
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
October 22, 2014 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Germaine Kornegay, Brenda Kinzer, Keith Wagoner, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Brett Sandström. Staff: Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief Tucker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #180203 – 180281 Plus EFT's in the amount of \$497,788.93
 - Payroll Checks #58324 to #58340 Plus EFT's in the amount of \$219,575.80
- Public Works Trust Fund – Loan Repayment Date Amendment to Loan Agreement/Contract PW-05-691-PRE-105, PW-06-962-038 & PC08-951-039
- Interlocal Agreement with Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101 for construction of a new Babe Ruth sized Ball Field at Janicki Fields
- Possible Playground Equipment Purchase – Riverfront Park Improvements

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve the consent calendar A through F. Seconded by Councilmember Wagoner. Motion carried (6-0).

Public Comment

No comment received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg introduced all six of the revenue items on the agenda as a whole.

Item 5 – Transportation Benefit District, Berg noted this was a follow-up from the Council's March 5, 2014 meeting. He addressed the 2015 Budget and noted the city continues to maintain operations of the City by spending savings. The transportation projects will be out of transportation impact fees and REET funding in 2015 and finding match money for grant opportunities will be difficult. Berg highlighted information on the function of the Transportation Benefit District.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 6 – Increasing Sewer, Storm Drainage and Solid Waste Utility Rates by the Consumer Price Index. Berg noted that a couple of years ago Council implemented an annual automatic increase in utilities to maintain a rate structure that doesn't require giant steps. He noted that former Councilmember Splane was against the concept, believing that the Council should manage any rate increase. The three proposed ordinances would increase rates by the CPI in the amount of 1.99%. Berg commented that within the 2015 Budget a rate study has been proposed.

Item 7 – Imposing the City Utility Tax on Domestic Water. City Supervisor/Attorney Berg spoke on the proposal and a recent court case which clarified cities authority to tax on water the same as garbage, storm water and sewer. He noted the estimated revenue would be approximately \$106,000 per year. The City would need to be fiscally responsible and recommended placing part of the amount towards payment of the City Hall with the remaining amount placed into a Council controlled fund for a specific purpose.

Item 8 – Property Tax Levy, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed several available options as in the past, stating the choices are 0%, 1% and up to 2.44% banked capacity. He also reviewed the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe request to be taken off the tax roles and the impact it may have on the city. He also addressed deadlines of both the tribes request and the property tax deadlines. Berg then reviewed charts and graphs of how the property taxes are split up.

Council discussion ensued regarding correlation between the cost of utilities and CPI, building of emergency and savings funds from the tax on water, proposal based upon building debt, public safety bond final payment, taxes within city limits, tribal leasehold tax and the use of funds for the Transportation Benefit District.

Public Works Director Freiburger reviewed budgeting of the funds for sidewalks and street repairs. He also addressed the needs for pavement restoration, pavement management analysis, American Disabilities Act inventory and transition plan, good faith efforts being made and alternatives for match funds.

Tony Splane – 714 Sapp Road, addressed the Council regarding the difficulty for the people on fixed incomes and difficulties for them to stay in their homes with increasing taxes.

Finance Director Nelson addressed the income levels for the general property tax exemption. She also noted that qualified seniors or disabled persons are exempt from special bonds.

Council consensus is to bring back proposed ordinances.

Ordinances Amending SWMC 9.42.010 and SWMC 9.46.020 Regarding Disorderly Conduct

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted this item was requested by the City Prosecuting Attorney. He reviewed the current ordinances and proposed changes. The proposed changes would add to SWMC 9.46 under the public disturbance noise ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding amount of fine, consistency with other noise ordinances and barking dogs.

Ordinance Adding a New Section to SWMC 10.44 Regarding No Parking on Grass in City Rights of Way and Unattended Trailers

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg updated Council on code enforcement actions at 608 Sterling and 1024 Cook Road. He then reviewed the proposed ordinance that would prohibit parking on the grass or landscaped portion of the right-of-way behind a barrier curb and limit the time an unattached trailer may be left on the city rights-of-way.

Some discussion of the two reading rule took place as well as the inclusion of campers and utility trailers and parking on sidewalks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Finance Director Nelson – reported on the State Auditors Exit Conference. She noted there were no finding or management letters. She also reported on the Standard and Poor’s rating of the sewer revenue bonds as AA- which is one step higher than the general obligation bonds are rated.

Mayor Anderson noted the great job that Finance Director Nelson does for the City.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – noted the letter placed in the packet from the Skagit County Commissioners regarding the reopening of a mental health facility at the Northern State site. He noted while he understands the need, it conflicts with the revitalization efforts of the City, Port and County.

Discussion ensued regarding getting clarification from the County and the need for mental health services.

Public Works Director Freiberger – updated Council on the status of the SR9/Cook Road Project. He also reported on the SR9//Bicycle Pedestrian project, LED Retrofit project, Riverfront Park Lift Station and the Greenstreet Blvd. Sewer Project as well as the Annual Sewer Manhole Project. Freiberger also stated he was waiting to hear on Grant applications.

Planning Director Coleman – reported on the progress of the new home inventory at the Portabello Sub Division. He also reported on the Planning Commission meeting noting they will began reviewing Mobile Home Parks.

Fire Chief Klinger – announced the Boot to Burn Fundraiser on Saturday with tickets still available. He also announced the upcoming football game between the Sedro-Woolley Cubs and Lynden this coming Friday.

Police Chief Tucker – noted his department has been busy with cleanup work.

Councilmember Wagoner – addressed panhandling within the city which seems to be getting worse and would like to see an ordinance prohibiting panhandling.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to place a pedestrian interference ordinance on the agenda in the near future. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (6-0).

Councilmember Kornegay – commented on the Candidates Forum, noting the turnout was great and she has heard good things about the forum. She also spoke of an article in the Bellingham Herald on the Police Department and the body cameras. Kornegay noted the Boys and Girls Club will be holding a fundraising Gala on November 7th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:50 P.M. for the purpose of personnel for approximately 20 minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) with a decision anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 9:35 P.M.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to approve the separation agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Lemley. Motion carried (6-0).

The meeting was adjourned by all at 9:35 P.M.