
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
March 10th, 2021– 6:00 P.M. – Via ZOOM

Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers: JoEllen Kesti, Brenda Kinzer, Chuck Owen, Kevin Loy, Brendan McGoffin, and Karl de Jong. Absent: Glenn Allen. Staff: Public Works Director Mark Freiberger, Police Chief Lin Tucker, IT Director Bill Chambers, Fire Chief Dean Klinger, IT Specialist Glen Gardner, City Supervisor/Finance Director Doug Merriman, Finance Manager Jill Scott, Planning Director John Coleman, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, Officer Laura Carr, and Recorder Trina Wolf. Special Guests from Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County: CEO/President Ron McHenry, Executive Vice President Ian Faley, VP of Operations, Mountains & Sound Christina Trader, and Development Associate Rachel Olson. *Councilmember Allen joined during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Johnson made note that item #2 on the new business, which is the Solid Waste Recycling, would be pulled and the Utility Committee would look at it and then bring a recommendation to the council at a later date. Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the agenda with the noted changes, seconded by Councilmember Owen. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Finance - Claim Checks #194852 to #194945 plus EFT's in the amount of \$726,584.16 - Payroll Checks #60304 to #60317 plus EFT's in the amount of \$415,559.79
3. Lease Agreement with Sedro-Woolley Youth Football & Cheer
4. Resolution No. 1063-21 - Possible Surplus of Units
5. Surplus Resolution No. 1064-21 for Controlled Property
6. Reimbursement Resolution No. 1065-21
7. Council Chambers Audio Upgrade
8. Central Washington University - Paramedic Student Preceptorship
9. Out of State Travel/Training Request - Police Department

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 thru 9. Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Special Guests

Boys & Girls Club of Skagit County presented information in regards to the feasibility studies currently being done as well as surveying citizens for a project grant from the Department of Commerce to provide childcare through the Boys & Girls Club specifically for the Sedro-Woolley area.

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Dean Klinger –the numbers for COVID continue to drop and vaccine numbers keep going up. This Friday is the last day for testing at the county fairgrounds. Starting next Tuesday, it will open as vaccine only location. Still no update on Phase 3.

Police Chief Tucker – Three trainees are out on their own. Many saw the Facebook post on the Blake decision. WA state supreme court has decided that controlled substances are no longer illegal to possess in smaller, personal amounts. Ultimately, the legislature could make a change on this. Can look up WA State Supreme Court vs. Blake. Recently had someone going 70mph in a 25 mph zone. Looking at 50 traffic problem locations.

Planning Director John Coleman – Building Inspector, Tony Niskanen is retiring. We have a job announcement out for the open position. Planning commission is still working on Shoreline Master Program update and electronic reader boards throughout the city, not just the Central Business District. Planning committee of the council might have meeting March 24th, just ahead of the next City Council Meeting.

Director of Public Works Mark Freiburger – ADA transition plan has a final draft. First read will be on March 24th and hope for adoption on April 14th because it is due to be in place by April 21st. WWTP electrical improvements project started this week and will be about a two-month project. Design for SR20/SR9-Township intersection improvements will be delayed because the lead time for poles and controllers is 4-6 months. BNSF have supplied final drawings for the undercrossing and should see contract for agreement March 24th or April 14th.

IT Director Bill Chambers – Cemetery management software has been presented for final review. Avidex selected for phase 2.1 of A/V upgrade for the council chambers. Working with Sgt. Blunt on criminal justice information system. Skagitnet Fiber meeting on Monday for technology grant funds. Working to form a technology advisory group with internal staff.

Finance Manager Jill Scott – We are continuing to work on 2020 annual report. Prior fiscal year takes time but changes always come out from the state. There are five new classifications vs the two classes we currently use. The goal of new system is additional level of information to management. Then we will roll balances forward into the new year. Also working with the Police Department to facilitate controlled, limited opening for fingerprinting.

City Attorney Nikki Thompson – don't have anything to add.

City Supervisor Doug Merriman – today the house approved American Rescue Plan which is \$1.9 trillion relief package. In the initial list, Sedro-Woolley has been allocated \$2.6 million dollars. Money won't be sent to us, but will be a reimbursement for fund spent to help mitigate COVID effects in town. Staffing is doing public records training. We will be finalizing the Library construction project. Also, will get a summary of the financial budget for the library to the council soon.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember JoEllen Kesti – Clean Up Day 2021 in honor of former Mayor, Paul Rhodius proclaimed April 5th, 1919 asking residents to clean up their land and so we will be offering free yard waste drop off. Starting April 5-26, will have access to a free drop-off every Monday and Saturday 8am-4pm.

Mayor Johnson noted this is only for citizens within city limits and proof of residency via driver's license or recent utility bill will be required. Not open to any citizens from other cities.

Councilmember Kinzer – brought forward a proposal for the Northern State Hospital stating that recently there has been a lot of vandalism. Proposed a joint task force between the port, county and the city to see if there are grants that would help with security of the site. Discussion followed including the measures that have been taken and are in the planning process to help increase security and decrease criminal activity on site at the Historical Northern State Hospital area.

Councilmember Chuck Owen – nothing for tonight.

Councilmember Kevin Loy – nothing to say at the moment.

Councilmember McGoffin – residents have had lots of questions about the Bucko development—Mark (Freiberger) and John (Coleman) have been a great help.

Councilmember Karl de Jong – (bad connection)

Councilmember Glen Allen – Suggested that maybe the city could put a trailer up on site at the Northern State Hospital grounds and have live-in security at night.

Councilmember Karl de Jong –want to recognize Chief Tucker for being out in the community, his community involvement and for his leadership.

Mayor Johnson – Ward 3, no applications yet. Lots of interest but no actual applications turned in just yet. Council Retreat will be Friday May 7th from 3-7pm. Managers to present on May 5th to discuss budget for 2022 and that will be about a 2 hours at a work session and the remainder will be on the 7th.

Councilmember De Jong--- noted that he will be out of town on May 7th.

Public Comments

6:59 P.M.—open to public comments

6:59 P.M. – closed to public comments

Unfinished Business

Planning Director John Coleman --- Proposed 2021 Docket items of Comprehensive Plan (2nd reading) Bucko family rezoning request and the Ruby Golf Course – holdover from last year about rezoning at the golf course. Just looking for a motion to adopt the 2021 Comprehensive Plan docket.

Mayor: asked if anyone would like to make a motion and Councilmember Kinzer made a motion and it was seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

Code Enforcement Officer Laura Carr -- Ordinance No. 1980-21--Title 6 hasn't had a major update since 2015. So we are really due for some housekeeping and need to align with RCW. Proposing to clarify and remove ambiguity and that we are consistent with neighboring jurisdictions. Have 2 new ordinances to add. Chapter 6.08 guard dog: we have had instances where we have had a dog that was not being managed well but was trained to attack and takedown. So we need an ordinance to declare a dog is dangerous and the property must be secure and posted, the animal be under control and also have number listed so that someone can call if the dog gets loose. Would also impose registration fee for guard dog. They will just need to update the registration each year and code enforcement would be able to verify that the ordinance requirements are being met.

The second ordinance being proposed is in regards to found stray animals. Currently no code specifying what to do when a stray animal is found. We need an ordinance to establish proper procedure so citizens know what to do.

Also proposing we change the word "Chickens" to "hens". We have already codified the issue of any animal that makes disturbing noise. Would rather not get into specific species of which animals can be kept. This wording should help with the issue of the citizen that is wanting to keep quail.

Also want to note that the state legislature has repealed the financial hardship as acceptable excuse for neglect. SWPD has open door policy for people to bring their pet, if they are unable to feed or care for the animal.

Councilmember Kesti----thanked officer Carr for going above and beyond to help protect people and animals in Sedro-Woolley. Asked if a motion be made since Officer Carr presented thorough information that was clear and concise.

Mayor confirmed that was possible and a motion to pass Ordinance 1980-21 made by Councilmember Kesti and seconded by Councilmember de Jong. Motion carried (7-0).

Good of the Order

Mayor Johnson reminded the council that the Burlington Mayor and City Council have asked if we can provide any sort of contribution (one-time contribution) to the Pease Road shelter project in Burlington. Councilmember Loy stated he would support. Councilmember Kinzer asked if there was a dollar amount to consider. Mayor stated she would like to see \$5,000 of discretionary funds could be used. Councilmember Kinzer said the project is very needed and stated support to give \$10,000 as a one-time contribution if the rest of the city council would agree. Councilmember Allen asked Mr. Merriman if there is \$10,000 to give. Mr. Merriman stated the funds were available to the council.

Councilmember Allen-makes a motion to provide \$10,000 to help the city of Burlington with the Pease Road shelter project.

Councilmember Owen stated he would support with no strings attached and we are not obliged. Upon Mayor Johnson's confirmation that it was simply a one-time donation with no strings or obligations attached, Councilmember Owen seconded the motion.

Councilmember McGoffin also stated support of the donation/contribution.

Mayor Johnson stated that there is now a majority and restated that she was just looking to see if there is interest and will bring an ordinance before council on the 24th of March that would outline the specifics.

Mayor thanked the council for their kindness and generosity.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:




