
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
June 10, 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 and Dennis London. Staff: Recorder Brue, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiburger, Planner Moore and Fire Chief Klinger.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #66533 to #66612 in the amount of \$100,662.66 (Voided Warrant #66601)
 - Payroll Warrants #45274 to #45386 in the amount of \$246,170.46
- Street Closure Request – Loggerodeo 2009
- Final Acceptance – Parks Dept. Headquarters & Police Dept. Storage Building
- Finance Acceptance – 2008 CIPP Sewer Project – Veolia ES Industrial Services, Inc.

Councilmember London moved to accept the consent calendar as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (6-0).

Public Comment

Nathan Salsenia – 1001 River Road, passed out a launch point map for the 4th of July Fireworks. He noted the map is available on line at Loggerodeo.com.

Mike Kukowski – 316 Haines Ave, addressed the Council and complimented the actions of Code Enforcement Officer Michelle Miner with her response to a call regarding a 6 month old Pit Bull. He noted a lot of unleashed dogs within his neighborhood and expressed concern of the dogs becoming aggressive. He also spoke of a daycare within the area that has a pit bull on the premises and expressed concern for the children at the daycare.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 479 were announced and in attendance. They stated they were there as part of their requirements towards their communication badge.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bingham Park Lodge

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed background information regarding the recent bids for the moving of the Bingham Park Lodge building. He noted the bids came in much higher than expected and it no longer makes economic sense to try to continue the project. He recommended Council reject all bids and proceed with demolition of the building.

Council discussion took place to include cost of demolition, vision of the project and improvements necessary once the structure is moved.

Councilmember Meamber moved to reject all bids and proceed with the demolition of the old bakery building. Councilmember Splane seconded.

Discussion on the building demolition and why the hurry to proceed, no benefit to keeping the building and salvaging items from the building.

Rick Judd – 606 Cedar Tree Drive, addressed the Council noting he had been the one who did a remodel on the building. He noted there are some doors that would be worth salvaging as well as some of the kitchen equipment.

Discussion ensued on items that would be worth salvaging, how many bids were submitted and the locality of the bidders.

Councilmember Meamber called for the question. Motion carried (6-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Revision to 16.16 SWMC – Lot Boundary Adjustments (Boundary Line Adjustments)

Planner Moore reviewed the current policy for Boundary Line Adjustments that was approved in July of 2007 for applicants to do simple adjustments without a survey. He noted after a review of the SWMC Chapter 16 it was discovered that the code is more specific and the proposed revision is to correct the policy and bring it into line with the current code.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Ordinance No. 1644-09 to Adopt Revisions to Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code Chapter 16.16 Lot Boundary Adjustments. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan.

Councilmember Galbraith called for the question. Motion carried (6-0).

EXTENDED DISCUSSION

Parks & Recreation Discussion

Shane Walley – Parks Department Foreman addressed the Council for discussion on the Parks and Recreation Department. He spoke on the passage of a Parks Advisory Board. Walley stated they have been gathering names for consideration for the Parks Advisory Board and those names will be submitted to the Council in July for approval. Walley noted after the board is formed, a meeting will be held in order to form a plan for future plans. He also noted that there is currently no funding within the budget.

Walley reviewed some of the current programs that are being tried which include the Catch Kids Club After School Program in conjunction with United General Hospital and the upcoming British Soccer day camp for kids of all ages, both are programs which have little or no cost to the City.

Walley noted that he will also be meeting with representatives from the City of Burlington to gather ideas on programs that have been successful for them and gather direction on how to proceed.

He requested direction from the Council to direct the Advisory Board for 2010 projects. He also discussed plans for the Metcalf Ballfield now that the Carnival will no longer be using the site. Walley noted improvements envisioned for the fields to include a possible sprinkler system, new turf, billboards and lights. These plans however would require special funding.

Discussion ensued regarding a partnership with the YMCA on self supporting programs, the impact of the current economic downfall and the impact of the parks budget, lack of seasonal help and current staffing seven day a week with Parks rentals at full capacity and only three employees.

Councilmember Galbraith offered to make some contacts for possible programs with the YMCA and other agencies.

Walley addressed the FEMA and Swedilius properties with future visions to expand recreational activities and uses and questioned Council vision for this area.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted he would like to explore grant opportunities next year. He addressed the possibility of allocating some funds in next year's budget for this purpose and addressed the success the City of Mount Vernon has had with grant opportunities.

Councilmember London questioned limitations with the Swedilius and FEMA properties. Discussion followed to include the number of acres and the usage of the Bark Park with potential for expansion and improvements.

Walley again addressed the lack of funding within the budget to advance the movement towards the recreation opportunities.

Councilmember Galbraith questioned the usage of Bingham Park since the relocation of Parks Headquarters within the Park.

Walley noted the usage has increased since Parks Headquarters has relocated to the park as well as the other improvements that were done. Discussion ensued regarding potential future improvements with sidewalks and fencing as part of other road projects in the vicinity of Bingham Park in the future.

Walley closed his presentation by noting he has been around for a long time, seen a lot and believes the City has grown enough that Council should consider hiring a grant writer. He noted the payback would be beneficial and spoke of the successes of other cities.

Brett Sandstrom – 432 Talcott St. – representing Sedro-Woolley Teen Space, handed out a letter to the Mayor, Council and Parks Department advocating the need for a teen center and the groups wish to partnership with the City. The letter addressed the success of other teen centers and the benefit to the community in having one available. Sandstrom noted a partnership with the City would open the group up to more potential funding opportunities. The Center would be for all teens and would give different opportunities such as support, creativity and education.

Councilmember Splane addressed Walley noting some of the equipment being left out at Bingham Park overnight and expressed concern for possible theft.

Walley noted the area is locked, gated and under video surveillance.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the overall plan for the Parks relocation which included the addition of a small pole type building to house their equipment. Berg also address the use of the old Parks building which the Parks Department has vacated and is being used for storage of some of the larger pieces of road equipment.

Councilmember Galbraith gave kudos to the Parks Department on the maintenance of Riverfront Park. He noted a conversation with residents from Mount Vernon that were using the park. He said he questioned why they were not using a park in Mount Vernon and their response was “Riverfront is the best park in Skagit County”.

Discussion ensued regarding amphitheatre rental requests. Concern was expressed of musical expression by potential users, interplay of the Public Park and amphitheatre, the need to work on rules and regulation regarding use and the suggestion to have individual groups provide their own fencing. Council direction was to wait to see how Loggerodeo goes, to review the usage rules for Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon and to have the Parks committee meet to discuss.

Brian Verner – 300 Talcott St., founder of Teen Space, addressed the Council and spoke of the game assassin which is a tag street game with cars being played in Sedro-Woolley. He encouraged the City to partnership with their organization in order to explore grant opportunities and expressed concern of the urgency for a teen center. Verner reviewed some of the projects the kids have been doing to include serving for the Helping Hands Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Kirsten Verner – noted she has a partnership with YMCA and they are very interested in coming to Sedro-Woolley. She noted the need is there and they are eager to get involved. She also discussed the Safe Place program and the need for a program, which is based on community service. Burner stressed forming a partnership with the City and School District.

Discussion ensued regarding whether redevelopment funding was available for such a purpose and the need to keep any building centrally located as well as the need for board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Fire Chief Klinger – noted a memo at the Council’s seats he passed out updating them on the grants that have been applied for by the Fire Department. He noted he is waiting to hear the outcome of the applications.

Discussion took place on payment of the grant writer. Chief Klinger noted the grant writer they have used is specifically for Fire Departments and her fee is paid from the Fire Department Budget (Professional Services).

Planner Moore – highlighted House Bill 1967 – Prohibiting city expansion into floodplain. Moore noted with the help of Dave Williams of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) he was able to get an exception inserted and approved for allowable annexations.

Engineer Freiburger – presented an update on the F&S Grade Road project. He also noted the Fruitdale/McGargile project is underway with Fruitdale Road closed to thru traffic only. He also stated advertising for the 2009 CIPP project will start next Wednesday.

Discussion took place on dust control for the projects and the status of the Morgan building on Moore Street.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported after a review of the May financials the spending freeze seems to be working. He also reported on the sales tax figures and that the City will not be received a mitigation payment for the 2nd quarter. He noted Finance Director Nelson has worked 80-90 hours on reviewing the reports and finding errors. April sales tax figures showed a 22.6% decline with May at 20.18% over last year.

Councilmember London – reported he received a call from a resident of Janicki Cove who questioned the possibility of the City putting fencing along river. He noted he also received a request to see if there is some enforcement that can be taken at the old Skagit Ready Mix plant for clean up.

Discussion ensued regarding the City clean up of the area which opened the park as well as the lighting request which the County is not interested in pursuing. Berg noted it was a County road.

Councilmember Colgan – reported on the success of Blast from Past this last weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of real estate acquisition for 15 minutes at 8:32 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:47 P.M.

Councilmember Splane moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried. (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.