
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
November 25, 2008 – 7:00 P.M. – City Hall Council Chambers

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Mayor Mike Anderson, Councilmembers: Ted Meamber, Tony Splane, Louis Requa, Pat Colgan, Hugh Galbraith, Rick Lemley and Dennis London. Staff: Recorder Brue, Finance Director Nelson, City Supervisor/Attorney Berg, Planner Moore, Police Chief Wood and Fire Chief Klinger.

Councilmember Meamber requested to place an item on the agenda under New Business as Item 12. The item is at the request of several citizens.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Finance
 - Claim Vouchers #64996 to #65118 in the amount of \$1,338,101.75
 - Payroll Warrants #43849 in the amount of \$212.00 & Payroll Warrants #43850 to #43954 in the amount of \$176,699.45
- Street Closure Request – “the Magic of Christmas” – December 6, 2008 & Community Center Fee Waiver for Santa Breakfast – December 13, 2008
- Riverfront R.V. Park Host Agreement
- Interlocal Agreement No. FD07-019, Amendment No. 2 with State of Washington – Dept. of General Administration
- Resolution – Accepting the Design for PWTF Loan PW-05-PRE-105 as Complete (785-08)
- YMCA Oasis Teen Shelter “Safe Place” Site Agreement
- Real Estate Acquisition
- Economic Development Grant application to Skagit County for SR9/Jameson (Interlocal Agreement)
- Amended Contract – Fire District #8 Part-Time Staffing

Councilmember Colgan moved to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Motion carried (7-0).

Presentation of Mayor’s Recycling Award

Leo Jacobs – Solid Waste Forman, explained the program for the Mayor’s Recycling Award. An award to encourage recycling within the community. He noted that there are two categories; Individual and Business. With the award being new there is no Business award

this time around. Mayor Anderson presented the first Individual Mayor's Recycling Award to Amy Lanning.

Public Comment

Paul Chaplin – 315 Warner Street, requested Mayor Anderson to explain in layman's terms the recent correspondence with Skagit County and questioned the status of the building permit from Deluxe.

Mayor Anderson stated that the City has requested the County to do the SEPA and noted there is still an open building permit application from Deluxe on file.

Harold Beitler – 1017 Wicker Road, noted he had addressed the Council at the last meeting and spoke of the seriousness of his comments. He was not trying to be a comedian with his comment on the fire siren. He takes the siren as a sign of respect and as salute of honor.

Brett Sandstrom – 432 Talcott St. – thanked the City for responding to the County's letter and hopes it works out. He also spoke of changes of rules in solid waste and hazardous materials by the EPA. Sandstrom spoke on the resolution passed in May 2007 and addressed the proposal of a new resolution by the citizens which states the City is no longer interested in the Deluxe proposal and urged the Council consider the resolution.

APPEAL

Design Review Board Decision for SN-6-08

At the request of the appellant the item is postponed to a later date.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy Ordinance

Mayor Anderson noted the public hearing for the Property Tax Levy had been held at the last meeting however, if anyone wants to speak they will take comment.

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the 2008 Property Tax percentages and stated the Mayor's proposed 2009 budget and property tax ordinance is for a 0% tax increase for general taxes. She addressed the excess capacity of the tax was requested to not be "banked" noting that after research "banking" is automatic but via a resolution the Assessor's Office Staff will make note of the City's request. Nelson also reviewed the voter approved bond for the 1996 Public Safety Building.

Councilmember London moved to approve Ordinance 1623-08 An Ordinance of the City of Sedro-Woolley Approving the Property Tax Levy. Seconded by Councilmember Colgan. Motion carried (7-0).

Mayor Anderson read a letter from a citizen regarding property tax assessments and an upcoming meeting in Concrete. He stated he will contact Commissioner Sharon Dillon to see if a meeting can be held in Sedro-Woolley as well.

Sewer Rate & Fee Ordinance

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg reviewed the proposed sewer rate increase which he noted was an anticipated step increase in rates as identified in the rate study conducted earlier this year and is necessary to service the debt borrowed to fund the millions of dollars in projects to address the critical sewer interceptor needs. He addressed the increase in the flow based rates (Commercial) and the progress of the research into a City wide flow based billing to include residential customers. Berg reported a public hearing was held at the last meeting.

Councilmember Galbraith moved to table the increase and refer it back to the Utility Committee. Seconded by Councilmember Splane.

Discussion ensued regarding concern of the commercial rates, affect of the budget, affect of rate increase on commercial customers and equalization of rates between flow based customers and residential.

Motion carried (4-3). (Councilmember London, Lemley and Requa opposed).

2009 Budget Ordinance

Finance Director Nelson reviewed using visual aids to show the 2009 Budget revenue projections, revenue sources by fund, expenditures by purpose and expenditures by fund. She noted the budget presented is balanced with revenues equaling expenditures. She also presented a comparison of 2008 vs. 2009 with the total general fund being 11% less for 2009 than 2008.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:30 P.M.

No public comment received.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:31 P.M.

Council discussion ensued to include the affect of the delay of the sewer rate increase and budget passage deadline and adjustments.

Councilmember London moved to Approve Ordinance #1624-08 An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2009. Councilmember Requa seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Prioritization of Planning Commission Work Topics

Planner Moore reviewed the proposed prioritization of work topics for the Planning Commission as requested by Council at an earlier meeting. Moore reviewed each of the topics and their priority listing.

Council discussion ensued regarding clean up of the development codes with the next phase to review zoning and sub-division chapters.

Councilmember Meamber moved to approve the list that the Planning Commission has proposed. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (7-0).

Ordinance – Amending Ordinance 1591-07 Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2008

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the proposed ordinance for Amending Ordinance #1591-07. She noted that sometimes one item might affect several funds which makes the ordinance look more daunting than it is. Nelson reviewed the changes with explanations for the change.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt ordinance #1625-08 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #1591-07 Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2008. Councilmember Requa seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Resolution – *(added at the request of Councilmember Meamber)*

Councilmember Requa recused himself do to a conflict of interest and left the Council bench.

Councilmember Meamber reviewed a proposed resolution which was requested by some citizens. Meamber read the resolution titled “A Resolution Indicating that the City of Sedro-Woolley (Citizens of) does not support the concept presented by Deluxe Recycling for the location of a materials handling facility (Solid Waste Transfer Station) within the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Councilmember Meamber moved to approve resolution #786-08 A Resolution Indicating that the City of Sedro-Woolley (citizens of) does not support the concept presented by Deluxe Recycling for the location of a materials handling facility (solid Waste Transfer Station) within the City of Sedro-Woolley. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith. Councilmember Galbraith also requested a roll call vote.

City Supervisor/Attorney Berg noted in the absence of City's legal counsel for this issue he strongly cautioned the Council upon voting on such a resolution since there is a pending permit application.

Al Doorn – questioned the role of Attorney Berg as the City Attorney and argued with the Mayor as to what the City is afraid of. Doorn requested the City Council take action.

Annie Janicki – questioned the passage of the original resolution being a legal document and stressed the importance to make a statement to the County and Deluxe and to tell the world that Sedro-Woolley it is not a good place for such a facility. Janicki noted that passage of the proposed resolution would heal the town.

Paul Chaplin – again to the podium, stated that now is the time that the Council take a stand and vote.

Brett Standstrom – 432 Talcott St., talked of the worry of the Council showing emotion on the bench as it would impede the action of Deluxe. He also questioned the civil rights of the Council.

Discussion ensued to include the difference between a legislative action vs. a pending permit process, expression of an opinion of the City Council, wording of the document, the possible significant legal risk to the City, city rules and timing and change of business model.

Mary McGoffin – 268 Burrows Ln., questioned the lack of a two reading of the original resolution and discussed language within the resolution.

Bonnie Dales – 411 Jameson St., noted that the basic request is to recind the original resolution and if rewording is necessary then reword it. She also questioned the Planning Commission prioritization list and the priority rating of zoning being #4 on the list.

Discussion ensued regarding the procedure of the priority list and it was noted that many of the things on the list would be done as a package.

Al Doorn – again to the podium, suggested to the Mayor and City Council to appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Meamber withdrew his motion. Councilmember Galbraith withdrew the second.

Councilmember Meamber moved to recind Resolution No. 743-07. Seconded by Councilmember Galbraith.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Meamber – yes, Splane – yes, Requa – recused, Colgan – yes, Galbraith – yes, Lemley – yes, London – no Motion carried (5-1-1) (Councilmember London opposed, Councilmember Requa recused).

Councilmember Requa rejoined the Council bench.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Police Chief Wood – announced the Gang awareness meeting to be held on December 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Fire Chief Klinger – announced the final count of the Fire Bond vote. The vote was still at 55.5% in favor of the issue. Further discussion of the vote will be the topic of the December Council worksession. Chief Klinger wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Planner Moore – updated Council regarding the request of Beverly Ringhouse to change the City Limits so it didn't go through her house. Moore noted that the process has been completed and recorded and Mrs. Ringhouse expressed her thanks to the Council.

Councilmember Meamber – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Colgan – noticed the increased patrols of law enforcement and reminded everyone to be sure to wear their seatbelts.

Councilmember Lemley – announced the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Cascade Middle School, Thursday from 12:30 to 3:00.

Councilmember London – reported the Personnel Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss two issues relating to the Police Department.. The first deals with Part-time staffing during time of war and the second with Sergeant's pay. London reviewed the issue and the recommendation of the Personnel committee to proceed with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Police Chief Wood noted that the Guild has not yet signed the memorandum but the Guild President noted there have been no objections expressed.

Councilmember Colgan moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Sedro-Woolley and the Public Safety Guild regarding part-time staffing during time of war. Seconded by Councilmember Splane . Motion carried (7-0).

Councilmember London reviewed the MOU regarding Sergeant pay with discussion following.

Councilmember Lemley moved to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Sedro-Woolley and Sedro-Woolley Public Safety Guild regarding Sergeant Pay. Seconded by councilmember Meamber. Motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief Wood thanked the Council for their action. He noted the good rapport with the Public Safety Guild and it's nice to work things out in this manner.

Mayor Anderson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.