
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
August 25, 2010 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
- Claim Checks 70013 to #70128 in the amount of \$548,014.53 (Voided Checks #70012 and #70111 - #70116)
- Payroll Checks #48506 to #48614 in the amount of \$175,814.48
- Resolution #833-10 – Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy (*removed from consent calendar*)
- Proclamation of September, 2010 as Homeless Connect Month by Mayors and County Officials in Skagit County Washington

Mayor Anderson stated at the request of Councilmember's, agenda item C—Resolution #833-10 Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy will be moved from the consent calendar for further consideration and discussion.

Councilmember Colgan moved to approve the consent calendar with the exception of item C. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (7-0).

Resolution #833-10 – Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy (*moved from Consent Calendar*)

Troy Erwin – 124 N. Reed Street, addressed the Council regarding two issues. He first addressed the need for a painted crosswalk at Highway 20 and Reed Street. He noted the heavy foot traffic with school kids walking to school. He also addressed Council with serious reservations on adopting a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy for the following reasons 1) it isn't needed and 2) concern for the future that special interest groups will use the policy to bind the Council when they might not wish to be bound. Erwin presented a letter to the Council regarding his opposition as well as listing other concerns against the resolution.

Engineer Freiburger addressed Erwin's concern regarding the crosswalk. He noted the grant that he is currently working on as part of the Safe Routes to Schools grant includes relocating the current crosswalk at Central to Reed sometime next year, providing being successful in obtaining funding. Freiburger did note if the City is unsuccessful in obtaining funding he would be willing to look for another solution.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed background information regarding the proposed Resolution – Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy. He noted the requirement was coming from the State and the reason for it is due to grant applications. Grant applications score better for cities that have policies. He stated in his review of the wording he believes it does not bind the city and most of the requirements are consistent with current practice. Berg also reminded Council they have the power to change or repeal the resolution at any time.

Council discussion ensued regarding establishment of committees, energy reductions within current energy policy, alternate fuels, review of wording in resolution (specifically #8) and a possible future resolution regarding ethanol gasoline.

Troy Erwin – again to the podium, stated he believes they are “buying” the City.

Councilmember Sandström pointed out that the resolution provides for sustainable cities. Erwin noted it sounds beautiful but in the future it may force the city to do things they don't want to do.

Councilmember Storrs moved to adopt resolution #833-10 A Resolution of the City Council of Sedro-Woolley, Washington Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy with the addition of “may” between “proclamation and consist”. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Public Comment

Rick Schaffer – owner of Cascade Physical Therapy and Sports Clinic, addressed the Council to bring attention to the prevalence of bars in town which affect the appearance and safety of the town. He stated that bars are not good neighbors nor do they create an atmosphere for business expansion. He presented a list of violations that he viewed within his parking lot left from the former Aloha Bar. Schaffer requested the City to create a mechanism to limit number of establishments. He presented a petition to the Council signed by a number of local businesses in agreement with his request. He expressed concern of another bar or establishment reopening next to his business.

Councilmember Sandström stated that he can as a board member of Loggerodeo, attest to the bar violence causing damage to the statues in town.

John Gross – 614 John Liner Rd, questioned how someone is able to get a business license in Sedro-Woolley when they owe a large debt for sewer fees. He noted he is in

the process of foreclosing on a business and has found out there is a large sewer bill attached to the business which he will have to assume.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg explained the business license process and the process for revocation of licenses.

Discussion ensued regarding lien methods and outstanding debt.

Julian Pavis – 519 Sapp Rd., addressed the Council regarding a neighboring residence having chickens which is currently against City codes. He noted current code requirements of only being allowed if on a 40,000 sq. ft. lot.

Discussion regarding number of chickens, necessity of abiding by the law, property rights, reasonableness of laws and use of discretion. The consensus was to refer to the topic to the Planning Commission along with the topic of bars.

Liz Gross – addressed Council regarding the lack of a Code Enforcement Officer on staff and the current process for minor type of infractions.

Terry Carter – 8868 Garden of Eden Road, addressed ongoing parking lot issues at the Catholic Church when there are events at the Community Center.

Discussion ensued regarding placement of signs, working with the City's facility monitor and better communication within rental packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Solid Waste Interlocal

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed a minor change made by the City of Mount Vernon within the Solid Waste Interlocal. The proposed change would preclude the county from using solid waste system money to sue one of the other members without a vote of the SWSGB.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached interlocal regarding solid waste management which includes changes proposed by the City of Mount Vernon. Seconded by Councilmember Meamber.

Councilmember Sandström questioned the history of the change.

Motion carried. (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Fire Station 2 Update

Fire Chief Klinger reviewed the progress of the Fire Station 2 as well as the upcoming work schedule. He noted the building should be completely dried in by the end of October and the contractor is currently on schedule. Klinger also stated on September 2nd the FEMA inspector will be on site and reported the appliances have been ordered and he is working on bids for furnishings for the building.

Planner Moore – reported on the FEMA open house for community outreach to present their draft maps showing revised flood levels around the County. He noted there was a good public response.

Councilmembers Meamber, Splane and Sandström commented on the meeting with concerns for the hospital, changes in the mouth of the river and mitigation by Burlington and Mount Vernon which appears will push water back on Sedro-Woolley.

Engineer Freiberger – reported the TIB application for the SR9/Jameson Arterial Extension Project will not be submitted this year due to the withdrawal of the ROW donation by White Pass Investments. Freiberger reviewed a memo regarding grant applications currently being worked on with several changes in engineer's estimates and DOT required matches. He requested Council to approve match increase. He also reported that the Safe Routes to Schools grant submitted at the MPO level was not granted.

Councilmember Colgan moved to authorize staff to apply for the grants identified in this memo and to commit the local match dollars identified in this memo. Councilmember Splane seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Freiberger reported on the utility committee meeting on the Brickyard Creek Sub Flood area. He noted a number of issues of concern to include easements and funding for 189 parcels outside of City Limits and the City is requesting to delay the transfer for one year.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – pointed out a copy of a rendering of the proposed BNSF Bridge Replacement. He also pointed out the 2011 Budget schedule. Berg stated there are no topics to present at the September worksession and requested Council opinion for cancelling the worksession. He noted the October and November worksessions will be budget related. He also reported that the first Parks Advisory Board will be meeting the night of the scheduled worksession. A joint meeting will be set up to meet with the Parks Board for sometime in the near future. Council consensus was to cancel the September worksession. Berg reported on the current dog kennel construction project being headed by Police Chief Wood in an effort to reduce some of our Humane Society fees.

Councilmember Storrs – thanked the Street crew for the intersection repair at Third and Talcott Street.

Councilmember Colgan – commended the Street crew for their work at 4th and Warner.

Councilmember Galbraith – clarified with Planner Moore the process for the Planning Commission regarding the development of different language for limited bars within the city and a policy on chickens within City Limits.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the upcoming Founders Day activities to be held the second weekend of September. He also questioned any criteria differential for classifications of a restaurant versus bar.

Councilmember Sandström – questioned the moving of the bus stop at Hammer Heritage Square and whether road stripping will occur at 5th and Talcott.

Councilmember Splane – questioned any committed funding for the BNSF Bridge.

Mayor Anderson – brought up the subject of impact fee collection which currently occurs at time of permitting. The City of Sammamish collects at the time of sale of the property and wondered if Council was interested in looking into their policy in more detail. Planner Moore further explained the process for collection at time of sale.

Councilmember Splane moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.