.

Glenn Allen – 316 Talcott St., noted he thought the dog park to be one of the better ideas the City has had in a long time but expressed concern of the location with ingress and egress. He noted Riverfront to be a better location.

Councilmember Lemley noted he concurred with Councilmember Galbraith and Mr. Allen's comments regarding the proposed location.

Jennie Burress – 741 Wendell Way, stated he agreed with Ms. Christofferson's comments on the need for a dog park. Burress noted she often goes to Bellingham to their dog park and it would be nice to have something closer.

Ellen Palmer – 935 Talcott St., noted she is looking forward to having a dog park and the ability to exercise her dog on a daily basis. She did express concern of the location and noted Riverfront Park would be the better location.

Mary McGoffin – again addressed the Council. She encouraged Council to go back to their constituents for opinions regarding the dog park and noted Council might be surprised by what the opinion is. She stated she believes Council underestimates the opinions of the public.

Julie Anderson – 900 W. State Route 20, spoke in favor of the dog park and noted she has been in touch with the organizer for the Anacortes dog park who has indicated they do not have any major problems. She said most dog owners are and will be respectful of the rules. Anderson reviewed some of the rules of the park located in Anacortes which include rules to provide safety to the dogs and their owners. She noted at first she was concerned of the area but stated it is about the same size as the fenced area at Tesarik Ball Field which she sees dogs and owners at all the time. She expressed concern of locating the park at Riverfront due to the possibility of the fencing being destroyed during a flood event.

Councilmember Colgan referenced the Fire Training Site and the break-away fencing they have because of the potential flooding.

Fire Chief Klinger explained the type of fencing at the training site and how it works in the event of a flood.

Councilmember Meamber commented on the location of the Anacortes Park not being in a residential area.

Councilmember Galbraith noted that he has spent many hours going door to door within his ward to obtain the opinions of his constituents. He said overwhelmingly people were in favor of the park but expressed concern of the location due to the congestion. He noted their opinions were the reasons he has expressed the topic of congestion and that it is not uncommon for other Councilmember's to go door to door as well.

Councilmember Splane – noted he has been door to door and his research has yielded about a 50/50 opinion of the dog park. Those not in favor believe the funds could be better utilized on youth activities.

Councilmember Requa presented a brief background report on the project and that the Sedro-Woolley Rotary has pledged \$5,000 plus installation of the fencing towards the dog park. He noted originally it was to place fencing at Riverfront Park but due to concerns of the Parks Department with flood issues they agreed to continue their support of the park at the new location. He also noted that the present caretakers at Riverfront Park have not been approached to oversee a dog park and may not wish to add it to their responsibilities. Requa said he has received many favorable comments in support of the dog park.

Councilmember London questioned that the proposed Ordinance which does not specify a location so it could be placed in any of the City parks upon approval.

Mayor Anderson noted London was correct. He also noted this was a first read and the topic will appear on the agenda at the June 11, 2008 meeting.

#### Signature Authority Ordinance for Contracts/Agreements

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the propose Ordinance. He noted it is the second reading of the ordinance and stated the purpose of the ordinance is to establish thresholds and process for approving contracts and delegating limited authority to execute certain agreements. He also stated he is working on a companion ordinance to address purchasing which will follow at a future Council meeting.

Council discussion ensued to include threshold amount, budgeted vs. non-budgeted and bid process.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to pass Ordinance No. 1613-08 An Ordinance Implementing A Process for Executing Agreements to Which the City is a Party and

Delegating Authority for Certain Limited Contracts. Councilmember Requa seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Possible Bid Award – Metcalf Street Sanitary Sewer Project

Engineer Frieberger reviewed background information regarding the Metcalf Street Sanitary Sewer Project. He noted there were three bids received with Granite Northwest Inc., dba Wilder Construction of Bellingham submitting the low bid. Frieberger noted that bids have been verified and recommends Council award the bid to Granite Northwest, Inc. in an amount of \$611,588.34.

Discussion ensued to include experience of contractor, project start date and effect on the upcoming Loggerodeo celebration.

Councilmember Lemley moved to award the Metcalf Street Sanitary Sewer Project to Granite Northwest, Inc. dba Wilder Construction of Bellingham, WA in the amount of \$611,588.34. Councilmember Colgan seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

### 2008 Budget Amendment #2

Finance Director Nelson reviewed Budget Amendment #2 which includes transferring monies budgeted for contracted computer services and equipment to create an IT Department and the receipt of a Homeland Security Grant by the Fire Department.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Ordinance No. 1614-08 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 1591-07 Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2008. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (7-0).

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

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reminded Council of the June 12<sup>th</sup> Council retreat to be held at City Hall beginning at 2:00 P.M.

Engineer Frieberger – introduced the newest City employee, Assistant Engineer Mark Stockton to Council. He also reviewed the upcoming roadway seal project to begin June 9<sup>th</sup> on Ferry Street from the highway to the railroad tracks. Other projects hi-lighted were the Township St. Sewer Project, SR9 Sidewalk Project and the Skagit Plant Intersections.

Planner Moore – addressed the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update which identifies flooding as a major concern in the plan.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the new vehicle has been put into service. Klinger reminded the members of the Police/Fire committee that they will meet prior to the Council work

session. He also commended Berg and Nelson and the finance staff for the great job on the City Hall open house.

Police Chief Wood – noted that Nick Goche a longtime Sedro-Woolley resident is completing his degree through Eastern Washington University by doing an internship with the Police Department. Wood noted he works Wednesdays during the day and Friday nights.

Councilmember Galbraith – stated he has been receiving numerous complaints again regarding trucks traveling Highway 9 and using their “jake” brakes.

Councilmember Colgan – commended the Police Department for their recent traffic control efforts on State Street.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the opening of the Farmer’s Market which will be open every Wednesday through the fall and reminded Council of the upcoming Blast from the Past celebration to be held June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to executive session for the purpose of possible litigation at 8:10 P.M. for approximately 15 minutes with no decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.