
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
February 24, 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: Glenn Allen, Brendan McGoffin, Karl de Jong, Chuck Owen, JoEllen Kesti, Brenda Kinzer, and Kevin Loy. Staff: Public Works Director Mark Freiburger, 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, County Commissioner Lisa Janicki and Recorder Trina Wolf.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Johnson requested motion to approve the agenda.
Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including February 3, 2021 Study Session)
2. Finance - Claim Checks #194766 to #194851 plus EFT's in the amount of \$222,149.41 - Payroll Checks #60294 to #60303 plus EFT's in the amount of \$316,350.11
3. Wooden Picnic Table Surplus (Resolution No. 1062-21)
4. Ratification and Confirmation - Emergency Declaration for Emergency Roof Repair Services – Axiom - Division 7 Inc.
5. Central Skagit Library Interlocal Agreement for Maintenance

Councilmember Kinzer moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 thru 5. Councilmember Owen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Dean Klinger – closed 2018 FEMA Grant. Submitted Monday and Tuesday notified we were approved and the check is in the mail. Haven't heard anything about Phase 3 yet.

Police Chief Tucker – last of Police Dept staff received 2nd dose of vaccine. Officer McGaughey finishes up training next week. A few more after that. Officer Cates is headed to military deployment. Social Media will have full video of the 8-10 people doing the Polar Plunge up at Fire Station 2. Swearing in of three new officers will happen in about a month.

Planning Director John Coleman – planning commission met last week about the electronic reader boards in the central business district. Held first of two periodic updates to the Shoreline Master Program. Next week will be a joint meeting with planning commission and city council during the city council work session to go over the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update Cycle.

Director of Public Works Mark Freiburger – ADA Transition Plan is getting close to final draft. Should have a first read on April 14th. Hwy20/SR9 Township project is moving along. The BNSF undercrossing details worked out but have not received the contract yet. Eastern Ave will have an overlay applied and ADA ramps done as part of streets project. Crew is removing old BNSF tracks near new library and going to grade it out and put some topsoil on and seed it. We were asked to put in LED stop sign at Township/Jameson intersection to help control traffic and that is quite affordable and looks to be a good addition there.

IT Director Bill Chambers – Still working on outfitting city vehicles. Reviewing AV upgrade to Council Chambers, new leased copiers for Finance and BPE arrive next Tuesday.

Finance Manager Jill Scott – continuing to work on 2020 wrap-up, Mark Roberts is set to arrive soon and we are working with IT and other departments to be sure he is set up to start working.

City Attorney Nikki Thompson -- working on new ordinances and PSE renewal, but nothing much of interest tonight.

City Supervisor Doug Merriman – public records training is needed for more in-depth record policies. Leadership training for managerial staff would be a good idea to brush up on for the staff. Coming up soon we will be doing performance evaluations and getting input from staff. Personnel policy manual is being revised from the current version that was written in 1990. Tony Niskanen has given notice to leave his position. Mark Freiburger has been working with Legislative representatives and want to thank Mark for representing the city so well. Mark Roberts coming up from National City, CA and has a start date tentatively of March 1st. Library project has substantial project completion list signed off on. Down to the final things to finish up with the contractors. We are now working with Jean on the moving process. USDA reports and year end reports with end of the year getting wrapped up.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

Councilmember Kevin Loy – nothing to say

Councilmember Glen Allen – asked if there really is a problem at Jameson and Township?
Public Works Director Mark Freiburger ---4000 vehicles a day on Jameson. Several people have noted accidents and running of stop sign. Cost of the sign is minimal for the improvement of traffic control.

Councilmember McGoffin – no report tonight

Councilmember Karl de Jong – lots of wind lately. Good to hear about the intersection at Jameson and Township.

Councilmember Chuck Owen – nothing tonight

Councilmember JoEllen Kesti -- had a utilities commission meeting tonight with Mark Freiberger.

Public Works Director Mark Freiberger —discussed timing of fees of collection at time of permitting. Looking at possibly moving Impact fee payment timing would come to full review before Council before being implemented.

Councilmember Kinzer – Email from constituent. Advised them to bring to council during the public comments. Email regarding neighborhood around Nelson and Rita streets was read anonymously by Councilmember Kinzer. Discussion followed regarding speeding and possible installation of speed bumps in the area.

Mayor Johnson -- Have been meeting with legislators. Ongoing conversations with Senator Wagner about bills that need some support in legislature. Council retreat will be in April. Skagit Public Health COVID-19 test sites will close after March 12th. There are other testing sites available within the community and a full listing of those sites are listed at the Skagit County Health Department's website.

Public Comments

6:51 P.M.—open to public comments

6:52 P.M. – closed to public comments

Unfinished Business

Planning Director John Coleman ---council was concerned about garage doors in CBD...and consensus was that was not a good thing and business did not get design review application ahead of time to do that modification. A moratorium was discussed at last council meeting. However, design review standards are in place to prevent modifications like that. Based on that information, there is no need for a moratorium on design standards. Education is needed for the Central Business District to inform that there is a need to have any modifications to the exterior of the buildings in the CBD. Will educate staff as well to what is required and acceptable when businesses come in for a design review and the standards applied to the CBD.

Discussion followed regarding what the vision for the CBD should look like and what it means to maintain the historical feel of the city. There were also concerns about balancing the needs of business owners to protect their investments and still maintain the historical feel of the Central Business District.

Mayor Johnson asked for motion for moratorium. Councilmember Brenda Kinzer made a motion to move forward with the moratorium. Hearing no second, the motion is dead.

