
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
September 23, 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, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Dennis London. Staff: Recorder Brue, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Planner Moore, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers # 67231 to #67335 in the amount of \$1,309,192.76
 - Payroll Warrants #46062 to #46170 in the amount of \$168,238.28
- Change Order 3 – Construction Contract 2009-PW-02; G.G. Excavation, Inc. Fruitdale Road and McGarigle Road Improvements Project and SR9 Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements Project
- Resolution #814-09 & Resolution #815-09 for SWFD Sole Source Purchasing

Councilmember London moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber.

Councilmember Lemley abstained from warrant #67275 payable to JJ's Cruisers. Motion carried (6-0).

Proclamation – National Job Corps Day – September 23, 2009

Mayor Anderson acknowledged the Concurrent Resolution #163 passed in the House of Representatives expressing support for designation of September 23, 2009 as National Job Corps Day.

Public Comment

Brett Sandstrom – 432 Talcott St., stated he had just attended the Public Safety committee meeting and spoke of the committee formed to expand the Parks into a Parks and Recreation Department. He urged the committee to explore the creation of a teen center, whether it be an independent center or City run.

Rick Judd – 1310 Fruitdale Rd, thanked Council for the handicapped sign in the downtown area. Discussion ensued regarding placement of one on the east side. Judd also addressed the new sidewalks on Hwy 9 with utility poles in the middle of the sidewalks. He questioned the handicapped accessibility of the sidewalks.

Dave Radosovich – 209 Ball St., noted he has previously spoke at a Council meeting. He commented on how nicely the people have maintained the heritage of the town and again addressed the methamphetamine problem and other city’s efforts to curtail the problem. He requested the City offer the citizen’s better protection. He also addressed the potential of the trail and income potential of Ross Dam.

Tonya Smith – 305 Bennett St., addressed the Council regarding her and her friends hanging out at the Hammer Heritage Square Gazebo. She stated that they use the gazebo as their “safe place” and have tried to clean up the area. She also noted that they are trying to change the behavior of some of the other kids who hang out and promised that they will not do any vandalism to the Square because they really want to be able to continue to have their “safe place” to hang out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Presentation from Students/United General Hospital Alcohol Resolution

The Skagit County Youth Coalition presented a power point presentation to the Council on their results to their project to assess alcohol advertisements in Sedro-Woolley. The group of students reviewed their project and presented their findings of their outreach. They also reported that their materials are now being used in a statewide tool kit to be utilized by other communities and they have won the State Exemplary Youth Volunteer Award for VOICE projects. The group also presented Council with a proposed resolution urging alcohol retailers to voluntarily reduce the amount of alcohol advertisements in their establishments by 30%.

The students were commended by Councilmember’s for their efforts. The students answered questions from the Council.

Brett Sandstrom – provided input as a Planning Commission member regarding discussions of the alcohol signage to be considered as temporary signs.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the resolution will not change the current sign ordinance. Planner Moore reviewed the current code and noted the ongoing problem and difficulty addressing them. Moore spoke of an upcoming meeting regarding code enforcement throughout the City.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve resolution #816-09 A Resolution for the City Council of Sedro-Woolley, Washington Urging Alcohol Retailers Voluntarily Reduced the Amount of Alcohol Advertisements in Their Establishments by 30%. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (6-0).

Presentation of Upper Skagit Hansen Creek Floodplain Restoration

Lauren Rich of the Upper Skagit Hansen Creek Floodplain Restoration project presented a power point presentation on the project highlighting the history and details of the project which is both a flood plain and fish restoration project. She also presented a timeline and funding of the project. She noted the project is due to wrap up construction in October with planting to be completed in November. Rich then answered questions from the Council.

Resolution – Adopting New Building, Planning & Engineering Fee Schedule Ordinance – Amending or Repealing Certain Sections of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code

Planner Moore reviewed the revised fee schedule and noted the addition of a comparison of existing and proposed fees to other cities which was prepared by Consultant, David Hanson.

Discussion took place on the Hearing Examiner fees and engineering fees, specific to engineering review, which have all been compiled in one fee schedule.

Councilmember Splane opposed raising fees during this time of down economy.

Planner Moore noted that the fees proposed do not have a direct affect on existing business or a business that would be doing a remodel. The fees bring the City closer to a user pay system.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg addressed the impact on a City budget to subsidize the Planning Department for developer costs.

Mayor Anderson also spoke of the needs of the City, lack of funding and a user pay system.

Planner Moore noted that most of the fees being increased are on residential development. He also addressed the impact to businesses within the binding site plan with discussion followed regarding binding site plans and an emphasis on being business friendly.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Resolution #817-09 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, Adopting a Building, Planning & Engineering Fee Schedule with the correction that the Binding Site Plan stay as is. Councilmember Meamber seconded. Motion carried (5-1, Councilmember Splane opposed).

Brett Sandstrom – questioned whether any discussions have been held regarding lessening impact fees.

Discussion ensued regarding a roll back of fees and leasing situations with examples based on the Port of Skagit County, targeted businesses such as tourism trade impact fee reduction and encouragement for the Port of Skagit County to purchase land in Sedro-Woolley.

Councilmember Lemley moved to approve Ordinance #1651-09 to amend or repeal certain sections of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code. Councilmember Colgan seconded. Motion carried (5-1, Councilmember Splane opposed).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Councilmember Splane – commented on earth movers using Ferry and Metcalf street because they didn't want to go around the roundabout. Discussion on the roundabout ensued.

Councilmember Colgan – noted an increase of traffic down State Street.

Councilmember Meamber – questioned the status of Waldron Street.

Councilmember Galbraith – questioned the gaps in the Hwy 9 sidewalks and also questioned the Planter just past Cascade Middle School.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted that the gaps are reserved for storm drain grates which are currently on backorder and will be in soon. He was unsure of the planter and will investigate.

Councilmember Lemley – reported on Founder's day weekend. He noted it was a great event with approximately 300 cars for car show.

Councilmember London – stated he appreciated the presentation on the Hansen Creek Restoration Project.

Police Chief Wood – reported that they are focused on traffic control due to the detours and the issues at the gazebo.

Fire Chief Klinger – addressed the handout on H1N1 info and announced the upcoming bid opening for the ladder truck scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported on the audit, which resulted in no findings. He also reviewed the revised public works notice for Metcalf Street closure. He stated he hand delivered notices last week and discovered conflicts with businesses annual sales so they revised the schedule to accommodate these businesses. Berg also addressed the repavement of Metcalf which will happen in the next budget year.

Councilmember Meamber – questioned any notification to the Chamber regarding the closure and the Halloween parade route.

Berg noted that the Chamber received advanced notice and has been very helpful in notification. He noted there is also a plan in place for rerouting of the Halloween parade route and staff is working with the High School on rerouting the Homecoming Parade as well. He gave an update on the roundabout project noting their will be a 24 hour period of full closure for the final lift paving of asphalt to be done on Monday, with one way traffic on Tuesday and open both ways Wednesday. He also presented a progress report on the Fruitdale/McGarigle project on behalf of Engineer Freiburger who is on vacation.

Councilmember Colgan moved to adjourn. Seconded by All. Motion carried (6-0).

The Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.