
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
August 14, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Kevin Loy, Tony Splane, Tom Storrs, Hugh Galbraith and Rick Lemley. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, 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 #77318 to #77458 in the amount of \$252,029.32 (Void Check #77349)
 - Payroll Checks #56187 to #56303 in the amount of \$273,837.81
- Possible Playground Equipment Purchase – Bingham Park Improvements
- Boulder Park Project Contract #01-1111, Change Order #1, 6-Hour Tillage
- Personnel Policies

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

Public Comment

Dennis London – 208 W. Nelson, requested the city approach the railroad for some property clean up to alleviate suspect activity within his neighborhood. He expressed concern for the neighborhood, city and students walking to school. He spoke of calls to the police, and questioned the location to the school relative to being a drug free zone. London also addressed the former Tree Source property at Walley and Rita that is in need of attention as well.

Dennis O’Neil – 109 Talcott St., concurred with London’s statements and noted heavy equipment will be necessary for any clean up. He spoke of the liability of the railroad once it’s brought to their attention. He also questioned the Metcalf sewer line, visibility with oversized vehicles in the downtown area and plans for striping at the South end of Metcalf.

Elizabeth Fernando – 508 Creek Ln., addressed the Council regarding comments made to her grandson by the intimidating kids hanging around and expressed her displeasure of no action being taken to move them out of the area.

Julian Pavisi – 519 Sapp Road, addressed the Council and staff regarding the city code on vision triangles and expressed his concern for the need of a Code Enforcement Officer.

Elyse Robbins – 711 Alexander, read a prepared statement into the record regarding her concerns with barking dogs and police action.

NEW BUSINESS

City Council Critical Goals and Objectives

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg stated that it is time for the beginning of the budget season and noted the budget is the most critical job of the City Council. He reviewed the budget process which begins with the Council's priorities and visions. He requested the Council review their previous goals and objectives. Berg also addressed the need for additional police officers and a code enforcement officer noting that how to fund them will be the issue. He also pointed out a budget suggestions booklet and the budget calendar in the Council packet.

Council discussion ensued regarding other agency proposed increases that will effect the City budget, law enforcement and public safety to be the high priority, funding and manpower capacity. Some philosophical differences were expressed with some of the items on the list by Councilmember Loy with discussion following regarding the need to create an atmosphere for businesses to succeed, definition of partnership with government and different entities, intent of the statement and revenue issues being solved by creating more revenue sources.

A revised draft will be brought back for the next Council meeting. Further discussion ensued regarding prioritization, to work in a different direction than a property tax and the need to address street infrastructure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – stated he appreciated the conversation tonight in regarding to the need for more police officers. He noted he had been with the City for 32 years and has seen the City go from a sleepy little town to what it is now. He spoke of the drug epidemic in the area and addressed the overtime the officers have been putting in and the toll it is taking on the officers. Chief Wood also noted the number of officers in the surrounding cities and towns and spoke of a broken society as a whole. Chief Wood stated the department works very hard and he is very proud of the department and the work they do.

Public Works Director Freiberger – reported on the Highway 20/Cook Road project with the detour to start next week. He noted the Highway 9 Sidewalk Project is a couple of weeks behind schedule and a notice to the Contractor has been send requesting their plan to bring the project back into compliance with the number of working days. Freiberger also noted the fence contract has been awarded with work to start soon. Also, in conjunction with the Highway20/Cook Road Project City crews will be making modifications to Bingham Park. The top soil from the project will be relocated to the park to take care of some of the existing ponding issues. City crews will be stretched over the next few weeks.

Finance Director Nelson – reported four proposals have been received for the accounting software. The first of two demo’s have taken place. Site visits are scheduled to view the software in operation with nearby cities. Nelson also reminded the Finance Committee of a short meeting to be held following the close of the Council meeting.

Councilmember Storrs – commented on the striping in the downtown area, the completion of the PUD project and the new football field.

Councilmember Galbraith – expressed his thanks to Public Works Director Freiberger for his hard work over the last six years and the ability to secure over 30 million in federal funding and grants for the infrastructure projects.

Freiberger noted it has been a team effort within the Public Works Department and staff.

Councilmember Galbraith – then stated he had stopped by a recent Roller Derby event and commented on the large crowd that the event drew and was pleased to see there was a resolve to the previous issues.

It was noted by staff that they continue to operate without having addressed the issues and they have not contacted staff for a meeting to work out a plan. Concerns were expressed with the large crowd in accordance with the fire and life safety code. Some discussion followed.

Councilmember Lemley – congratulated Finance Director Nelson for her receipt of the Washington State Finance Officers Association “Professional Finance Officer Award” for the fifth year in a row.

Councilmember Loy – announced the upcoming Skate Board Competition to be held at the Sedro-Woolley Skate Park on September 14th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M. to Executive Session for the purpose of potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i) for approximately 15 minutes with no decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.