
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 12, 2015 – 7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Mike Anderson; Councilmembers: Kevin Loy, Germaine Kornegay, Brenda Kinzer, Keith Wagoner, Hugh Galbraith and Rick Lemley Staff: Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Public Works Director Freiburger, Planning Director Coleman, Fire Chief Klinger and Police Chief 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 (Including November 4, 2015 Worksession)
- Finance
 - Claim Checks #182577 to #182660 in the amount of \$832,124.87.
 - Payroll Checks #58727 to #58743 plus EFT's in the amount of \$283,092.80.
- Resolution – Surplus of Unit 314 1984 Ford Hot Patch Truck
- Renewal of Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for use of Skagit County Labor, Materials and Equipment
- Setting Public Hearing – 2016 Budget Ordinance

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

Public Comment

McKenzie and Jed – 10225 Warfield Road, addressed the Council regarding their new business located at 707 Metcalf St. and plans for a retail marijuana shop. McKenzie noted the business was currently within 100 feet of Hammer Heritage Square. The current code states the need of a 1000 foot boundary. She noted Council has the ability to change the boundary and requested consideration of a boundary change.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy Ordinances

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the sample ordinances for property tax. She also pointed out the preliminary assessed value from the County Assessor's office. Nelson stated according to the Mayor's direction, staff has created the 2016 budget with a 0% increase.

Discussion was held regarding banked capacity.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:10 P.M.

No comments were received.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:11 P.M.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to approve Ordinance 1828-15 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Property Tax Levy at an Increase of 0%. Seconded by Councilmember Kinzer. Motion carried (6-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sewer (Strength) Rate Study with Katy Isaksen

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed previous discussions regarding volume based billing. He then introduced Kevin Wynn of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and Katy Isaksen of Katy Isaksen & Associates to help with the discussion on the strength rate billing.

Wynn presented water samples of varying strengths and explained the various factors that affect plant operation.

Katy Isaksen addressed the Council regarding commercial volume based sewer rates and presented a power point presentation. The presentation included strength category, combined accounts, strength based categories, alternatives and other local commercial sewer rate comparison.

Council discussion ensued to include combined use buildings, bod determination, other city standards an being competitive with neighboring cities, changes necessary to the code for ultimate high strength users, encouragement of grease interceptors and enforcement.

Staff requested direction from Council with consensus to leave as is with an emphasis on enforcement.

Tony Splane – 714 Sapp Rd. questioned if this would affect single family households.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 Budget

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the proposed ordinance summarizing the budget amounts for each fund as detailed in the Mayor's 2016 Preliminary Budget. Public copies of the line item budget are available in the Finance Department as well as on the website. Nelson noted this is a first read.

Annual Utility Rate Increases by CPI

- a. Ordinance Increasing Sewer Rates by 1.61%
- b. Ordinance Increasing Storm Water Rates by 1.61%
- c. Ordinance Increasing Solid Waste Utility Rates by 1.61%

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed utility rate increase by the amount of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It also includes an increase to the Solid Waste roll off haul fee to \$170.00 and no increases for commercial recycling. He noted a public hearing has been scheduled for the next meeting on November 24, 2015.

Discussion was held on commercial recycling and the gap in utilities.

Utility Tax on Water

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg presented background information on the utility tax adopted by Council last year. He reported the original ordinance imposed a 6% tax but, because the PUD is not required to pay the tax on the portion of their revenues attributable from fire capacity the effective tax rate collected from PUD has been about 4.5%. In order to collect the intended 6%, the city must levy a tax of 7.5%. A public hearing is scheduled for the next meeting on November 24th.

Discussion ensued regarding cost to customer, fire capacity and the purpose of the fund.

Agreement with CGI Communications Inc. for Community Video Program

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed a proposed agreement with CGI Communications for a community video program. A review of how google searches are viewed, plans for updating the City website and how a community video program would be beneficial for the City were discussed.

Councilmember Wagoner moved to approve the agreement with CGI Communications. Seconded by Councilmember Kornegay. Motion carried (6-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Tucker – reported on a recent Ice Cream incident that resulted in one of the Officers injuring his hand. He also spoke of Facebook updates for the Police Department and the implementation of table talks with elected officials focusing on crisis management and how to talk with the media.

Fire Chief Klinger – reported on the completion of the first County Recruiting Academy. He also reported the ambulance sent for re chassis is about 50% complete.

Planning Director Coleman – reported the new Building Inspector/Plans Examiner is doing a good job. Because of the extra staffing they are able to offer a higher level of service. He also

provided an update on Northern State sub area plan announced dates of public hearings for various parts of the plan. Coleman presented a Planning Commission update as well.

Public Works Director Freiburger – reported on the consultant selection for three different projects and presented an update on projects to include Fruitdale Rd, Cascade Trail, Jameson Arterial, TIB projects and Klinger Street Bridge.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg – reminded Council the next meeting will be on Tuesday. He also reported on the Jail ground breaking, vacancies on Planning Commission and the upcoming AWC Newly Elected Officials Conference. He reported the annual legislative conference will be held in January. Berg updated the Council on the library meeting noting it was a very productive meeting with both the Public and District Library. He also reported the iPad are forthcoming with the goal for January 1 for a paperless packet.

Finance Director Nelson – reported on the State Audit for financial only. She noted we had a two member team on site for 4 days and an exit conference will be held soon.

Councilmember Kornegay – reported on doing a ride along with the Police. She also reminded everyone of the community thanksgiving dinner and a need for contributions and volunteers. The dinner will be held from 12:30 – 3:00 at Cascade Middle School.

Councilmember Kinzer – stated she was excited with the outcome of the library meeting.

Councilmember Wagoner – announced the SWHS Cubs play on Saturday in a playoff round.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.111(g) at 8:40 P.M. with no action anticipated.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned with all Councilmembers in favor (6-0).