
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
June 12, 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, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Asst. Fire Chief Olson and Police Lt. Tucker.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Anderson informed the Council of a correction to Item C – Claims Check #76888 to #77010 in the amount of \$878,917.06 with the exception of Check #76982 in the amount of \$9850.50 payable to Skagit County Sheriff to be removed.

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #76888 to #77010 in the amount of \$878,917.06
 - Payroll Checks #55733 to #55844 in the amount of \$271,582.13
- Master Contract Usage Agreement with Department of Enterprise Services (DES)
- Possible Contract Amendment No. 1 – Contract 2013-PW-06 – Generator Services NW LLC
- Contract Services Agreement for Approval – Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
- Proposed Interlocal Agreement with Public Utility District #1 of Skagit County RE SR9 Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Improvement Project

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar Items A through G with the exception of check #76982. Seconded by Councilmember Wagoner. Motion carried (7-0).

Special Presentation – Shane Walley, Public Works Operations Supervisor – Retirement (Postponed)

Public Comment

Elizabeth Fernando – 508 Creek Lane, addressed the Council regarding an increase in loitering of young adults in the downtown area. Fernando expressed her frustration and presented examples of the behavior of the young adults. She also presented information on a “Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)” from the City of Wenatchee and requested the City Council and Police Department look into this program as a solution to the problem as a community base solution. Fernando also listed a number of cities with like programs.

Kathleen Cotten – addressed the Council regarding property she owns at 214 Moore Street. She stated she came into the building department to request a large hole be filled which was created by the construction of the retaining wall from the road construction project. She also addressed issues of a repair to her sewer line which was crushed by the backhoe filling in the hole. She noted after she came in she was required to obtain permits and was charged fees and penalties. Her contractor had recommended she file a claim against the City for the sewer line but she felt the attorney fees would be greater than the cost of the repairs. Cotton also addressed difficulties she has been having with potential buyers being able to get financing due to the zoning of the property and requested a residential permit in order to sell her house and a waiver of the fee.

Mary Arendse – ARE Realty, addressed the Council noting the property in question is not the only one within the City with this same issue. She reviewed lending requirements for non-conforming uses and the difficulty owners may have selling their property which is zoned commercial.

Discussion ensued regarding conditional use permit costs, methods to correct Ms. Cotton’s situation and damage to property during construction. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg requested Ms. Arendse call to set up an appointment to discuss the issues and try to come up with a solution.

Mary Carson Ford – 3480 Butler Creek Road, volunteer with United General Hospital’s fitness program addressed the Council to inform them of an upcoming fundraiser to benefit the expansion of the medical fitness center at United General Hospital.

Elyse Robbins – 711 Alexander, addressed the Council regarding animal control issues, specifically cats and questioned the City’s plans for an animal control officer. She also addressed vehicle traffic in her neighborhood which is excessive. Robbins questioned the number of animals allowed, animal welfare checks, process on how to amend an ordinance, noise ordinance, and expressed concerns that animals are an ongoing problem and suggested licensing of cats.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg advised Ms. Robbins that Council had received her letter.

Shannon Tolbert – owner of the Community Bowling alley addressed the Council regarding the activity of kids loitering in front or nearby the business. She noted

receiving comments on facebook of people not coming to her business because of the activity of the kids and also addressed a decline in revenue as a result. Tolbert announced their upcoming grand reopening to be held Saturday and Sunday with fathers bowling free on Father's Day.

Discussion was held on the issues with brainstorming of solutions and loitering laws.

Tolbert who is also the founder and owner of Skagit Valley Roller Derby spoke of her application for a change of use permit for a building located on Highway 20 and noted the cost of the permits are becoming detrimental to starting their business. She spoke of the potential of roller derby which is the fastest growing businesses in the nations and the loss of revenue to the city as a result of hosting bouts. Tolbert requested to be able to have temporary bathroom facilities while building permanent facilities in order to host bouts and a deferred payment plan.

Discussion took place to include potential options, payment of fees over time, changes to building code, trying to overcome reputation and advertising that Sedro-Woolley is business friendly and following through that we are business friendly, enforcement of building and fire codes, comparison to Burlington fees and new building versus existing.

Councilmember Galbraith requested to bring language back for Council consideration of a payment deferral.

PUBLIC HEARING

Possible Adoption by Resolution of the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Public Works Director Freiburger reviewed the proposed Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2014 – 2019. Freiburger noted a public hearing is required and the TIP has a deadline of June 30th.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:57 P.M.

No public comment.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:57 P.M.

Council discussion ensued regarding Jameson Arterial, priority of projects and timeline of projects. It was noted that projects are shown annually as list gets refined. Further discussion ensued regarding traffic volume, driven by growth of the city and the need for prudent planning.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to adopt Resolution No. 882-13 A Resolution Adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, 2014 – 2019. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs.

More discussion was held regarding open industrial land for business, lowering of impact fees, Nelson Street intersection and residents requesting a safe neighborhood.

Motion carried (6-1 Councilmember Sandström opposed).

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to SWMC 15.04 Local Amendments to Adopted State Building Codes

Planning Director Coleman reviewed revisions to the SWMC. He reviewed the process of the State to adopt the 2012 ICC code effective July 1. The ordinance formally adopts the state recommended codes and making a few minor changes to the codes to better suit Sedro-Woolley. Coleman noted to a certain extent the codes are to our discretion. He also noted the Fire Code is similar.

Council comment was made as to the format of the document being difficult to read.

No decision is expected as this is a first read only.

Priority of Payments to City Utility Accounts Ordinance

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed ordinance which would establish a priority of payment allocation to the City utility accounts. Berg explained the current method of allocation and stated the goal is to change the current practice to allocate in a tiered system in order to streamline and reduce the cost of collections.

Discussion ensued regarding lien fees, costs, collection practices and fund allocation.

Councilmember Sandström moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1775-13 establishing a priority of payments applied to city utility accounts. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs. Motion carried (7-0).

Ordinance – Repeal of SWMC 2.44 (Arts Council)

City Supervisor Berg addressed an issue of a dual role of the Arts Councils and conflicts with City requirements. The group met and believes in the value of maintaining a formal Arts Council which will be limited to policy making rather than eliminating the Council. An independent Arts Foundation will be formed for fundraising and fundraising events which would not involve the city.

The missions of the Arts Council and Arts Foundation would be fundamentally different. No action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Lt. Tucker – reported dealing with several foreclosed homes and issues with squatters. He also reported the new police officer, James Hannawalt, has started

working. He reported on the continued efforts of drug seizure. Lt. Tucker explained the department's involvement with the County "Smart Team" which is a multi-agency team that helps with investigations that overwhelm a department. Tucker proudly announced that his daughter was graduating with her master's degree this coming weekend.

Public Works Director Freiburger – updated the Council on the projects currently out to bid. He noted several concerns with the Third Street overlay which will be delayed to 2014 as a result.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – gave an update to the Council regarding the new/used ambulance. He also noted the Fire Department has been providing transports to the hospitals and has applied for a transport license through the State. Once the license is received we can charge for services. Discussions are being held with Central Valley Ambulance regarding compensation for such transports as we have no interest in self billing. Berg also reported the jail discussions are going well and anticipates an agreement sometime this summer.

Finance Director Nelson – reported the financial statements were submitted to the State Auditor's office by the May 30th deadline. Copies will be given to the Council Finance Committee for review prior to the arrival of the Audit Team.

Councilmember Storrs – reported a bank owned house on Metcalf Street which the lawn is becoming a nuscience.

Planning Director Coleman noted a letter has been sent just this week regarding cleanup of the property.

Councilmember Wagoner – has received a complaint about summer problems at Mary Purcell and Central schools with kids climbing over the fence. The citizen requested to have the School District turn on some lights.

Councilmember Lemley – reported on a very successful Blast from the Past.

Councilmember Sandström – commented on several of the Police officer participating in the beard contest for Loggerodeo.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M. to executive session for approximately 20 minutes for collective bargaining under RCW 42.30.140 (4) with no decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 9:42 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 P.M.