
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
January 23, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson; Councilmembers: Kevin Loy, Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Keith Wagoner, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Wood.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #75971 to #76037 in the amount of \$297,519.18
 - Claim Checks #76038 to #76095 in the amount of \$66,694.93
 - Payroll Checks #54792 to #54893 in the amount of \$189,706.91
- Interlocal Agreement for Library Services with Upper Skagit Library District
- Interlocal Agreement – Provision of Community Services 2013
- Possible Bid Award – Public Works Agreements Nos. 2013-PW-7 thru 11, 13 and 14 Miscellaneous On-Call Maintenance Services
- Resolution 873-13 Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposition
- Misc. Annual Contracts/Agreements

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

Medal of Valor Award to Rhonda Lasley, Nicole Vojkovich, Bruce Engle and Citizen Certificate of Commendation to Robby Dean Powell

Police Chief Wood addressed the Council and audience to present a Citizens Certificate of Commendation to Robby Dean Powell for his role in helping to subdue a combative subject who was resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. Dean received a round of applause from all in attendance.

Police Chief Wood then presented the Medal of Valor to Rhonda Lasley, Nicole Vojkovich and Bruce Engle for their role in the rescue of a citizen from the Skagit River.

Rescue victim, Don Childs thanked the City for hiring excellent employees and thanked the quick thinking and actions of Officer Rhonda Lasley, Nicole Vojkovich and Bruce Engle. Their quick thinking and actions on that day saved his life. A round of applause was given for the recipients of the award.

Washington Coalition for Open Government Presentation to Mayor Anderson

Toby Nixon, President of the Washington Coalition for Open Government addressed the Mayor, Council and audience members. He noted the Washington Coalition for Open Government is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to helping people to protect their right to know what government is doing and to expand transparency and accountability in Washington State. He noted they accomplish their mission through a variety of educational programs, interventions in the legislature and award programs. Nixon presented Mayor Mike Anderson the Washington Coalition Key Award for his actions at an August 2012 meeting of the Skagit Council of Governments by walking out of the meeting due to the lack of proper notice for the meeting. Nixon spoke of the courage it takes to stand up to a group of peers and defend the public's right to know. He also noted the Key Award is symbolic to unlocking locked cabinets of records and unlocking doors of closed meetings. It is also representative of the key contributions the recipients make to protecting open government. The Mayor received a round of applause from all in attendance.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Nixon and the Washington Coalition for Open Governments for the award. He noted it makes him feel good but also helps to promote and maintain open government. He stated Sedro-Woolley tries hard to promote open government erring on the side of too much transparency. He stated Sedro-Woolley is the only town he is aware of with a two reading rule for ordinances and thanked City Staff and electeds for supporting an open government and taking it seriously. He especially thanked City Supervisor/Attorney Berg for being versed on open government laws as well as being an advocate for open government.

Public Comment

No comments received

NEW BUSINESS

Alcohol Treatment and Prevention Program Funding Discussion with Jennifer Kingsley

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg introduced Jennifer Kingsley, Director of Department of Community Services for Skagit County to address programs available to County residents

Jennifer Kingsley addressed the Council and reported the Department of Community Services is responsible for administering programs for mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, senior services, at risk youth and housing. She presented an

overview of the funding, role of the advisory committee, funding priorities, process of allocation and the budget for 2013. She also reviewed statistics of Sedro-Woolley residents who have benefitted from the program and the crisis center operations. Kingsley entertained questions from the Council.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg addressed the Interlocal agreement with simplified wording, noting that was how it should be. He also spoke of the budget challenges and the Council decision to continue to fund the programs through the Interlocal agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Planning Director Coleman – reported the Planning Department and Public Works Department has been working with property owners in UGA regarding annexation of property known as the Hopke/Salt property. Coleman noted it is 26 acres along Fruitdale Road and Railroad Avenues. The property owners are interested in annexation, dependent upon sewer availability. Coleman noted he was only advising the Council so they could think about it with a consensus to be requested at a later date.

A lengthy discussion ensued which included private sewer systems and various scenarios. The Council was asked to ponder on the information in order to give some direction to inform the applicant so they can avoid unnecessary costs.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported that he has been scheduling meetings for the upcoming legislative conference. Councilmembers Loy and Wagoner along with Public Works Director Freiburger and himself will be absent from the next Council meeting as they will be at the legislative conference. He also reported on the Business Development Committee meeting.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the passing of long time resident, Max Alaways.

Councilmember Storrs – reported on potholes developing at Walley and Bennett Streets.

Councilmember Loy – reported he was pleasantly surprised with the first meeting of the business development committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Skagit County Jail Project

Marc Estvold, project manager for the proposed jail facility addressed the Council noting the Coordinating Council was formed in July, 2012. He reviewed projected incarceration rates and the various options studies which included renovation/expansion of current facility, new construction and outsourcing and the process taken up to this point. Also reviewed were disadvantages to remodeling and expansion of the current facility, advantages to new construction to be able to identify future expansions and challenges with outsourcing on a long term basis. The recommendation is to build a new facility

with room for expansion. The proposed facility would be a 400 bed facility with 300 beds being operational. He also discussed the need for some outsourcing during the construction period.

Susan Musselman – financial advisor for the project addressed the Council to discuss funding options. She compared a bond proposition versus a sales and use tax increase and noted that a voter bond would be competing with school districts and hospitals and other public entities. She also reviewed the restrictions of a bond which can only be used for capital improvements noting that the sales and use tax can be used for both capital improvements and operating expenses. Musselman addressed the towns that have already voted for a sales tax increase to support Police and Fire services, noting the funding projections include the full 3/10 of 1%. She then reviewed the statutory formula of distribution. The funding recommendation is to bring forth a sales and use tax proposition to the voters for the August 2013 ballot.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the importance of pooling resources, recognition of a future need for funding, access to the facility, agreement on any excess funds, and timing targets in order to make the May 10th deadline. Musselman reviewed the concepts for an agreement to come together with a common message and goal and summarized the financing recommendation.

Discussion continued to include bed rates, pooling of city portion of sales tax and timing for the ballot deadline.

Councilmember Loy – stated he is more concerned with getting the jail built than the financing. He also stated that for him, outsourcing is unacceptable on a long term basis but stressed the need to look to the future with sight planning.

More discussion to include potential sites (Gunn Road, old Christensen Seed and Truck City) total build out potential for the Gunn Road property and all sites being for sale was held.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted the next Coordinating Council meeting is scheduled for Friday. It was the hope of the Council to be ready for a vote with remodel being off the table. Berg polled the Council for a consensus for voting. The Council consensus was to proceed with new construction.

Discussion again ensued regarding efficiency of operations of a new facility; backlog of outstanding warrants who are unable to get booked because of the current overcrowding, property tax rating system, 15% use of the facility is by cities and costs increasing by waiting.

A short discussion took place regarding County vs. City taxes and fees imposed by the County to the City with double taxing and the need to sit down and work some of the issues out.

County Commissioner Sharon Dillon addressed the Council regarding the 85% who include City felons. She said once someone becomes a felon they become part of the county costs no matter where the crime was committed or what jurisdiction picked the felon up.

Councilmember Loy commented on the importance of the Business Development Committee to attract more business.

Lynn Torset – 9419 Soren Road, Skagit County addressed the location of the court house to a new facility. He expressed concern with the high risk of transporting from the jail to the court house and believes a new facility with a court house built within would be better.

Discussion ensued on the current transporting procedures.

Tim Holloran – Skagit County Administrator addressed the need to respond to the City concerns about getting together to go over outstanding issues. He suggested scheduling a Work session to have the necessary discussions. He also noted that the County is responsible for all felons as well as the whole justice system which is what is causing the funding issues. Holloran also addressed the property tax vs. sales tax and questioned whether the Council would support a sales tax concept.

Council consensus was they would be willing to support a sales tax proposition and were against any property tax increase.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.