

Regular Meeting of the City Council
December 6, 2023 - 6:00 PM Hybrid Meeting

a. Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers JoEllen Kesti, Glenn Allen, Chuck Owen, Joe Burns, Brendan McGoffin, and Nick Lavacca. Councilmember Diamond had an excused absence.

Mayor Julia Johnson thanked the Public Works Department for the beautiful Christmas tree in the center of town and wanted to thank the Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers that participated in the Christmas parade.

Mayor Julia Johnson is extremely grateful and wanted to give the Police Department great praise for their service and providing safety to our community.

d. Introduction of Special Guests and Presentation

1. Office of the Washington State Auditor - Audit Exit Conference

Audit Manager Deena Garza, Audit Supervisor Susanne Hancock and Audit Lead Jordan Helms provided a PowerPoint presentation to share the report of the findings and results of the Washington State Audit.

2. Community Action of Skagit County

Community Action of Skagit County did not present.

e. Unfinished Business

f. New Business

1. Confirmation of Eulises Tovar as Information Technology Director

City Administrator Charlie Bush and Mayor Julia Johnson gave their recommendation for

the confirmation of Information Technology Specialist Eulises Tovar as the new Information Technology Director.

Information Technology Director Bill Chambers recommended that Information Technology Specialist Eulises Tovar be confirmed as the new Information Technology Director, and shared that Information Technology Specialist Eulises Tovar has the knowledge, skills, and the ability to step into the role as the new Information Technology Director and will do a fantastic job for the city.

Motion to approve confirmation made by Councilmember Kesti and seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried (6-0).

2. Economic Development Strategy

City Administrator Charlie Bush presented the current economic development strategies the Planning and Business Committee has been working on this past year, such as priorities to focus on, and goals for public downtown improvements.

The Planning and Business Committee interviewed a focus group of businesses, at the City Council's request from their goal-setting sessions. The Planning and Business Committee also interviewed economic development partners, including the Sedro-Woolley Chamber, the Port of Skagit, and the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County.

Councilmember Burns shared information on the Sedro-Woolley Economic Development Action Draft.

Councilmember Lavacca recommended the City Council prioritize the list of goals discussed and recommend streamlining some of the goals and projects.

No action was taken.

3. Archway Proposal

City Administrator Charlie Bush opened discussion on the Archway Proposal and Councilmember Lavacca presented the preliminary Archway Proposal along with the design ideas.

Councilmember Lavacca said the new Archway would enhance the vision of the trestle and cause people to remember Sedro-Woolley. The new Archway would be an imprint to draw people into the downtown area and could also be used to hang banners for free advertising of events, such as Loggerodeo.

Councilmember Lavacca noted the preliminary engineering design was completed by Designer Morgan Benson.

Councilmembers Lavacca, Burns, McGoffin and Kesti vocalized support for the project.

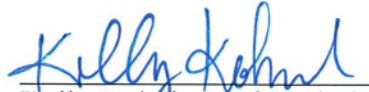
The council discussed with Director of Public Works Mark Freiburger regarding the powerlines, cost, various locations and permitting.

Councilmember Allen suggested we allow the new oncoming Councilmembers to participate in the decision of the Archway Proposal project.

The Archway Proposal is going back to the City Council next year in 2024.

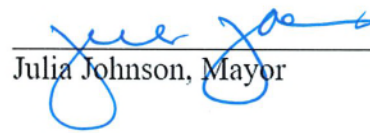
g. Adjournment

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Kohlen", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Kohlen, City Clerk

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Julia Johnson, Mayor