
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 25, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tony Splane, Thomas Storrs, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Dennis London. Staff: Recorder Brue, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiburger, Planner Moore, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #65980 to #66083 in the amount of \$173,834.81
 - Payroll Warrants \$44708 to #44821 in the amount of \$189,861.18
- Facility Rental Agreement with Skagit Valley College
- Street Closure Request – Blast from the Past – June 5,6,7, 2009
- Resolution #794-09 Short-term Interfund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes
- Resolution #795-09 Establishing a Resource Conservation Management Policy

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar. Councilmember Lemley seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Public Comment

Tom Lazon – Valley View Road, Police Detective and President of the Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild addressed the Council on behalf of the Guild. He stated that the guild has appreciated the support from the Council and staff in the past and discussed the current tough economic times and pending decisions the City is facing regarding budget cuts. He encouraged Council to keep in mind the protection and safety of the citizens of Sedro-Woolley during their decision making processes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:07 P.M. for the purpose of personnel and real estate for approximately 30 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 7:37 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance – Amending SWMC 9.20.070 Making Cyberstalking a Crime

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the second read of a proposed ordinance which is a prosecutor requested ordinance. Berg noted the ordinance follows the state cyberstalking statute and recommends approval.

Councilmember Meamber moved to adopt Ordinance #1636-09 An Ordinance Making Cyberstalking a Crime. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Council discussion ensued to include whether the state has been challenged and state adoption date.

Motion carried (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Special Events/Parades Ordinance

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the first reading of a proposed ordinance creating a process of reviewing and permitting special events and parades as directed by Council at a previous meeting. Berg noted the process will alleviate the Council from being put on the spot without being able to conduct a risk assessment of the event.

Discussion ensued regarding escort of an organized procession, insurance requirement wording and interference with events.

Franchise Ordinance with Cascade Natural Gas

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg presented the first reading of a proposed ordinance to extend the franchise agreement with Cascade Natural Gas. He noted the current agreement is due to expire next month and representatives from Cascade Natural Gas will be in attendance at the next meeting to answer any questions.

Resolution – 2009 Budget Management

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the current status of the revenues of the 2009 budget, budget projections and the reality that faces the City. He discussed the impact of the new streamline sales tax and the current economic conditions which have resulted in lower sales tax revenues. He also addressed the already implemented spending freeze with the need to review in detail the current budget status. Berg reviewed the proposed resolution with four main points: Expenditures, Staffing, Furloughs and Benefits.

Discussion included specification of the furloughs being “unpaid leave”.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Resolution #796-09 A Resolution of the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, Implementing a Spending and Hiring Freeze on the 2009 Budget. Councilmember Splane seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Berg also pointed out that the final copy of the 2009 Budget is located at each Council seat. He stated this is the second year for the format.

Real Estate Contract Approval

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the request for the acquisition of 2.2 acres on SR9 for Fire Station 2. He noted the agreement includes a contingency period for ensuring the property will fit the need and that funding will come from REET money, which can only be used for specific items and not for day to day operations.

Councilmember Colgan moved to ratify the purchase and sale agreement between the City and Bartelheimer and to authorize a manual warrant in the amount of \$3,000.00 payable to Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow as earnest money. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Mayor Anderson commented that it has been hard to get excited about purchasing a new piece of property in light of being faced with the current budget woes.

Ordinance – Proposed code change to SWMC 16.04.110 – Lot Merger

Planner Moore reviewed proposed code changes to SWMC 16.04.110 regarding lot mergers. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 10th with no comments received and voted to recommend to the City Council that an exception be added to SWMC 16.04.110(c) which would recognize pre-platted lots of 4,000 square feet or more as retaining their development rights.

Council discussion took place regarding number of forced merged lots under current condition, potential applications on vacant lots, original plat dates (1930), old Sedro location, set back requirements and future plat requirements.

Councilmember Meamber moved to adopt Ordinance #1637-09 An Ordinance Amending SWMC 16.04 Regarding Lot Merger of Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Lots. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

Resolution – Adoption of 2008 Revised Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Planner Moore reviewed the proposed resolution and recommended approval of the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as Sedro-Woolley's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This will enable Sedro-Woolley to be recognized by FEMA.

Discussion took place on the lack of addressing urban flooding.

Councilmember Meamber moved to approve Resolution #797-09 Adopting the Attached Revised Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and Authorizing Mayor Anderson to sign the Promulgation Page of the Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – introduced Paul Budrow, who is the Police Chief of the Upper Skagit Tribal Police Department and is working part-time for the Sedro-Woolley Police. Wood addressed the great working relationship with the Tribal Police Department.

Fire Chief Klinger – announced Volunteer Battalion Chief Gerald Chandler has been hired as the Fire Chief of Fire District #6 in Burlington.

Engineer Freiberger – reviewed a memorandum regarding the need for an emergency repair on a sewer main in the 300 block of Talcott. He requested extension of the contract with Lee Johnson through April 30, 2009. This will enable time to work on a 2009 On-Call Services agreement and still proceed on the necessary repair.

Councilmember Storrs moved to contract with Lee Johnson and Sons and to extend the contract of December 31, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley Motion carried (7-0).

Engineer Freiberger also discussed the McGargile project and stated they are close to going to bid. The plan is to advertise for bids on April 9th with bid closing on May 1st. Discussion was held on the budget shortfall for the Hwy 9 sidewalk project and the use of savings on the McGargile Road project in order to stay on track.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to aggregate the projects and fund them with everything available. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilmember Colgan – requested to have the Police radar trailer to 1100 block of Warner.

Mayor Anderson – requested Planner Moore to present an update on the downtown signage.

Planner Moore reviewed the status of the downtown signage. He noted a questionnaire has been handed out requesting input on desires, theme, enforcement and changes. Some are starting to come back and the Planning Commission committee will be reviewing next week to come up with a proposal with a public hearing to be held at the next Planning Commission meeting to be held April 21, 2009. Moore understood the Council's desire to move quickly but stated he is concerned of upholding the public hearing process and to not leave anyone out on expressing their input.

Councilmember London – thanked the Street Department for their clean up of Walley Street.

Councilmember Splane moved to adjourn. Seconded by All. Motion carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.