

-----  
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY  
-----

Regular Meeting of the City Council  
November 26, 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

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
  - Claim Checks #78056 to #78141 in the amount of \$248,098.45 (Void Check #78102, 78117, 78118)
  - Payroll Checks #56962 to #57065 in the amount of \$190,453.23
- HRA VEBA Agreement Update
- Amendment 4 to the Interlocal Agreement dated 10/18/2011 with Skagit County Conservation District – Public Education & Involvement Project in Support of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit WAR-04-555
- Resolution 891-13 – Cues Push Camera Purchase
- Award of Bid – Police Vehicle – Blade Chevrolet

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

Public Comment

Mayor Anderson read a prepared statement regarding the procedures for public comment.

No comment received.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### Utility Rate Ordinances

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg presented background information regarding the proposed ordinances to increase utility rates by the amount of the Consumer Price Index which is 1.4%. Berg also pointed out an increase in the Solid Waste ordinance of the haul fee in order to bring it into line with the market.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:04 P.M.

No comment received.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:05 P.M.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance No. 1780-13 An Ordinance Amending Section 8.04.075 of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to Increase Solid Waste Utility Rates and Charges by the Consumer Price Index. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley.

Discussion ensued regarding reasons for using CPI.

Motion carried (4-3, Councilmembers Loy, Splane and Galbraith opposed).

Councilmember Wagoner moved to approve Ordinance No. 1781-13 An Ordinance Amending the Fees and Charges for the Use of the City of Sedro-Woolley Storm and Surface Water Utility System by the Amount of the Consumer Price Index. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs.

Councilmember Loy addressed comments he has received regarding the increase and the strain on homeowners. Discussion also ensued regarding the necessity for a balanced budget.

Motion carried (4-3, Councilmembers Loy, Splane and Galbraith opposed).

Councilmember Sandström moved to approve Ordinance No. 1782-13 An Ordinance Increasing the Fees and Charges for the Use of the City of Sedro-Woolley Sanitary Sewer System by the Consumer Price Index. Seconded by Councilmember Storrs.

Discussion ensued regarding a fair playing field, taxes and fees creating problems for senior citizens and an explanation of the senior low income discount.

Motion carried (4-3 (Councilmembers Loy, Splane and Galbraith opposed).

### 2014 Budget

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the 2014 Budget and presented two budget ordinances. She noted that both options present a balanced budget according to state law. Option 1 includes the 1.4% utility rate increase as well as a 0% property tax increase and cemetery road repairs. Option 2 includes the 1.4% utility rate increase, the cemetery road repair and the addition of one police officer. Nelson further explained the funding concept for the additional officer. She noted the deadline to approve the budget is December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:17 P.M.

Elizabeth Fernando – 508 Creek Lane, encouraged the Council to pass the budget option with the addition of a police officer. She stated it was a step in the right direction and is a

show of good faith to the community. She also spoke of the need to have adequate police services.

Dennis O'Neil – 109 Talcott St., concurred with Ms. Fernando's comments. He also addressed the understaffing in the police department. He questioned the tax amount on a \$200,000 home and noted it was a necessity tax and is part of doing the things you don't want to do but need to do.

The public hearing closed at 7:22

Councilmember Sandström moved to approve Ordinance No. 1783-13 An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014 increasing the police force by one additional officer. Councilmember Storrs seconded.

Discussion took place with a request by Councilmember Galbraith as to how funding of the officer will take place, cost to put an officer on the Street. Discussion continued regarding raising property taxes as a way to bring money into the City, the need to look at the larger picture and come up with a bigger plan and stagnant growth. Councilmember Wagoner commented of the difficult times and his vote for those that are having a hard time. Further discussion regarding crime statistics, long range planning for more officers, senior low income and senior fixed income.

Motion denied (2-5, Councilmember Loy, Splane, Wagoner, Galbraith and Lemley opposed)

Councilmember Sandström moved to approve Ordinance No. 1783-13 An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Motion carried (7-0).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Property Tax Levy Ordinances

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the second reading of the proposed property tax levy ordinance and reviewed the special voter levies and the general property tax levies and the effect of both on low income seniors. She noted there is a November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to submit to the County.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to approve Ordinance No. 1784-13 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Property Tax Levy at an Increase of 0%. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith.

Discussion regarding banking took place.

Motion carried (7-0).

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

Planning Director Coleman reviewed as a second read the proposed changes to parking requirements for new businesses in the Central Business District. He reviewed the debate regarding parking standards with the consensus of restricting parking relaxation to new businesses and hotels. Coleman referred to the map for the area for the parking regulations which would allow the use of city owned parking lots to cover parking requirements.

Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance No. 1785-13 Amending the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to Allow New Retail Businesses and Restaurants in a Specified Area of the Central Business District to Use City-Owned Parking to Meet the Parking Requirements of Chapters 17.24 and 17.36 SWMC. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (7-0).

### Recreational Marijuana Producers and Processors – Modify Moratorium

Planning Director Coleman reviewed the Planning Commission review of recreational marijuana producers and processors to be allowed in the industrial zone. He noted a public hearing has been held and final paperwork will be forthcoming. Staff requests a modification to the moratorium while the paperwork is being completed. The request is to modify the moratorium which would allow producers and processors to apply and be located in the industrial zone.

Discussion took place regarding legal interpretations, extensive rules and regulations through the Liquor Control Board, potential taxes for a proposed business and the law passed by voters.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to approve Ordinance No. 1786-13 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Amending the Moratorium on the Siting, Establishment, Location, Permitting, Licensing, Operation or Maintenance of any Structures or Uses Relating to the Cultivation of Recreational Marijuana, Production of Recreational Marijuana or Marijuana-Infused Products and Processing of Recreational Marijuana or Marijuana-Infused Products. Seconded by Councilmember Sandström. Motion Carried (6-1, Councilmember Splane opposed).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Bayview Ridge UGA Resolution

Mayor Anderson introduced the proposed resolution regarding the Bayview Ridge UGA.

Tim Rosenhan –10479 Wollen Rd, Samish Island, presented his background in aviation and gave a presentation on conflicts between the planned Bayview Ridge new town and the airport. He addressed changed conditions and population forecasts being down from when first the Bayview Ridge concept was conceived. He also addressed the role of the airport and changes with the value of the airport to the area, conflicts of residential areas

being too close to airports, growth management act taking away farmland and competition with industrial sites.

Discussion of siting of schools within the area and regulations required took place.

Mayor Anderson noted the County is proposing to discuss the topic with a possible vote at their meeting the first week of December.

Councilmember Sandström moved to adopt Resolution No. 892-13 A Resolution Expressing Concerns and Asking the Skagit County Commissioners to Protect the Skagit Regional Airport and the Economic Future of All of Skagit County by Abandoning the Bayview Ridge UGA Proposal. Seconded by Councilmember Wagoner. Motion carried (7-0).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

### Minor Contracts Approved Under SWMC 2.104.060

Police Lt. Tucker – reported on making progress on several vehicles parked on sidewalks and the removal of junk vehicles. Lt. Tucker announced the promotion of Jason Harris to Sergeant beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted interviews for Harris' current detective position will be held with the senior patrol officers soon. He also reviewed the new model vehicle approved for purchase and updated Council on the status of the new computer system in the cars. He thanked the Council for their comments regarding the need for more officers. Lt. Tucker also addressed comments regarding Marijuana processing. He also reported on a meeting at “The Place” to address problems in the downtown and a planned art project.

Asst. Fire Chief Olson – reported on a recent MCO drill for the evaluation of practical skills noting that everyone did an excellent job. He also noted the department had two very challenging car accidents recently.

Planning Director Coleman – reported the Planning Commission is working on the housing element update to be brought to Council in early 2014 and addressed progress being made on the abandoned homes on Cook Road.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported that the stage two work has been completed on the Highway 20 project. PSE will be through within the next couple of weeks to install the last of the lights on Murrow Street. Freiburger pointed out his report for change orders and reported on the progress of the Bingham Park project. He reported on the recent TIB Board meeting and reviewed grants applied for noting that the City was successful in receiving a grant for sidewalks at SR20/SR9 to Harrison. Freiburger reported the SR9/Bike Pedestrian project is now complete.

Councilmember Loy – commented that Murrow Street is getting a lot of traffic.

Councilmember Lemley – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Splane moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.