
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Study Session of the City Council
March 1st, 2023 – 6:00 P.M. Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

City Council Members Present: Brendan McGoffin, Joe Burns, Sara Diamond, JoEllen Kesti, Chuck Owen, Nick Lavacca & Glenn Allen.

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations:

Agenda items

1. Fire Department Levy Lid Lift

Finance Director, Kelly Kohnken gave a presentation on the financial impact of additional firefighter/EMTs in the Fire Department. Kelly explained that the General Fund cannot support these additional expenditures and recommended a levy lid lift.

Fire Chief, Frank Wagner explained the staffing needs and noted the city doesn't have the proper staffing to handle all incoming calls, and the missing revenue is about \$2,000.00 per transport. Chief Wagner noted that having 4 or 8 more staff would allow for an additional ambulance in service, help alleviate burn out of the full-time fire staff as well as the volunteers and allow necessary time for training. Chief Wagner emphasizes the city is fortunate to have some great volunteers. He also explained it can take seven to nine months to get a new employee on the schedule and fully functional.

Councilmembers and staff discussed volunteer wages, volunteer turnout, and the unintended repercussions of growth and additional housing.

After discussion by Councilmembers, Councilmember Lavacca made a motion to approve Option 3 (four additional firefighter/EMTs, \$775,000, city levy increase 24.76%) and Councilmember Diamond seconded that motion. Motion carried (7-0).

Finance Director, Kelly Kohnken, Mayor, Julia Johnson and Fire Chief, Frank Wagner answered questions made by Councilmembers. A PDF of the presentation is available in the council packet.

2. Community Grants

Councilmembers discussed community grants previously discussed with the Planning and Business Development Committee Meeting. There was discussion on guidelines for eligible projects, potentially including cleaning up the town, adding lighting, updating awnings, adding shrubbery, etc. Councilmembers had additional conversation on community engaged, who will be eligible for these grants, and who selects the businesses/individuals' awarded grants.

City Administrator, Charlie Bush, answered questions made by Councilmembers and noted this would be brought back to council at the March 8, 2023, meeting.

Mayor, Julia Johnson thanked everyone for the great discussion.

Adjournment


The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

ATTEST:



Kelly Kohnken, Finance Director

APPROVED:



Julia Johnson, Mayor

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