
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 13, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

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

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 #77944 to #78055 in the amount of \$1,476,421.67
 - Payroll Checks #56855 to #56961 in the amount of \$256,569.72
- Interlocal Agreement for Functioning of a Skagit County Multiple Agency Response Team (SMART)
- Riverfront Park Caretaker Agreement
- Setting Public Hearing – 2014 Budget Ordinance

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve the consent calendar Items A through F. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Councilmember Lemley abstained from Check # 77988 payable to JJ's Cruisers due to his involvement with the organization. Motion carried (6-0).

SCOG Presentation – Kevin Murphy, Executive Director

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director of Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) presented an overview of SCOG. He noted their main focus is on transportation and forecasting for growth management. Murphy highlighted membership, structure, goals, priorities for 2013-2015, information sharing, staffing, Economic Development strategies and the revolving loan fund. He also addressed selection of projects, marketing of the revolving loan fund, funding sources and the benefits of membership.

Murphy then entertained questions from Councilmembers which included transparency and accountability to the public.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg arrived at 7:25 P.M.

Public Comment

Mayor Anderson read a statement outlining procedures for the public comment period.

No comment received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Possible Resolution – Citizens United v. the Federal Elections Commission

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reintroduced the draft resolution that models the resolution passed by the City of Anacortes. Berg noted the topic has been published for public hearing.

Police Chief Wood joined the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

Mayor Anderson stated he has received a petition requesting postponement of the vote. He noted since it has been advertised as a public hearing it will continue to go forward. Mayor Anderson read a statement outlining the procedures for the public hearing and testimony.

The public hearing was opened at 7:32 P.M.

Councilmember Loy addressed the Council to present information of an opposing view to the Citizen's United stance presented at the last Council meeting.

Public testimony was presented by the following people:

Cookson Beecher – 9641 Simpson Rd., Sedro-Woolley (In Favor)
Gail Nichols – 7802 West Shore Drive, Anacortes (In Favor)
Glen Bordner – Mount Vernon (In Favor)
Stan Mason – No address given (In Favor)
Kathy Reim – 23262 Meadow View Ln., Sedro-Woolley (In Favor)
Bill Schwinden – 17208 Chinook Ct., Mount Vernon (In Favor)
Noel Bourasaw – 810 Central St., Sedro-Woolley (In Favor)
Ken Winkes – Conway (In Favor)
Ann Winkes – 18562 Main St., Conway (In Favor)
Troy Erwin – 124 N. Reed St., Sedro-Woolley (Opposed)
Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., Sedro-Woolley (In Favor)
Don Smith – 310 Sapp Rd., Sedro-Woolley (In Favor)
Ginny Wolf – 8639 Ershig Rd., Bow (In Favor)
Nick Petrich – 18333 Eagle Pt. Ln., Mt. Vernon (In Favor)

The Public Hearing closed at 8:26 P.M.

Councilmember Loy moved to deny the Citizen's United resolution. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. The vote ended with a 3-3 tie (Councilmembers Galbraith, Lemley and Sandström opposed). Mayor Anderson cast the tie breaking vote. Motion carried (4-3).

Property Tax Levy Ordinances

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the first reading of the Property Tax Levy for 2014. She reviewed the allocation of the 2013 property tax and noted that Skagit County property owners pay a higher tax than those within the City. Nelson also reviewed voter approved bond tax revenues and General property tax revenues. Three sample property tax ordinances were presented and reviewed. Nelson noted November 30th is the deadline for ordinance submission to the county. She then entertained questions from the Council.

Discussion ensued regarding banked capacity and funding for police officers.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:37 P.M.

Mayor Anderson read a statement outlining the process for the public hearing.

George Walner – no address given, inquired as to how many police officers are on staff and questioned the need for additional officers.

Police Chief Wood stated there are 14 full time officers. Since the downturn in the economy the department has lost 1 full time officer, a full time code enforcement officer and a full time transcriptionist. He also noted that the call per officer is the highest in county and addressed the level of crime and their focus.

Elizabeth Fernando – 508 Creek Lane, addressed the Council stating their must be an increase in taxes in order to fund additional officers.

Troy Erwin – 124 N. Reed, addressed the need for additional revenue for an officer. He encouraged the Council to raise taxes. He also questioned the percentage of the police budget.

Phil Murray – 223 State St. questioned the property valuation in connection to the property taxation and questioned the recent vehicle purchase for the Police Department.

George Walner, again to the podium stated he supports having another police officer but believes the catch and release of criminals to be the biggest problem.

The public hearing closed at 8:52 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreational Marijuana Producers and Processors – Planning Commission Direction

Planning Director Coleman noted the Council passed a moratorium at the last meeting in order to have time to address the location of recreation marijuana processors and producers. The Planning Commission will be holding their public hearing next Tuesday and Coleman requested Council weigh in on locations.

Council discussion was held to restrict the production and processing to the industrial areas. Discussion also included the ability to restrict production and processing from the city limits and placing scrubbers to contain odors. The Council consensus was to limit locations to the industrial area with odor protections.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Modification to Municipal Code Regarding Parking Requirements for New Businesses in the CBD

Planner Coleman reviewed proposed modifications to parking requirements for new businesses and new buildings in the CBD. He noted this came to the forefront as a result of inquiries for a new market. He noted the businesses downtown depend on the city owned parking lots. Coleman also addressed new buildings in the downtown area in regards to parking. The Planning Commission held an open record hearing on July 16 and is recommending to allow new businesses or new buildings located in the area bounded by north and west by the railroad tracks on the south by the alley in between State and Warner Street and on the east by Puget Avenue/4th Avenue to use city-owned parking lots to accommodate the parking requirements in Chapters 17.36 and 17.24 SWMC.

Council discussion took place regarding parking, distinction of office versus retail parking, parking for residential/apartments above businesses, three hour parking limitation, competing parking, vacant lots in the downtown and existing buildings versus new buildings.

Utility Rate Ordinances

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed proposed utility rate ordinances to reflect an increase of 1.4%. He noted the proposed balanced budget includes the proposed increase. Berg also noted an increase in the haul fee on roll off containers to reflect market place increases. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting.

Clarification of the stormwater fees on ten thousand square foot ERU baseline was presented.

2014 Budget

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the 2014 budget ordinance. She noted the budget is available for citizen review with copies available in the Finance office as well as online. Nelson also noted the budget was presented in great detail at the last worksession. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted a change within the union Cemetery for repair of the driving lanes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Minor Contracts Approved Under SWMC 2.104.060

Planning Director Coleman – reported that A-1 Storage has come into full compliance with their storage units.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reported on the Sergeant Assessment held in Lynnwood and the glowing comments given on the Sedro Woolley candidates.

Finance Director Nelson – reminded Councilmembers that the next meeting will be on Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Councilmember Loy – commented on the State Patrol also giving glowing comments about the Sedro-Woolley officers.

Councilmember Lemley – reported on the need for turn arrows in the right hand lane in front of the Iron Skillet.

Councilmember Sandström – stated he was involved in a group conversation regarding the disaffected youth which Lt. Tucker was also a part of and he appreciated Tucker's comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:38 P.M. under RCW 42.30.140 (4) and 42.30.110 (1) (g) for collective bargaining and the performance of a public employee for approximately 15 minutes with no decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 9:59 P.M.

Mayor Anderson entertained a motion to adjourn. Seconded by all. Motion carried (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 P.M.