
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 12, 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: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiberger (Late), Planner Moore, Police Chief Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (including November 4, 2008 Worksession)
- Finance
- Claim Vouchers #64852 to #64995 in the amount of \$528,938.95
- Payroll Warrants #43744 to #43848 in the amount of \$241,275.24
- Professional Services Agreement 2008-PS-13 – Leonard, Boudinot & Skodje, Inc.
- Setting 2009 Budget Ordinance Public Hearing
- Final Acceptance – 2007 CIPP Sewer Project
- Resolution – Declaring certain property as surplus and authorizing its disposition (Resolution No. 783-08)

Councilmember London confirmed that the next Council meeting for discussion of the 2009 Budget will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 instead of Wednesday due to Thanksgiving.

Councilmember London moved to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Mayor Anderson welcomed Cub Scout Pack 67 to the meeting. He noted the Pack received a tour of City Hall prior to the meeting.

Public Comment

Harold Beitler – addressed the Council wanting to speak on the Sewer and Cemetery agenda items. He questioned whether he should address his comments now or at the time of Council discussion. He was directed to speak at the allotted time on the agenda.

Shelley Burgett – 415 Warner, questioned the status of the SEPA process with the Deluxe matter and the consultant selection.

Planner Moore noted that the last opening for the Request for Proposals has just closed and they have received a number of interested parties and they will be starting to review the selection process.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy Ordinance (1st Reading)

Finance Director Nelson noted the hearing had been delayed from what the budget calendar had noted in order to wait for the results of the fire bond. She stated the bond had a 55% approval but failed to get the necessary 60% to pass. Nelson reviewed the proposed ordinance and stated since the City is now over the 10,000 population threshold we are under a different set of rules. She pointed out that the City does not set the property tax valuations and reviewed the process for setting the tax levy. She noted at the request of the Mayor any excess not be “banked”. Nelson stated she reviewed the “banking” regulations and at the suggestion of the Auditor’s office wording needs to be included within the ordinance. Nelson referred and reviewed a graph given to each Councilmember showing the allocation of property tax for all entities with the largest portion going to the School District.

Mayor Anderson commented on his request for not taking the 1% due to the economic conditions. Council discussion ensued to include the amount for the New City Hall and the Public Safety Building.

Nelson noted that what shows on the graph for voter approved tax is the 1994 Bond for the Public Safety Building. The New City Hall addition is being paid by cell phone tax funds.

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

Troy Erwin – 124 N. Reed, noted his confusion of the discussion of the taxes and questioned the impact of the recent property valuations received from the County Assessor’s office. Erwin noted his confidence in the Council regarding the City’s purse strings.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:19 P.M.

Sewer Rate & Fee Ordinance (1st Reading)

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance and the recent review of the current rates. He addressed the Public Works Trust Fund Loan repayment which anticipated a \$2.75 per month increase in 2009. Berg reviewed commercial rates which are flow based and noted the senior exemption is not addressed the ordinance because the staff recommendation is to not increase their amount.

A lengthy discussion ensued to include the determination on flow based customers, review of a citizen letter addressing the flat rate vs. a flow based rate for residential customers, adverse impact of bi-monthly billing of PUD and high strength discharge. The topic of billing utilizing a flow-based rate was referred to the Utility committee for review.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:34 P.M.

Harold Beitler – 1017 Wicker Road, addressed the Council regarding the sewer rates and the fact that a single person pays the same as a family. He discussed the unfairness of the flat rate billing and encouraged Council to look at the fairness of the rates and change to a flow based rate system. Beitler addressed the Council and noted the control of the City is within the Council and that staff are only advisors.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:40 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution – Adopting a revised Solid Waste Management Plan

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the item was tabled at a previous meeting due to the question regarding whether the Solid Waste Governance Board had taken appropriate action. Berg noted the Solid Waste Governance Board had taken final action on October 15, 2008. Berg reviewed the goal of the system and the proposed resolution.

Councilmember London questioned change within document with Council discussion following regarding document language, pressure on the County, translation in sentence and addition of a recital to the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Requa moved to approve the proposed Resolution No. 784-08 adopting the 2008 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan as approved by the Solid Waste System Governance Board on October 15, 2008 and adding additional language whereas Sedro-Woolley's proposed language increased recycling, decreased waste to land fill and decrease rates whether it's done by public or private. Seconded by Councilmember London.

Councilmember Galbraith questioned the impact of the motion to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Motion carried (7-0).

2009 Budget Ordinance (1st Reading)

Finance Director Nelson reported on the changes to the first draft budget with the changes included in the Council packets. She noted a new fund was created due to State Auditor changes for reporting pass through accounts such as School District Impact Fees. Nelson noted the budget is balanced and is presented by fund with the public hearing scheduled for the next Council meeting.

Council discussion took place to include 2008 line items incorporated in 2009 budget, the Fire Department budget for hydrants and tuition registration (pg 21) for the IT Department budget.

Councilmember Requa made reference to the quote in the paper on the 2009 Budget cutting “stuff” not “people”. He stated he believed this to be the right action so that when the economy turns around the City can hit the ground running with the appropriate staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Skagit Symphony Request

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed a request of the Skagit Symphony to hold a Fiddle Festival at the Riverfront Park Amphitheatre. With the request a number of questions were raised including cost for rental. Berg noted that currently there is no rental policy for the Amphitheatre. Discussion ensued to include acknowledgement to the neighbors, process and responsibility of notification and realistic expectations. Council consensus was to allow the request and the topic was referred to the Parks Committee for review of rules and usage expectations.

Loggerodeo Request

Jeanne McLennan – President of Loggerodeo reviewed their request and plan to move some of the venues during Loggerodeo to Riverfront Park. The first phase of the plan is to move the Fireworks, Carnival and food and craft vendors to the park. She noted it is in the very early stages and in rough draft with knowing Loggerodeo would need to work with the Police and Fire Departments for further input. She noted that this year’s event is a four day event. The Woodcarving and Logging Demonstration would remain in their same downtown locations. Discussion ensued to include power use, food booths, possible contracting with SKAT for transportation and ability for better rides for the carnival because of increased space.

Councilmember Requa moved to authorize Loggerodeo use of Riverfront Park free of charge from July 1 through July 5, 2009. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (7-0).

Ordinance – Union Cemetery Rates

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance for the increase in Union Cemetery Rates. He noted that the current rates have fallen behind other cities, and the general budget is currently subsidizing the operation. Berg also noted the rate increases are assumed within the Mayor's 2009 draft budget.

Councilmember Lemley noted that the rates appear more than fair in comparison with other cities.

Harold Beitler – 1017 Wicker Road, addressed the Council regarding the increase of rates, the care of the cemetery, surveying of some of the burial plots being too small and the maintenance of graves in the old section along Wicker Road. Beitler encouraged Council to have the Cemetery committee try to find a group to help improve some areas of the old section. He also noted the fees for placement of cremains are too high.

Councilmember Splane moved to adopt the new rates in Ordinance No.1622-08, increasing the rates in the Cemetery. Councilmember Colgan seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Councilmember London – questioned evacuation procedures during floods.

Fire Chief Klinger reviewed the procedure of activation of the Red Cross for shelters. He noted the request is coordinated by the County.

Councilmember Lemley -- announced a presentation to the Food Bank from proceeds of the Founders Day events from JJ Cruiser's Car Club. The presentation will take place Thursday at 11:00 A.M.

Councilmember Splane – expressed concern downtown parking with the longer and larger pick ups sticking out from the parking spaces.

Councilmember Meamber – expressed concern of the of the ingress/egress at Rite Aid.

Engineer Freiburger noted he has looked at the Rite Aid site and believes the problem to be the catch basin. He will instruct the Street Department to see what can be done.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – held a follow up discussion regarding a previous discussion on the change of the Council meeting date. After additional discussion the consensus was to leave the meeting dates as they are.

Engineer Freiburger – addressed items on his memo to the Councilmembers on project status. He noted the SR20 Sewer has reached substantial completion as well as the McGargile CIPP project. Freiburger also addressed the Metcalf project which has some major concerns. The Township project is continuing north of John Liner, the CIPP project on 3rd Ave. has started

and is about a 1 week project. He also reported on the design status of the Fruitdale/McGargile and F & S/Skagit Roundabout projects.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the Volunteer Association Boots to Burn fundraiser raised approximately \$8,500. He also pointed out bond information which was provided in the Council packet.

Police Chief Wood – announced a gang awareness meeting to be held in conjunction with the Sedro-Woolley School District on December 3, 2008. Wood also announced that Officer Musgrove will be deployed to the Middle East for approx 9 months. He wished him well and stated the Department is proud of his military service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes for the purpose of real estate and personnel with a possible decision at 9:15 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 9:51 P.M.

Councilmember Meamber moved for staff to negotiate the purchase of two lots. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried (7-0).

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:
