
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 26th, 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, Councilmember Brendan McGoffin, Councilmember JoEllen Kesti, Councilmember Sarah Diamond, Councilmember Glenn Allen, Councilmember Chuck Owen, Councilmember Karl de Jong, and Councilmember Kevin Loy.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Owen made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember McGoffin seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting (Including May 5, 2021 Study Session)
2. Finance
 - Claim Checks #195347 to #195434 plus EFT's in the amount of \$908,970.16
 - Payroll Checks #60373 to #60383 plus EFT's in the amount of \$311,870.54
3. Interlocal Agreement - Whatcom County Parks - Rifle Range

Councilmember de Jong made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Allen seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Introduction of Special Guest and Presentations

1. PSE Update Presentation with Robert Knoll, Senior Government Affairs Representative for Skagit and Snohomish Counties. Mr. Knoll had a PowerPoint presentation over Storm Preparedness including infrastructure & readiness, customer resources, as well as Safety & Preparedness with a general overview of PSE as an energy utility. Discussion followed including preparedness for cyberattacks and people with special medical equipment that would be most impacted by a power outage.

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Frank Wagner – We had a great turn out for the 100th Anniversary/Chief Klinger’s retirement ceremony. Lots of community support and businesses donating time and services. COVID numbers continue to drop. By the end of the week, we will be below 150 per 100,000 residents in Skagit County. Vaccinations available at all of the pharmacies.

Police Chief Lin Tucker – Stop the Hate march happening at noon on Saturday, May 29, 2021 starting at Hammer Heritage Square. Another thing going on right now is a big project to review the 12 or 13 bills that went through the last legislative session. Just trying to figure out how everything is going to work and get some guidance for our local folks and get it into the policies and procedures manual after Lexipol gives us some clarification.

Planning Director John Coleman – Issuing a Notice of Application for a subdivision on McGarigle Rd. All citizen concerns can be directed to the Building and Planning Department.

IT Director Bill Chambers – Still working on cemetery management software implementation. Ethernet cable upgrade in public safety section of the building.

Finance Manager Jill Scott – 2020 comprehensive financial report deadline is this week. Once we file that and sign off on the financial statements, they will be sent out for City Council review. Have prepared all documentation to qualify for American Rescue Plan funds as soon as they are made available by the State. Debbie Burton will start as new Finance Director on June 7th 2021.

City Attorney Nikki Thompson – nothing for the group at this time.

City Supervisor Doug Merriman – Working with John Coleman to find building inspector as a replacement for Tony Niskanen. Almost ready to close on Reed Street project. Library project is coming to a close. American Rescue Plan funds are being reviewed and we are anticipating receiving some funds from that. Also need to have a meeting with the Finance Committee to talk about several items and get lots of documents signed.

Councilmember and Mayor’s Reports

Councilmember Brendan McGoffin – nothing to add tonight.

Councilmember JoEllen Kesti – I have been working at the cemetery and want to compliment Nathan Salseina and his crew for how nice it looks out there for Memorial Day.

Councilmember Sarah Diamond – want to thank everyone who helped with the celebration of both Chief Klinger and the 100th Anniversary of the Fire Department. Great to hear so many stories and see so much community involvement. People are very anxious to have the library open to the public. Discussion followed between Mayor Johnson, Councilmember Diamond and City Supervisor Doug Merriman.

Councilmember Glenn Allen – Would like to have seen city council wages on the agenda. Discussion followed regarding how city council's vote is applied and who would actually receive wage increases if it was voted upon.

Councilmember Chuck Owen – Recently I went to the museum and picked up a couple of books and would like to recommend them. Under the Red Roof is about the Northern State Hospital and the other is called The Cigarette Diaries.

Councilmember Karl de Jong – Want to say thank you to the Lions Club for cleaning up Highway 20 near Fruitdale Rd. Enjoyed being part of the Active Shooter/Mass Casualty drill and to see how the communication works to keep our citizens safe.

Councilmember Kevin Loy – Asked Chief Tucker about the changes that are coming from the legislative bills. Wanted to know if all the communities in Skagit County are communicating with each other to stay on the same page. Discussion with Chief Tucker followed.

Mayor Johnson – Farmers Market is open now for the summer. Want to commend the celebration for Chief Klinger's retirement and the anniversary of the Fire Department. A lot of hard work, team effort and energy was devoted to that and it was a very moving ceremony and celebration. Currently, I am working on putting together policies for opening up the city. I will have that out to council at the same time I have it out to the staff. We are still under phase 3, but the CDC has said that 2 weeks after the 2nd vaccine, people are allowed to take off the mask. Reminder: no Council Work Sessions for June, July and August. Last thing is House Bill 1590. We will be bringing the info to the council on 6/9/21. 1/10th of 1% sales tax has been offered to the cities in Skagit County. The money will go to the county if the city passes on the funds.

Public Comments

7:01 P.M.—opened for public comment. No requests were received.

7:01 P.M.—closed public comment

Unfinished Business

1. Amendments to the Shoreline Master Program (Ordinance No. 1983-21) 2nd Reading
John Coleman presented the 2nd reading regarding the funds for the updates. Changes are non-substantive for the most part. No questions or discussions. Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1983-21. Councilmember Loy made motion and Councilmember de Jong seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

1. Updates to the City Council Governance Handbook and the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to change City Council Meeting Times (Resolution No. 1070-21 & Ordinance No. 1984-21)

These changes came from the May 7th City Council Working Retreat. Council would like to keep the 6pm start time for all future meetings. Must first pass a resolution to adopt the changes and then can move on to the Ordinance which will adopt the changes to the City of Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code. Councilmember Kesti wanted to remove the limit of 2 hours for Council Meetings so we can just finish what needs to be done. Councilmembers Allen and McGoffin both supported Councilmember Kesti's proposal. Resolution 1070-21 adopts the updated City Council Governance Handbook. Councilmember Kesti made the motion to approve Resolution No.1070-21. Councilmember Diamond seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1984-21 to enter the changes into the City of Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code was made by Councilmember Diamond. Motion seconded by Councilmember Kesti. Motion carried (7-0).

Information Only Items

1. Minor Contracts approved under SWMC 2.104.060

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

