

RESOLUTION NO. 709

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNDEN DECLARING THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS SERVE BROAD PUBLIC PURPOSE AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden desires for its citizens a quality of life that includes aesthetic quality, a strong sense of community and economic health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden seeks a balance between residential growth and employment opportunities within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynden has adopted a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan that declares the public benefits of economic development and growth within the community; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Economic Development Plan reads, ***"To work with business owners and citizens throughout the City to ensure the future economic health of the City by working to maintain and attract responsible businesses and industries that are compatible with the Communities values."***

WHEREAS, the public benefits of economic growth include an increased property tax base to support municipal services, schools, and other taxing authorities, the creation of jobs to gainfully employ the citizens of the community, increased sales tax revenues, and

WHEREAS, the public benefits of economic growth within the city also include less traffic congestion on outlying roads and highways, reduction in urban sprawl, investment within a municipal area that is able to provide the services needed for business and industry; and

WHEREAS, economic development within the City is supported by the goals and objectives of the Growth Management Act; and whereas,

WHEREAS, providing incentives for economic development is consistent with the Growth Management Act and the City's own goals for encouraging infill development; and

WHEREAS, there are obstacles to Lynden's economic growth that the City can not resolve, such as the distance of the City from Interstate 5, the limited border crossing, the cost of land within the community, all of which have affected Lynden's ability to retain existing businesses and attract new industrial development; and

WHEREAS, within the City limits there is land zoned appropriately for commercial and industrial development to provide opportunity for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the areas zoned as CS-3, I-1 and I-2 provide land area specifically targeted for agricultural business, and industrial growth: land uses which are targeted for support within the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 the City of Lynden has lost several employers within the City to areas that are ready to develop, are closer to I-5 and are more economical to expand; and

WHEREAS, Lynden needs additional incentives to encourage businesses within those areas to expand and to attract new business to the city and to counter the obstacles to economic growth within the City; and

WHEREAS, mitigation fees for transportation improvements and park and open space facilities may affect a business's decision to locate in the West Lynden Industrial Area; and

WHEREAS, revenue from transportation and park mitigation fees reduced as an incentive for locating within the West Lynden Industrial Area may be recouped through grants for economic development purposes, increase real estate excise tax, removal of property from the open space taxation program and general public benefit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lynden to declare that economic development efforts serve a broad public interest to the citizens of Lynden by increasing the property tax base, and creating new jobs within the city; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lynden to declare the zoning designations of I-1 (Industrial), I-2 (Light industrial), and CS-3 (Commercial Services) as economic assistance areas; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lynden to consider economic incentives, such as the reduction in mitigation fees for park facilities and transportation facilities, for new development in those areas declared as economic assistance areas.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Lynden, Whatcom County, Washington on the 7th day of February, 2005 and signed and approved by the Mayor on the same date.


MAYOR
Jack Louws

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK
William Verwolf

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


CITY ATTORNEY
Robert Carmichael