
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 12, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including November 3, 2009 Worksession Minutes)
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #67550 to #67646 in the amount of \$532,694.76 (Voided Warrants #67599-67604)
 - Payroll Warrants #46389 to #46498 in the amount of \$223,686.18
- Setting Public Hearing – 2010 Budget
- Fixed Assets Policy
- MOA with AFSCME

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

Public Comment

Ed Blanton – 209 Hawthorne, addressed the Council regarding parking in the downtown area. He requested Council consider changing the angle of the parking because of the difficulty with large vehicles that are parked and sticking out into the lane of traffic. He noted with the pending repaving and restriping of Metcalf next year it would be a good time to consider the change.

Dennis O’Neil – 109 Talcott St., addressed the Council regarding the trend of city cutbacks by other cities. He addressed an article in the paper regarding budget cutbacks in staffing and spoke of the impacts on citizens. He encouraged cuts be spread out among all departments. O’Neil also addressed the lack of coverage in the paper regarding cutbacks that City staff has already taken. O’Neil then commented on a recent theft of a boat within his neighborhood.

Patrick Moran – 588 Cook Road, addressed the Council and spoke of the spot the Police are in with kids running wild all hours of the night. He noted in the area of Food Pavilion

the kids hanging out and skateboarding down Cook Road all hours of the night. He stated the town needs a curfew.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy Ordinance

Finance Director Nelson presented a review of the 2009 property tax distribution. Nelson reviewed the process for setting property tax rates which she noted are confusing at best. She reviewed Voter Approved Levy's, noting that low-income senior citizens and disabled persons do not pay this tax. She also reviewed General Property Tax Revenues noting that because the population of the city is greater than 10,000 we fall under the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) levy limit factor and reviewed the impact of the IPD on setting property tax.

Council discussion ensued to include projected new construction, impact of approval of the one-percent and the difficulty in projecting the impact to each parcel due to too many variables.

Mayor Anderson stated for the record that he did not want to raise taxes because of current economic conditions.

Further discussion ensued regarding the declaration of substantial need factor.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:25 P.M.

Troy Erwin – 124 N. Reed St., addressed the County assessments last year. He stated he thinks the City is doing a good job in holding the budget down but thinks the people of Sedro-Woolley could help out a little bit more in keeping their streets clean and watching their neighbors.

Further discussion ensued regarding the new construction provision.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:28 P.M. He noted this is a first read of the ordinance and will be discussed at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance – Riverfront Park Amphitheatre

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed changes to the ordinance regarding a portion of the rental fee for the amphitheatre going toward a maintenance reserve fund. He noted the maintenance reserve fund will be addressed as agenda item #8. He recommended trying it for a year and see how it works and reevaluate at that time.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Ordinance No. 1652-09 an ordinance establishing rental rates and policies for the amphitheatre at Riverfront Park. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Video Recording of Meetings

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg addressed the test recordings of the last two Council meetings and some upgrades and adjustments that have been tried. Berg reviewed the process being used, which does not have any cost attached.

Council discussion ensued regarding whether the meetings should be recorded and better ways funds could be spent. Councilmember's Meamber and Splane objected to the meetings being video recorded. Berg emphasized that the current method has no cost factor.

Councilmember Meamber moved to discontinue video recording Council meetings for the internet. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Discussion ensued questioning the reason for not recording if there is no cost, process for video recording and a commitment to citizens for an open process.

Mayor Anderson addressed the benefits of video recording even in our current test method. He discussed the lack of attendance at meetings by the press and believes the method that we are doing via the website is a first step.

Motion denied 2-5 (Councilmember's Storrs, Colgan, Galbraith, Lemley and London opposed).

Councilmember Lemley moved to continue video taping for the purpose of attaching to our website at no cost. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Establishment of Building Maintenance Reserve Fund

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the Mayor's desire to establish a building maintenance funds with the 2010 budget. She noted while reviewing the existing code, it was discovered that some of the existing reserve funds were not created by ordinance and some of the names of the existing reserve funds could be better named to more accurately reflect their current usage. She requested Council consider the proposed ordinance. She noted this was a first read for the ordinance.

Council discussion was held regarding stricken wording and the Hammer Heritage reserve fund.

2010 Budget

Finance Director Nelson highlighted the Mayor's 2010 balanced budget. She noted there are copies available for public viewing and it is also published on the City website. She pointed out a comparison of 2009 vs. 2010 budget within the budget and noted at the next meeting a public hearing will be held. Finance Director Nelson stated that changes as a result of the Council worksession held on November 2nd have been included in the budget.

Council discussion took place regarding the request for the AFSCME union to waive their cost of living allowance.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted that the AFSCME union met and turned down the request. He noted as a result the budget as drafted shows one less position in the Street Department.

Contract – Banking Services

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the City's banking services with Bank of America for many years. She noted that during the past year Bank of America has drastically changed their government business model and has also increased prices. A request for proposals for banking services was taken in order to make sure we are getting the best services at a good price. She reviewed Washington State law which requires municipalities to do business only with financial institutions that are deemed qualified public depositories. She also noted there are numerous state laws that do make governmental entities different from regular businesses so the majority of the banks do have a public sector department to ensure they are in compliance with Washington State laws. Nelson stated she personally delivered proposals to the managers of each bank within Sedro-Woolley and responses were received from four banks (Bank of America, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo and Whidbey Island Bank). A review was conducted on the strengths of each entity and interviews were conducted with all four banks. Nelson noted that during the interviews all banks brought up the subject of warrants versus checks for debt obligations which she is currently researching and will bring a recommendation back to the Council at a later date. She did request Council to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with U.S. Bank for banking services.

Council discussion regarding pricing, services and references and experience.

Councilmember Meamber moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached agreement for banking services with U.S. Bank. Councilmember Splane seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – reported the Code Enforcement Officer is back to work and Officer Musgrove is back from the mid-east. Chief Wood also reported on the theft of the boat that Mr. O’Neil commented on earlier.

Fire Chief Klinger – reviewed a memo handed out to Council regarding the Fire Station 2 grant and EPH compliance.

Engineer Freiberger – reported on the ribbon cutting event for the Roundabout Intersection Improvements. He also hi-lighted the progress of various projects going on around the City. Freiberger requested action from Council regarding an equipment failure at the Wastewater Treatment plant on a Hycor Screen System. He requested Council approval for replacement parts in the amount of approximately \$35,000 from Parkson Company which is a sole source purchase.

Councilmember Storrs moved to spend from the Sewer equipment fund not to exceed \$40,000 to Parkson Company, as a sole source purchase for parts for the Hycor Screen System. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (7-0).

Further discussion was held regarding the ribbon cutting event, a sink hole report in the vicinity of Jameson Street and the City’s truck route map.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported on having met with a resident of the county who sent certified letters to the Council on issues on Fruitdale Road regarding our project. He noted it appeared to be the case of a misunderstanding and it appears to be cleared up.

Councilmember Galbraith – noted he has been admiring the new sidewalks on Highway 9 and has spoken with users who are thrilled with the addition. Galbraith also spoke on the roundabout ribbon cutting and stated he would have liked to have seen someone from the City to have done the honors of cutting the ribbon.

Councilmember Lemley – thanked City Supervisor/Attorney Berg and Engineer Freiberger for coming to the Rotary meeting to share information on the City projects with the members.

Discussion was held regarding the Museum building roof. The Council concensus was to fix the roof. Bids will be obtained and brought back to Council at another meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of potential litigation at 8:12 P.M. for approximately 10 minutes. No decision is expected.

The meeting reconvened at 8:28 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.