

# CITY OF LYNDEN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 1, 2021	
<b>Name of Agenda Item:</b>	Ord 1615 – Code Amendment accommodating a Hearing Examiner Role	
<b>Section of Agenda:</b>	Public Hearing	
<b>Department:</b>	Planning Department	
<b>Council Committee Review:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<b>Legal Review:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> No - Not Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Review Not Required	
<b>Attachments:</b>		
Proposed Ord 1615		
<b>Summary Statement:</b>		
<p>In 2018 the City of Lynden began researching the use of a hearing examiner after several costly and time-consuming administrative appeals were defended. Benefits of the use of a hearing examiner include an expediency in processing appeals, the unbiased opinion of a professional, removing social/political influence from the process, reducing the City’s liability, and decreasing the obligations placed on volunteer boards.</p> <p>All decisions made by the Hearing Examiner, apart from Shoreline land use permits, will be appealable to the City Council. Shoreline permits, per the City’s Shoreline Master Program, remain appealable to the State Shoreline Hearing’s Board.</p> <p>The individual selected for the Hearing Examiner position would be selected by the City Council. A corresponding request for qualifications has been drafted and was distributed to Council members in January and reviewed with the Community Development Committee.</p> <p>The Technical Review Committee and the Planning Commission recommend approval as presented.</p> <p>On February 1, 2021 the City Council held a public hearing on Ordinance 1615 but continued the item to March 1, 2021.</p>		
<b>Recommended Action:</b>		
Motion to approve Ordinance 1615 with an effective date of May 1, 2021, amending the Lynden Municipal Code to create a hearing examiner role and scope of authority, and to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the document.		