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CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
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Council Work Session

April 7, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

The Worksession was called to order at 7:00 P.M and opened with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Dennis London. Staff: Recorder Brue, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiburger, Planner Moore, Fire Chief Klinger (arrived at 7:43 P.M.), Police Chief Wood and Librarian Peterson. Library Board Members: Gloria Brown, Beverly Ringhouse, Dagni Cole and Mick Boroughs.

**Library Board Vision for the Future**

- The Library Board members were introduced and Librarian Debra Peterson gave a presentation on the Library's vision for the future. She noted the present building was built in 1962 and the board would like to plant the seed for the future when times are brighter for a new building as they have outgrown their current space. The wish list for a new or acquiring an existing building that is currently empty and remodeling would be to include meeting rooms and space for activities such as adult learning, increased computer space, quiet center and reading room. Peterson reviewed their success with obtaining and implementing early learning grants and programs such as the Play and Learn Program and Ready for Kindergarten. It was noted the circulation for the library has gone up 22%. Some of the future goals would be to purchase locking shelves for videos, better book displays to include a home improvement section to help in today's economy and implementation of a Middle School Book Club. Discussion also included the revamped Library website, use of Council chambers for special Library programs, implementation of Discovery Boxes which was noted that in the five months since implementing they have been checked over 400 times, status of the Welcome Baby program, grant opportunities for a new building, County subsidy, partnering with other Libraries, upcoming book sale and Friends of the Library as well as current hours of operation (Monday – Thursday 12-8, Friday & Saturday 12-4).

**City Code re: Urban Village Mixed Use**

- Planner Moore reviewed the concept of an Urban Village Mixed Use and reported on a developer request to utilize the concept with construction of multi-family units prior to construction of the commercial component. He

requested Council consensus for the request but noted it was Staff's recommendation to deny. Discussion ensued to include the intent of the Urban Village Mixed Use with Council consensus being to complete any Urban Village Development with commercial first with housing to follow.

## **2009 Budget Issues/Cuts**

- City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the staff memo outlining the current financial outlook for the City for 2009 which addressed the reduction of revenue due to a decrease in sales tax and the implementation of the streamlined sales tax. He requested direction from Council as to how to proceed. Berg reviewed the Expenditure graph of the property tax funded departments (General Fund). He noted the previous direction from Council was to minimize the impact to the Police Department and minimize cuts to any one department and reviewed recommendations for twelve cuts, which if approved would result in a savings of \$399,826.94. Berg noted the challenge of the 2009 budget was to "cut things and not people" and it was believed there had been enough cuts to dodge the sales tax bullet. Staff was surprised by the figures from the streamlined sales tax as they were advised by the State the City would realize a neutral effect when in fact the City was a huge loser. He noted the House and Senate budgets include continued mitigation payments on the streamlined sales tax. Discussion continued to include Golf course budget being addressed with Budget Amendment #1, lack of business within the Building and Planning Departments, housing of project managers for the Fruitdale/McGargile Road Project and the SR20/F&S Grade Road Roundabout Project, scheduled meeting for bargaining with AFSCME on April 28<sup>th</sup>, layoff protocol, discretion of Library Board on cuts, budget freeze implementation, deferred equipment purchases, Parks Department staffing and need, support intent and concept of proposal subject to bargaining, library board process and reallocation of staffing. Berg noted the Fire Department cuts had already been addressed at the time of the 2008/2009 budget. Further discussion ensued to include the County's involvement on the McGargile/Fruitdale Road Project, role of the building inspector, ER&R purchases, deferred purchases and saving people over equipment.

Public comments were taken from the following:

- JoAnn Lazon, Building Department Permit Tech, addressed the request of furlough days of the AFSCME employees. She noted that while she doesn't speak for the union, a number of people believe that the furlough days should be City-wide and include all employees except commissioned police officers and the Fire Department should the union agree to a furlough program.

- Shane Walley, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, noted he can't say much until bargaining but questioned if the funding need is in the general fund and Sewer and Garbage are separate funding mechanisms and people from those departments take furlough days, how does that work to transfer over.
- Debbie Allen, Wastewater Department Supervisor, noted the Council has before them some tough choices. She noted that currently the Stormwater fund is being subsidized by the General Fund and encouraged Council to consider a rate increase for Stormwater to be self supporting as was recommended upon implementation.
- It was noted that approximately \$34,600 in the general fund was going to subsidize the Stormwater fund.
- Reta Stephenson, Utility Billing Clerk, addressed the special assessment from the Brickyard Creek Sub-Flood area which has increased the monthly billing amount by about \$500.
- Discussion took place regarding Stormwater and it was noted that the City is barely meeting the federal requirements as we stand.

Councilmember Colgan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember London.  
Motion carried (7-0).

The Worksession adjourned at 8:25 P.M.