
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Council Study Session
January 6, 2021
Via ZOOM meeting

Mayor Johnson called the study session to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Julia Johnson, Council Members: Glenn Allen, Chuck Owens, Brenda Kinzer, JoEllen Kesti, Brendan McGoffin, and Karl de Jong. Staff Members: Planning Director John Coleman, City Supervisor/Finance Director Doug Merriman, Police Chief Tucker, Fire Chief Klinger, Asst Fire Chief Wagner, IT Director Bill Chambers, Finance Manger Jill Scott, and Glen Gardner. Applicants for the positions of Council Member At Large position: Judith Dunn, Kevin Loy, William C. Holt, Jr., Jeannette Sosa, Lewis A. Paul, Jr. (withdrawn earlier in the day), Corrin Hamburg, K. David Bates, Kimm Layland, Richard Waits, Josepha John Burns (absent), Sarah Diamond, and Linda Markiewicz (absent).

Mayor Johnson reviewed the structure of the meeting and explained that each applicant would have approximately three (3) minutes to introduce themselves and then each council member would ask one question. After all interviews have been conducted, the council will go into Executive Session for evaluation of the applicants and then return to vote for the next council member at large.

Interviews for the position of Council Member At Large

All present applicants went in order to introduce themselves and then answer the following questions from council members:

Council Member Karl de Jong: deferred questioning

Council Member Brendan McGoffin: Recently the city counsel raised both property taxes and utility rates. Do you believe the council made the right decision?

Council Member JoEllen Kesti: The city of Sedro-Woolley needs infrastructure improvements such as road repairs and sidewalks but with a tight budget already, what ideas do you have to generate new revenue for the infrastructure needs?

Council Member Brenda Kinzer: What is the number one issue the city council should tackle and how would you take on that issue?

Council Member Chuck Owen: The Senior Center is providing 80-90 meals each day through Meals on Wheels at a cost of about \$600 per day. With this being the main source of nutrition for

many seniors, would you be willing to help find money to help support Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center?

Council Member Glenn Allen: The state of Washington has a problem with homelessness. While the city of Sedro-Woolley doesn't have a big problem with homelessness now, what would you do to help if it became an issue within the city? *Council Member Allen later clarified the definition of "homelessness" he was speaking of are people who live under tarps/tents and in cars and RVs, etc.

Extension of Session

At 7:55 P.M., Mayor Johnson proposed moving into the 8:30 P.M. hour. There were no objections.

Executive Session

The council members then went into Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes.

Resuming of Regular Session

At 8:20 P.M., the study session resumed. The mayor thanked all of the applicants for taking time to apply to serve the community and be part of the democratic process.

Mayor Johnson then asked if anyone would like to make a motion and Council Member McGoffin made a motion to nominate David Bates and Council Member Allen seconded the nomination.

Council Member de Jong asked for discussion and proceeded to thank the staff and city staff for their help with preparing materials and answering phones and questions with regard to the applications for the position of Council Member At Large. He stated it was great to see such a diverse group of applicants.

Mayor Johnson then moved to vote on David Bates for the position of Council Member At Large.

Council Members Allen, Kesti, and McGoffin voted in favor of Mr. Bates. Council Members Kinzer, Owen, and de Jong voted in opposition to Mr. Bates.

Realizing the votes were three and three, Mayor Johnson asked if she serves as the tie-breaking vote. It was confirmed that per RCW 35A.12.100, she does serve as the tie-breaking vote. At that point Mayor Johnson voted in opposition to Mr. Bates.

Council Member Kinzer then makes a motion to vote for Kevin Loy for the position of Council Member At Large.

Council Members Kinzer, Owen, and de Jong voted in favor of Mr. Loy. Council Members Allen, Kesti, and McGoffin voted in opposition. Mayor Johnson broke the tie vote by voting in favor of Mr. Loy.

Mr. Loy was sworn into the new City Council member – At Large position.

Study Session was adjourned by Mayor Johnson at 8:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:




