
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
July 14, 2010 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tom Storrs, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiburger, 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 #69675 to #69795 in the amount of \$122,523.18.
 - Payroll Checks #48181 to #48288 in the amount of \$237,907.93.

Councilmember Sandström moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (6-0).

Presentation – Ted Carney

Mayor Anderson introduced Ted Carney of Honor Buckle. Carney prefaced his presentation noting that all Honor Buckle proceeds go to disabled veterans. Police Chief Wood and Police Officer Eaton joined Carney at the podium. Carney read a statement which addressed the police officer oath and noted that the Honor Buckle is the highest gift of honor that can be given by a civilian. He stated Officer Eaton was nominated for this honor by a member of the community and his service is recognized, respected and honored. Carney closed the presentation with the Law Enforcement Prayer.

Carney spoke of the Fallen Hero Project which was born in Washington State out of the tragedies of law enforcement this past year and how sponsorship of the buckles works.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

PUBLIC HEARING

Possible Adoption by Resolution of the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2011-2016

Engineer Freiburger reviewed the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2011-2016. He noted this is a process that is an annual update of the City's proposed street program and it helps with federal funding by identifying and prioritizing projects. The document needs to be adopted by resolution and forwarded to the Skagit Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which will be distributed to the County and State. Freiburger noted the TIP identifies projects out to a 20 year project list, however only 6 years are necessary for the TIP.

City /Attorney Berg noted that Councilmember Splane was unable to be in attendance but wanted to be on record as against any roundabouts on main highways. He also expressed his opinion that if he were in attendance he would vote no on the TIP because it includes roundabouts.

Freiburger reviewed the purpose of a strong arterial system, addressed traffic counts on SR 20 and SR 9, noted plans for long term upgrades to the highways and spoke on the intent of arterial streets. He noted that the plan does not create any new arterial streets. The ones identified are already and have been considered arterial streets for some time. He also addressed the high accident rates on SR20 and SR9.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:22 P.M.

Al Doorn – Railroad Avenue – addressed Sedro-Woolley traffic problems. He noted that every city has a traffic problem, especially during rush hour. He noted it is rumored the City has plans for routing Highway 9 and Highway 20 traffic through residential streets and believes it to be a huge mistake. Highways are constructed to take traffic and Doorn expressed opposition to making big changes with the traffic pattern.

Chet Griffith – Transportation Director for the Sedro-Woolley School District, addressed the Council regarding the increase of traffic and population of kids, especially in the vicinity of Highway 9 and Jameson. He noted the need for more sidewalks along Jameson and believes the roundabout would help within the Jameson Street area. He stressed to keep in mind a bus will not accelerate like a car and addressed speed limits along Highway 9 and believes the roundabout would be a positive step to help the District's transportation needs and concerns. He also stressed the need for areas to walk where it's safe.

Council discussion ensued to include the number of busses going to Clear Lake/Big Lake, required walk area, change of school zone, speed limit, previous resolution passed requesting state to change speed limit, process for constituent request, limited access highways, speed limit will not solve the problem and difficulty with old/skinny streets.

Councilmember Sandström addressed the lack of sidewalks and sidewalk projects within the TIP.

It was noted that the TIP deals with transportation improvements and sidewalks are more of an internal consideration. Any major road project at time of design would take a look at safety issues such as sidewalks, bicycle paths and other traffic calming issues.

Ken Van Liew – 638 Jameson St., expressed concern of the project listing three lanes from Batey to Minkler.

Engineer Freiburger noted the project is not expected in the near future as it is very far down on the priority listing, but would convert the street from two lanes to two lanes with a center turn lane. Any project would have sidewalk/bike improvements included.

Van Liew also addressed kids walking within the area, property values and questioned the proper channels for being involved in the process,

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg addressed priority ranking and funding of projects.

Council discussion continued regarding Jameson Street and the attempt to reopen as it once was, neighborhood concerns of too much traffic and the need to address concerns of citizens, Jameson Street being the logical east/west vicinity, use of traffic calming devices, most use is by residents going back and forth and public process for projects once funded.

Pola Kelley – 407 State St., Executive Director of Chamber, stated she likes the idea of a roundabout at Highway 9, and it being time to be updated because it is not effective as it is. She stated she believes the current roundabout could have been designed better. Kelley spoke of the need to keep traffic moving into the downtown area and to keep in mind that business funds City Hall and the need to keep the downtown area viable.

Al Doorn – again to the podium, stated that 30 or 40 years ago the town was asking for traffic problems. He noted that if there is a lot of money to spend, take a closer look at traffic control methods.

Paula Gordon – 408 Jameson, stated she loves her little street. She said she used to live up river and used Jameson as a shortcut, and when she first moved to Jameson she was concerned of the traffic on the street. She noted she likes the roundabout idea as a means to calm traffic and addressed the need for resident input when the time comes for designing the project.

Councilmember Sandström noted there are legitimate concerns at the present time on Jameson that should be reviewed.

Discussion ensued regarding planters circle in residential neighborhoods and whether they are allowed on an arterial streets, proper forum for concerns being raised, inclusion at time of design of project and the TIP acts as a wish list of projects.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 8:18 P.M.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to adopt Resolution No. 831-10 A Resolution Adopting the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, 2011-2016. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs.

Councilmember Sandström stated he doesn't see why we would be doing transportation improvements without including safety for residents.

Motion carried (5-1, Councilmember Sandström opposed).

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted that the previous statement was not accurate, there will be safety improvements and the project that will be built will use all the engineering techniques of the day to make them as safe as they can possibly be. He cited the Fruitdale/McGargile project as an example.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Station 2 Change Order

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed a proposed change order on Fire Station 2 due to an error in design adding elements to the project with the location of the water line. He noted the bid set shows the water line on the west side of the highway when it is actually on the east side. He also addressed some issues with power pole location. The bulk of the change order should have been in the original bid set. All of the work is necessary for the project. Berg discussed the budget of the project and noted the error will be addressed with the design team about their participation. He requested Council authorized the change order and stated the funds for the change order will come from REET funds. Berg reported aside from this error everything else is going well with the project.

Discussion ensued regarding the error and who's responsible, need to solve the problem but retain the right to have a conversation with the full design team.

Engineer Freiburger discussed protocol regarding such situations.

Councilmember Colgan moved to approve Change Order 2 & 3 in the amount of \$80,415 from REET Funds and authorize the City Supervisor to approve them not exceeding that amount. Seconded by Councilmember Sandström. Motion carried (6-0).

Councilmember Meamber requested on behalf of all Councilmembers that they be kept informed on what contractor said, what is going to be done and what is he is going to pay.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted he will provide a report at each Council meeting on the status of the project similar to what was provided on the City Hall addition.

Discussion ensued regarding leverage for negotiating.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – reported that Officer Lazon is back on light duty. He reviewed fireworks over 4th noting they wrote about five tickets and how things went depends on who you talk to.

Fire Chief Klinger – noted the ladder truck is still on schedule for implementing into service the first part of August. He also reported that the Engine chassis is to be delivered August 8th to South Dakota with completion on August 16th. Assistant Fire Chief Olson will be heading back for the inspections. It will then go from South Dakota to Hillsboro, Oregon for final inspections which Olson will also be on site for and delivery is scheduled for September. Klinger provided an update on Station 2 and a report on the Firefighter Competition. He announced the Sedro-Woolley team came in 1st and the individual winner, Brendan O’Neil, was from Sedro-Woolley as well. He also noted the department was notified they were successful in receiving a grant for bunker gear.

Engineer Freiburger – reported on the Highway 9 Sewer Project. He also noted Skagit County is fast tracking the dissolution of the Brickyard Creek Sub Flood District which has been expected, but not on such a fast pace. He stated that 90 % of district is within City and he has requested a formal proposal on how to handle reserve funds, costs of maintenance and annual revenues. He noted there is not a lot of choice in this matter. He also reported on a Stormwater capacity grant in process.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported that the Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for transition to a new health insurance plan effective August 1st.

Finance Director Nelson – reported on the second billing of utility bills from our outsourced provider. She noted that they have been completing a certification of mailing addresses which should reduce the postage rates and noted that the last invoice was less than projected.

Councilmember Sandström – noted the success of Loggerodeo but stated the town would not have looked as good without the help of the Streets, Parks and Offender Work Program participants.

Councilmember Lemley – reported on some recent events within Skagit County. He commented on a car show benefit in the Town of Lyman for their Cemetery Fund and also reported on the Veteran’s benefit put on by Doyle Guffie at Riverfront Park. Both great events.

Councilmember Galbraith – reported at the Fire Station Project staging area. He said trucks are parking in the space too close to the road and blocking the view for cars trying to enter the highway from Alderwood.

Councilmember Colgan – commented that he believes the businesses are losing out on money by having Loggerodeo events at Riverfront Park and the location should be reconsidered.

Councilmember Meamber – concurred that the Carnival should come back to town. He thought the High school parking lot might be an ideal place.

Councilmember Storrs – noted the merchants are not happy with the location and thinks that Loggerodeo should be encouraged to relocate. He also noted he was turning in a “Red Sheet” regarding the intersection at 3rd Street and Talcott.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:53 P.M. for collective bargaining with the Police Guild for approximately 30 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 P.M.