
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 22, 2011 – 7:00 P.M. –City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, 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 #73258 to #733356 in the amount of \$554,377.81.
 - Payroll Checks #51740 to #51847 in the amount of \$183,826.31.
- Amendment 1 to Professional Services Agreement No. 2011-ps-13 for construction Phase Services for the SR20, Metcalf to Township Lane Widening & Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvement Project – Reichhardt & Ebe Engineering
- State of Washington DOT Local Agency Participating Agreement GCB 1104
- Resolution 853-11 – Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposition
- Biosolids Contract with King County and BPI

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve the consent calendar Items A through F. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comment

Kelly Elder – an Ice Cream Truck Vendor addressed the Council regarding the new mobile vendor fee. He owns an Ice Cream Truck and his kids run it in the summertime for college money. He said he believes the fee to be discriminatory. He also noted he does own a house in Sedro-Woolley where pays he taxes through homeownership.

Discussion was held that included previous drafts and exclusions, intention of ordinance for stationary mobile vendors, recommendation to refer to the Planning Committee or to be a possible worksession topic.

Elder questioned the original intent of the ordinance and whether it included businesses that are run out of residences. He suggested having a possible exemption for businesses under a certain gross income.

Councilmember Sandström noted he had researched Seattle's ordinance for mobile vending and reviewed some of the fees.

Brent Kimball – 422 Longtime Lane, requested copy of ordinance and questioned the time frame of when it became effective.

The topic was referred to the Council Planning Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy Ordinance

Councilmember Splane requested the topic be tabled until a full Council can be present. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted that the property tax levy is required to be adopted prior to November 30th, should it not be adopted no tax could be collected for the year 2012.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed two proposed ordinances, one ordinance for consideration is for a 0% increase and the other for a 1% increase.

Mayor Anderson opened at 7:12 P.M.

No comment received.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:13 P.M.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance No. 1722-11 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Property Tax Levy at an Increase of 1%.

Councilmember Storrs stated he makes the motion because of the budget situation and the City needs to face up to their obligations. He noted the Council has not taken an increase in many years and the City has reached the point of need.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Splane moved to approve Ordinance No. 1722-11 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Property Tax Levy at an Increase of 0%. Councilmember Lemley seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

2012 Budget

In the absence of Finance Director Nelson, Mayor Anderson requested City Supervisor/Attorney Berg introduce the 2012 budget topic. He noted no action is requested, action is expected to be taken at the December 14th meeting.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the budget has been very difficult this year. The current draft Mayor's budget is now as a result of some changes that have been made and staff is looking at trying to locate an additional \$24,629 in cuts in order to balance the budget. He stated a discussion will be held regarding the impacts of collective bargaining on the budget later in Executive Session. Berg reviewed cuts already included in the budget including thirteen closure days and the layoff of one full-time employee. He also discussed the significant cost of the flower program and the possibility of cutting the program from the budget for an \$8,000 savings. He requested input from Council regarding their expectations of core services and priorities. He noted that staff has been doing a good job of doing more with less but direction from the Council was needed.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted thirteen closure days are built into the budget for a savings of \$150,000, also included are one time \$100,000 in permit fees from the Sedro-Woolley School District, plus fringe benefit cost increases of \$100,000. He noted as we look forward to 2013 things will have to be cut just to stay the same and there is no easy answer in this tough economy. Berg said revised pages of the budget will be brought to the next meeting which will include modifications as a result of collective bargaining and additional cuts. He again requested Council give some direction of their expectations for core services.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:21 P.M.

Kelly Elder – 627 Fidalgo St, stated he believes the last thing that should be cut is protective services. He noted it is the right of citizens to have protection and spoke of ways to get things done within the community.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:23 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Personnel Policies

- a. Wireless Devices
- b. Dual Insurance Coverage
- c. HRA-VEBA
- d. Insurance Coverage

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed personnel policies individually.

Wireless Devices -- This policy conforms to IRS Notice 2011-72 and allows for the incidental use of city owned wireless devices, but mandates monthly reviews by employees to ensure no additional cost is created for the City by that incidental use.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the attached personnel policy on Wireless Devices. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried (5-0).

Dual Insurance Coverage – This policy pays an incentive to employees, spouses and kids who are covered on another insurance policy. The incentive varies depending on the number of covered individuals removed from the city’s insurance, \$200 each for an employee and his/her spouse and \$100 per child with a maximum of two. Incentive payments are monthly and are paid into the employee’s HRA-VEBA account.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve the attached personnel policy on Dual Insurance Coverage. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (5-0).

HRA – VEBA—This policy expands the existing HRA-VEBA policy for non-represented employees to include dual insurance incentive payments.

Councilmember Lemley moved to approve the attached personnel policy on HRA-VEBA for non-represented employees. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried (5-0).

Insurance Coverage – A two tier policy for non represented employees. 1). Establishes the addition of an optional plan that non-represented employees may elect to utilize of a high deductible health plan with a linked HSA (health savings account) and a City contribution. 2). Represents a change in non-represented employees eligible for medical benefits on or after January 1, 2012 of how the City offers medical benefits to non-represented employees.

Berg explained the differences in the policies and also expressed concern about the change in 2)., as it may potentially impact our ability to recruit and retain future employees. He also noted there is no rush on the policy however, in order for employees to take advantage of the high deductible policy they would need to make the change during open enrollment in December.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the attached personnel policy on Insurance Coverage for non-represented employees with the change of March 1, 2012. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution – Establishing 2012 Closure Days

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the Resolution establishing 2012 Closure Days which represents a 5% pay cut for impacted employees. He noted a revised schedule was handed out to Council which coincides with the County schedule in order to be consistent. He said the County is looking at nine closure days while the City is scheduled for thirteen.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to adopt Resolution No. 854-11 A Resolution of the City of Sedro-Woolley Authorizing Unpaid Closure Days in 2012. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (5-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – reporting as a Rotary member presented a report on the recent meeting held for the proposed Skate Board project. He noted there is a good committee in place. The next meeting will be held December 5th at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall. The meeting is open to the public and they will be getting a number of skateboarders to attend.

Mayor Anderson noted the project Wood is reporting on is a Rotary Project and any money from the City will come from Park Impact Fees not the general budget.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the survival of the first big wind storm of the season.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – noted a conflict with the second regular meeting in January. The Council meeting date coincides with the AWC Legislative Action Conference. He noted he anticipates there will be four policy bills that he and the Mayor will need to be in attendance at the conference for. He questioned what other Councilmembers might wish to attend and also polled to see if there would be enough Councilmembers left in order to meet for the purpose of payment of the bills. It appeared there will be enough Councilmembers present for a quorum.

Councilmember Lemley – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. for the purpose of collective bargaining under RCW 42.30.140(4) for approximately 1 hour with a possible decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 8:42 P.M.

Councilmember Storrs moved to ratify and approve the contract amendment and Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME regarding impacts of the 2012 Budget and wages. Councilmember Splane seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Councilmember Galbraith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.