
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 24, 2010 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #68904 to #69012 in the amount of \$228,747.00
 - Payroll Checks #47422 in the amount of \$92.76 (replacing lost Warrant #45640)
 - Payroll Checks #47423 to #47529 in the amount of \$174,899.23
- Amendment 2 to the On-Call Professional Services Agreement No. 2008-PS-09 for Construction Phase Services – Reichhardt & Ebe Engineering, Inc. – 2009 CIPP Sewer Project
- Acquisition and Service Agreements for Color Multi-Function Copiers

Councilmember Colgan questioned the maintenance of the copiers in Item D.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar items A through D. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber . Motion carried (7-0).

Proclamation – Sexual Assault Awareness in Action Month – April

Mayor Anderson read a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness in Action which encourages every community to help put an end to sexual violence by working together to promote social change. The proclamation declared the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness in Action month.

Public Comment

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed his and the Mayor's recent trip to Washington DC. He noted they met with elected officials on various topics and met with several federal agencies as well. Berg noted good outcome regarding the County GI study. He reviewed Sedro-Woolley specific items which included the 2011 transportation items including the Edward R. Murrow interchange and the Railroad trestle. Most significant

was the meeting with FEMA regarding the Fire Station II Grant. They reviewed the grant and requested additional funding. FEMA indicated they would fund an additional \$135,000 - \$200,000. Berg noted the face to face contact was very valuable and recommended to continue the trip perhaps bi-annually. Berg noted that not all bills have been turned in but they are very close to amount authorized by Council for the trip.

Dominique Zervas – 709 Dupont St, Bellingham, attorney with Langabeer & Tull addressed the Council as representative for Richard Johnson. She noted Johnson owns property which part is in the City and part within the County. She spoke of Johnson’s goal to develop property within the City as an active retirement facility and in the future to annex the remaining 21 acres currently within the County into the City. Zervas said the project may require a buildable land analysis and recommended bringing in all stakeholders to participate in the land analysis. She stated her purpose tonight is to introduce herself and the project. She requested participation in discussions regarding long range planning for the area. Time was spent with Council questions regarding the property and potential plans to include a type of multi-family housing and an active retirement community.

Elyse Robbins – 711 Alexander St., addressed the Council regarding stray cats within the City. She noted stray or abandoned cats are becoming problematic and addressed an current ordinance addressing dogs. She requested Council consider a similar ordinance for cat control.

Police Chief Wood – noted that stray cats can be taken to the humane society.

Discussion ensued regarding the dog ordinance including the section on the duty to care for an animal, differences between dogs and cats when “at-large” , and State laws regarding animal cruelty.

Mary McGoffin – 268 Burrows Ln., invited the Council to participate in the upcoming “Tune up the Town” event scheduled for May 15th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. She presented pictures of City owned property that could stand minor maintenance and would enhance the looks of the City. McGoffin also encouraged Council to consider the “integrated design” concept which brings in all disciplines from the very beginning of a project. She noted it would provide for a better design, less re-work and provide landscape architect input.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fruitdale Sewer Connection Fee

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance to include a revised figure of \$3450 per ERU for the special connection area.

Council discussion ensued regarding the possibility of payments, benefits of a ULID, fixed fee for the special connection fee, cost of the regular connection fee, potential of increases in the future and new development versus existing home.

Councilmember Meamber stated he was glad to have sewer available within the area but didn't realize the cost at the time of the decision to include installation.

Further discussion took place to include the cost of annexation and concentration on infill.

Rick Judd – addressed the cost of a septic system installation (mound systems) and the cost of permits.

Discussion continued regarding sewer to septic costs being equal, basis for fee, using the current zoning for best information and growth and expansion of the sewer plant.

Patrick Huggins – read a prepared statement as a homeowner, landlord and small developer, expressing opposition to the special connection fee. He questioned the purpose of the impact fee and noted the impossibility to be able to plan and budget. He addressed the need for the City to maintain impact fees current and reviewed the circumstances and impacts to rental property during the construction process noting the necessity to lower rents.

Discussion was held regarding the notification via letters to property owners communicating the special connection fee upon completion of the project, change titles of the fees in order for a better understanding by citizens, credit for decommissioning septic and grant funding.

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1671-10 An Ordinance that Establishes a Utility Connection Fee for Properties Served by the New Sewer Main and Pump Station on Fruitdale Road. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

SWSD Impact Fee Reduction Ordinance

Planner Moore reviewed the proposed second read for the reduction in SWSD impact fees.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Ordinance No. 1672-10 An Ordinance Amending the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to Decrease the Impact Fees for the Schools as Requested by the Sedro-Woolley School District. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

Revised Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments – 2010 Docket

Planner Moore reviewed the proposed comprehensive plan docket and noted the addition of the revised zoning designation change east of Fruitdale Road. Moore noted no action was necessary at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – noted the offender work program is going well and the workers are making a huge difference in the looks of downtown.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported the drawings for Fire Station 2 have been submitted for building permits. Engineer Freiburger is currently attending a TIB meeting but wanted Council to know that the Fruitdale/McGargile project will be restarting next week. The work will take approximately 3 ½ weeks for final paving and punch list items. He also noted the City received kudos for the Independence lift station landscaping.

Finance Director Nelson – reported the audit is going well. There have been significant changes with the financial statements and she has implemented some 2010 changes early with favorable comments received from the Auditors. She noted they are moving onto the compliance portion of the audit and will be reviewing the federal compliance as well. The Cemetery is the department they have chosen to focus on for compliance.

Councilmember Galbraith – questioned the zoning of the Johnson property.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and Wood Fest festivities.

Mayor Anderson – announced a Complete Streets Workshop on April 27th at Skagit Transit Center and requested anyone interested in attending to notify him. He noted the focus will be on Sedro-Woolley. Mayor Anderson also noted he would like to address open air vendors as a worksession topic.

City Supervisor/Attorney – announced the next worksession topic will be the Public Operations 2010 work plan.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.