
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
April 14th, 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: Councilmember JoEllen Kesti, Councilmember Sarah Diamond, Councilmember Chuck Owen, Councilmember Kevin Loy, Councilmember Glenn Allen, Councilmember Brendan McGoffin, and Councilmember Karl de Jong. Special Guests: Skagit County Commissioner, Lisa Janicki; Mayor of the City of Burlington, Steve Sexton; from Helping Hands Food Bank: Executive Director Rebecca Skrinde; Director of Development and Marketing, Nicole Long; and from Skagit Friendship House, Executive Director Tina Tate.

Late Items

Mayor Johnson noted there were few late items:

1. Grant being submitted to EDASC for the intersection at Hwy 9/Township and McGarigle/John Liner roads – added to consent agenda.
2. Reed Street property and that will go in under New Business
3. Helping Hands Food Bank—Mayor chose to put this off and adding it to the unfinished business

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember de Jong moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Allen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including April 7, 2021 Study Session)
2. Finance - Claim Checks #195046 to #195156 plus EFT's in the amount of \$790,268.34 - Payroll Checks #60329 to #60343 plus EFT's in the amount of \$426,914.24
3. Fire Station 1 Quarters Re-Roofing Project - 2021-PW-19
4. Alteration Request - Helping Hands Food Bank—approval of upgrades Helping Hands has the funds to perform on the property.

Motion made by Councilmember de Jong to approve the consent agenda items 1 thru 4. Councilmember McGoffin seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations

Update from Helping Hands Food Bank – Executive Director Rebecca Skrinde and Nichole Long presented an update including the effects of COVID, the annual report for 2020 outreach and services provided as well as projects coming up through the program.

City of Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton, spoke about homelessness and the impact of COVID on the homeless population that will have to leave homes and apartments once the eviction moratorium is up. New temporary housing units going in at 465 Pease Road, just off of Burlington Road. The city is working with Friendship House to handle management. Plan on working with community partners in mental health, substance abuse, etc, to help folks where they are. Program consists of 45 individual Pallet shelters being called 'cabins'. Pallet shelters are made locally in Everett. The project will also have a 5000 sf admin office at the facility. Plan to open May 1st.

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Frank Wagner – Skagit County is still in phase 3. Our numbers are slightly up over the last week. Volunteer Firefighter Association is still working on plans for the 100th Anniversary and Chief Klinger's retirement on May 21st. Association is looking for new residents and has 2 or 3 rooms opening soon and the process is to get new folks hired and trained to fill those open spots.

Police Lt Dan McIlraith – Officer Eddy has left department for Florida. Will be looking to fill his spot to handle the commercial vehicle control. National Drug Take Back day April 24th, 10am-2pm. This is an event with United Hospital District #304. Occurs in Apr/Oct is opportunity to rid homes of expired and unwanted medication. The city collected 50 pounds in October. People don't have to wait to drop off medications. Homeland Pharmacy, Schaffner Pharmacy, and the lobby of City Hall (when open to the public) all have drop-off programs for unwanted and expired medication. We have friendly competition with Burlington, SW and Mount Vernon. Drive through event next Friday on Metcalf in front of City Hall.

Director of Public Works Mark Freiburger – Will give presentation later on the agenda.

Planning Director John Coleman – Reported to Office of Financial Management our April to April building permits. They will then tell us the estimated population of Sedro-Woolley as of 4/1/21. We expect to hear in June of the new population. Planning committee having a hearing on Tuesday on the electronic signs for the Central Business District. Also working on the Sedro-Woolley design and building standards. Planning department working on Hansen annexation.

IT Director Bill Chambers – Continuing to outfit public safety vehicles. Cemetery software will have a recommendation to City Supervisor. Avidex will be here next week for audio installation to Council chambers. Working with finance department on software for asset tracking, payroll and licensing.

Finance Manager Jill Scott – working on final closing steps for 2020. Critical to start inventorying losses of revenue due to COVID in preparation for city possibly receiving grant funds from the American Recovery Plan. 2021 Q1 Budget vs Revenue for 1st 3 months of this year was emailed for Council's review. Looking for payroll/HR software with Bill Chambers.

City Attorney Nikki Thompson – discussed a few months ago moving quasi-judicial decisions from the Council to the hearing examiner and that draft ordinance is circulating and should have it for Council's review within the next few meetings.

City Supervisor Doug Merriman – Jill is closing FY 2020 we have potential to get grant funding for revenue losses like rental income on city facilities. Working with an HR consultant on the employee manual to get comprehensive policies in place. Finance Director search is still ongoing. Management

team is going through management training in a three course supervisory training program with Washington Cities Insurance Authority. We have a lot of staff who have been here a long time and we need to cultivate our managers. Looking at Solid Waste Fund funding to determine if what we charge for recycling covers what we pay for recycling. Residential areas might outgrow commercial areas.

Fire Chief Dean Klinger – Last day will be May 21st. Same day as 100th Anniversary of the Fire Dept. Would love to have everyone out to celebrate. This is my last council. I have been to over 650 council meetings over my years here with the city. Thanked council for working together over the years.

Councilmember and Mayor's Reports

JoEllen Kesti – Congratulations to Sara and welcome to the council. Want to remind everyone: with the nice weather, take advantage of Mondays and Saturdays for free yard waste drop off. April 15th, marks 88 years since the murder of Night Marshall Carl Strohm who was fatally shot after discovering robbers trying to break into Bingham Bank so I wanted to take a moment to honor his memory.

Sarah Diamond -- Thanks for allowing me to join the City Council. Thanked Chief Klinger for his service to the city.

Chuck Owen – Welcomed Sarah to the council. Thanks to Chief Klinger and thanks for picking Frank for the new Chief. Congrats to Frank, too.

Kevin Loy – Aloha to Chief on his retirement and Aloha to Sarah for joining the council.

Glenn Allen – congrats to Sarah and welcome to council. Congrats to Chief Klinger. Looking forward to getting together as a group when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Brendan McGoffin – Thanked Chief Klinger for all of his years of service. Welcome Sarah to the council.

Karl de Jong – Welcome Councilmember Diamond to the council. Congrats to Chief Wagner on the promotion and many thanks to Chief Klinger. LED traffic control at Township/Jameson is much appreciated. Earth Day is coming up and looking forward to Drug Take Back Day. HB 1189 will help with infrastructure projects by not increasing property taxes.

Mayor Johnson – Wanted to extend the thanks and gratitude of the community to Chief Klinger. Welcome on board to Frank Wagner. Great skill and intelligence to keep the department on track and growing. Welcome to Sarah to the council. May 7th will be the City Council working retreat. Manager reports will be on Wednesday May 5th.

After our discussion of the tagging at Northern State Hospital, I reached out to Mr. Hueterman. He is a former teacher and it was his students who raised the funds for community memorial of the 1500 individuals buried there. Mr. Hueterman would like to see the plaque remain on site. After his students raised the money, Lemley Chapel donated the plaque. We will get the fencing up and place the plaques inside the fencing where they can be seen and displayed but cannot be damaged.

AWC put out a plea to city officials and leaders to sign a letter asking for the capital monies that are needed to do the projects that are going to be coming available with the bills that are being passed. Councilmember de Jong, Chief Wagner, and Mayor Johnson all signed the letter.

Unfinished Business

1. Final Plat approval of Phase 1 of the Plat of Brickyard Park (Resolution 1067-21) John Coleman spoke and stated final approval of a plat and in the future will just go on consent agenda. Contractor goes out and builds streets and alleys and put up signs, etc. Then they put up the final plat that shows the actual 42 lots and this has now happened. Motion to approval and adopt Res 1067-21 made by Councilmember Allen and was seconded by Councilmember Kesti. Motion carried 7-0.
2. Interlocal Agreement with City of Burlington for Burlington Shelter Project Skagit First Step Center donation of \$7000 for a one-time contribution. Motion was made by Councilmember Loy and seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion passed (6-1)
3. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (2nd reading/Adoption) – Mark Freiberger, 2nd reading. Mr. Freiberger opened it up to questions and stated he was ready to entertain a motion on this. Motion to adopt made by Loy seconded by de Jong. Motion carried 7-0,
4. Purchase and Sale Agreement: Reed Street Property – Doug Merriman - 121 N Reed St. parcel owned by Rouw family adjacent to the city park. Negotiations are allowed after appraisal done. Rouw family had appraisal done that came in at \$110,000. City's appraisal came in at \$95,000 and we split the difference at \$102,500 with buyer and seller splits closing costs. Asking for motion to authorize the Mayor to sign on the purchase of the property. Motion made by Councilmember Kesti seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

1. Possible BNSF Agreement - Phase 1 Funding Agreement - Jones Road/John Liner Road Connector (1st reading - action requested). Mark Freiberger long awaiting agreement to do the piling installation and purchase the bridge deck for the John Liner improvement project. Without this the whole project doesn't go forward. Article 3 paragraph 3 acknowledges either party has right to not move forward for the 2nd phase of this project. BNSF has the funds to complete the bridge completely.

At 8:00 P.M., a motion made by Councilmember Allen, seconded by Councilmember de Jong to extend the meeting to 8:30 P.M. Motion carried (7-0).

Discussion pertaining to the possible BNSF Agreement continued.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

