

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: Consent C 2

DATE: February 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Council Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, City Clerk

SUMMARY: Attached are the minutes of the January 25, 2007 regular Council meeting as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve as submitted.

MOTION: Move to accept the consent agenda as presented.

COUNCIL ACTION:

DATE:

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2007

The regular meeting of the Sultan City Council was called to order in the Sultan Community Center by Mayor Tolson. Councilmembers present: Champeaux, Wiediger, Slawson, Seehuus, Flower, and Boyd.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Consent: Excused absence of Councilmember Blair

PRESENTATION:

Snohomish County Cities and Towns: Mayor Gary Haakenson, City of Edmonds, provided a brief presentation on the 2007 Legislative agenda for the Association of Snohomish County Cities and Towns. There are several issues that they intend to present proposed legislation on this year that will assist with parks, transportation issues, open meetings and penalties for auto theft. Councilmember Robert Amenn from the City of Gold Bar requested that the City support the legislative proposals.

Bond Refinance Options: Jim Nelson, Martin & Nelson Company, discussed the options for refinancing the 1996 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds. The City could save \$71,577 to \$103,000 depending on the option selected and would realize a net savings value of 6.07%. The City could elect to proceed with the bond refinance process and hold off on the reissue if the bond market prices go up.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Loretta Storm: Asked if the City had any information on the Stanton Group? Suggested that the budget be on the City web site and that documents be available in electronic format.

Don Sterns: Lives across the Skykomish River and questioned why the County was harassing the residents in the area and trying to chase them off the property.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS:

Slawson: Recommended that Mr. Stern contact the County regarding the removal of people from the property.

Mayor Tolson: Advised that the County is taking action to remove people from their property and from private property. In regards to the Stanton Group, they have an option on the property and they have presented their vision for development. This is a proposed project that will need to go through the proper process.

Staff Reports:

Police Department: Discussion was held on the REDFLEX program which is a photo enforcement system for traffic signal violations. The video is provided to the local police department and a ticket is issued to the vehicle. Councilmembers requested that staff proceed with arranging a demonstration and providing information on a service contract.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items are incorporated into the consent and approved by a single motion of the Council. On a motion by Councilmember Champeaux, seconded by Councilmember Slawson, the consent agenda was approved as presented. Champeaux – aye; Wiediger – aye; Slawson – aye; Seehuus – aye; Flower – aye; Boyd – aye.

- 1) Approval of Vouchers: Vouchers #20090-20903 and 20912-20953 in the amounts of \$122,668.19 and payroll through January 12, 2007 in the amount of 442,966.76 to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 2) Authorization for the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Everett for Animal Shelter Services.
- 3) Authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract addendum with Springbrook Software for the Building Permit module.
- 4) Excused absence of Councilmember Blair from the January 25, 2007 Council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Domestic Partner Coverage for Health Care Insurance: The City currently offers Health Care Insurance to employees for Domestic Partners of the opposite sex. In June 2006, sexual orientation nondiscrimination became effective and part of the Washington State Law Against Discrimination. The City must revise the current policy to comply with the law by amending the policy to include same sex partners or eliminate the benefit. Four alternatives were provided for consideration – 1) eliminate the coverage, 2) add same sex partners to the policy, 3) add same sex to the coverage and change the level of coverage and require a larger payment for domestic partner coverage or 4) take no action. Brief discussion was held regarding coverage offered by other cities and the State, collective bargaining issues and fiscal responsibility.

Councilmember Flower moved to modify the policy to cover married couples only and drop health care insurance coverage for domestic partners, seconded by Councilmember Boyd. Roll call vote: Boyd – aye, Flower – aye, Seehuus – nay, Wiediger – aye, Slawson – nay, Champeaux – nay; Mayor Tolson – aye.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Public Participation and Notice Procedures for Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Rick Cisar, Community Development Director, provided an overview of the revised Public Participation and Notice Procedures for Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board has reviewed the policy and has made a recommendation to the Council to change some of the notice procedures and posting requirements. Need to specify that some posting will be on a “when available” basis such as Channel 21 and the Utility bills. The matter will be brought back for council action next month.

2006 Public Safety Report: Chief Walsler provided an overview of 2006 statistics for activity in the Police Department. Two vacant officer positions were filled in 2006 and grants were used to offset the cost of equipment and overtime. The increase in crime is not unique to Sultan and the City needs to get citizens involved in block watches and advisory committees. Discussed the need to encourage citizens to use the 911 system.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Loretta Storm: Advised that she has the traffic statistics available for Highway 2. WSDOT officials stated that the traffic across the pass is steady and not increasing.

Executive Session: On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Flower, the Council adjourned to executive session for twenty minutes to discuss Union negotiations. All ayes.

Adjournment: On a motion by Councilmember Seehuus, seconded by Councilmember Slawson, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Benjamin Tolson, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk