
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 23, 2012 – 7:00 P.M. –City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Kevin Loy, Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Engineer Freiburger, Planner Moore, Asst. Fire Chief Olson and Police Chief Wood.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Anderson announced the addition of Item 4A – Police Department Presentation to the agenda.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including May 10, 2012 Special Meeting)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #74415 to #74523 in the amount of \$608,951.49 (Voided Checks #74441 & #74506)
 - Payroll Checks #53037 to #53145 in the amount of \$195,599.76 (Voided Check #53132)
- Bellingham Technical College -- Student Internship Agreement
- Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County regarding Brickyard Creek
- Interlocal Agreements with Skagit County & other cities and towns regarding homeless funding
- Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for distribution of economic development funds
- Resolution 861-12 – Declaring certain property as surplus and authorizing its disposition

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar items A through G. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (5-0).

Special Recognition – Debbie Allen – 30 Year Employee Award

Mayor Anderson presented a plaque to Debbie Allen of the Waste Water Treatment Plant for 30 years of service beginning May 17, 1982. Mayor Anderson thanked Allen for her dedicated years of service. Allen received a round of applause from all in attendance.

Police Department Presentation

Police Chief Wood introduced Detective Jason Harris who gave a presentation on the First Quarter 2012 Burglary/Drug relationship.

Detective Harris presented a power point presentation regarding the rash of burglaries and what they believe to be a connection with recent drug arrests. He noted in January the city was experiencing one robbery per day. After several arrests and convictions the burglary rate has decreased to 5 for the month of April. He presented a brief overview of the process and procedure used for conducting buys and surveillance. Detective Harris thanked the City Council and City Administration for their support in allowing them to send the message that Sedro-Woolley does not welcome drugs.

Public Comment

Greg Reed – CEO of United General Hospital addressed the Council to extend the gratitude of the Board of Commissioners, Administration and employees of United General Hospital for the support of the City for the resolution passed during the last legislative session. Reed stated it was through these efforts that they were able to alert and educate the legislation as to the damage that their line of thinking would cause.

Doug Wood – addressed the Council as a representative of Sedro-Woolley Rotary and presented an update on the progress of the Sedro-Woolley Skate Park. He reviewed the donor board with a total donations of \$153,000 raised to date. Donors include Sedro-Woolley Rotary, City of Sedro Woolley, Skagit Ready Mix, Tony Hawk Foundation Grant, Truck Vault, Skagit State Bank, Sedro-Woolley Family Dental, Sims Honda, Jack and Shirley McIntyre Foundation. In-kind donations from Janicki Logging and Mike Crawford and a private donation from Councilmember Brett Sandström. He noted there are fundraisers planned and a Skate Fest planned for August. Wood reported that the demolition of the existing park will be starting the third week of June with construction to begin July 9th. There has been a lot of public support. The project will take approximately 8-10 weeks. Wood noted the more money that is raised the bigger the project they can build. He also spoke on the success and reputation of the Sedro-Woolley Rotary projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance – Creating the Sedro-Woolley Arts Commission

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance for the creation of an arts commission in Sedro Woolley. Berg introduced proposed members, Brock Stiles, Ron Fox and Debra Peterson who were in attendance. He stressed the ordinance does not commit to any funding but offers a mechanism for tax deductible donations to the general public or organizations.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the commission meeting would be subject to the open meeting act, funding or future funding, donation mechanism, maintenance issues, need for an inventory of available public art, Loggerodeo sculptures and possible placement of visual art within vacant buildings.

Brock Stiles addressed the Council regarding the proposed commission plans to inventory what is available in town and to develop a strategic plan with long term goals for the arts commission. Stiles noted that music and performing arts would also be included in their inventory and goals.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1741-12 An Ordinance Creating the Sedro-Woolley Arts Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Sandström.

Further discussion was held regarding lack of funds.

Motion carried (4-1, Councilmember Splane opposed).

Sales Tax for Public Safety Resolution

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted this was a follow up from the recent Council retreat held earlier in the month. He reviewed RCW 82.14.450 which allows the Council to authorize the ballot question of a 1/10 of 1% increase on sales tax for the purpose of funding public safety. He reviewed the limitations of the statute and discussed projected budget troubles for 2013 and the limited options for revenues. Berg reviewed details of taxing revenue and surrounding city per person tax amount. The resolution offers a choice other than continuing to raise property tax. The ballot question is drafted to limit it to Public Safety. Berg noted the Resolution was a first read.

Some discussion took place on a potential county increase for jail funding.

Berg noted the City issue is separate and the jail committee has yet to meet and there is no indication where it may be heading.

Utility Tax Rates Ordinance

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the proposed ordinance is another item from Council retreat. He reviewed the utility tax rates from the surrounding cities and noted the ordinance is drafted to implement the tax increase effective July 1, 2012. The recommendation is the amount collected in 2012 be deposited into a new fund created for the purpose of paying for code enforcement and civil nuisance abatement actions with subsequent years to be included as part of the general fund budget. Berg noted that the proposed ordinance is also a first read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Asst. Fire Chief Olson – announced that PUD will be doing water flow testing for the City Hall building on Thursday between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 P.M. The water will be shut off for the duration of the testing.

Planner Moore – reported that two notable projects Cascade Middle School and Sedro Woolley Bowling Alley plans are now approved. The bowling alley has a target opening within two weeks. Moore also reported the third payment from the state shorelines grant has been received. The funds will be kept in house as Sr. Planner, John Coleman has been working on the update rather than hiring a consultant as many other jurisdictions have done. He also reported the Planning Commission is working on the rezone of Rhodes Road, Urban village mixed use and criteria and rules for sidewalk cafes. Moore announced that Senior Planner John Coleman has passed the American Institute of Certified Planner (AICP) certification. It is a notable certification among planners. The test has a 53% pass rate which John passed on the first time.

Engineer Freiburger – passed out his report giving the progress of the various projects and status of each. He noted they will be starting the close out of the SR 20 Widening project and receipt of the last payment from the Skagit County EDC Grant has been received. Surveying for the Cook Road Realignment project has started and notification has been received for the federal functional classification request for the Edward R. Murrow project. Freiburger also updated Council on the 2010 Safe Routes to Schools grant. He then reported we were unsuccessful in obtaining the grant from Ecology CPG grant for composting.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – announced the County Commissioner public hearing on June 5th to consider modifications to Central Valley Ambulance Authority ordinance, specifically the modifications requested by the Mayors of Mount Vernon, Burlington and Sedro-Woolley to provide more representation for the cities on the board to address issues with the management and structure of the organization. He also announced a June 7th meeting at the county with the auditor to discuss voter registration billing issues. That day will also be a brown bag wellness lunch meeting with the topic being stress. Councilmember's are invited to attend.

Finance Director Nelson – stated one of the new auditing standing statements says we have to have an independent internal review of the statements. Nelson noted she handed out draft copies to the Mayor, City Supervisor and members of the Finance Committee and requested they review the report as a means to comply with this standard.

Councilmember Sandström – noted that the City's vision statement views the city as being friendly. In light of the statement he requested that when trimming trees the City contact the homeowner prior to the street department trimming trees. He believes the homeowner should be given the opportunity to correct the problem first.

Discussion ensued regarding enhanced levels of services, budgetary impact and time involved with Engineer Freiburger reviewing the current process and being sensitive to what is being trimmed. He addressed trying to maintain operations as efficient as possible and that the seasonal help is working on trimming and we may have a learning curve.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the upcoming Blast from the Past which includes a quilt show and car show. He encouraged everyone to partake in the festivities.

Councilmember Splane – highlighted an upcoming meeting on septic tanks in the Samish basin on May 29th at the Commissioners room. He noted that the map shown includes Sedro-Woolley.

Mayor Anderson – reported on some upcoming street closures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to executive session for the purpose of litigation under RCW 42.30.11.1(i) for approximately 15 minutes at 8:10 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:20 P.M.

Councilmember Sandström moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement with Fire Ridge with modification of paragraph 4 to be approved by the City Attorney. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Councilmember Storrs questioned whether it needed to be stated that agreement was with Fire Ridge.

Motion carried (5-0).

Councilmember Lemley moved to adjourn. Seconded by all. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.