



Planning Commission Meeting

433 Cherry Street, Sumas
Monday, April 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

Present: Carson Cortez, City Planner; Michelle Quinn, City Clerk; Helen Solem, Commissioner; Lizette Custer, Commissioner; John Van Wingerden, Commissioner; Jacob Williams, Commissioner.

Absent: Ex-Officio Josh Clawson.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

March 16, 2026, Draft Minutes

John Van Wingerden made a motion to approve March 16, 2026, minutes. Jacob Williams seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Comprehensive Plan Updates

Carson Cortez, City Planner, provided an update on the status of the Comprehensive Plan, which was finalized in December 2025. Whatcom County is still completing its Comprehensive Plan review and is expected to finish by June 9, 2026. At that time, the City will need to update its Comprehensive Plan with any amendments necessary to align with the County's plan.

Carson explained that the Western students would like to return to give a final presentation in June. The Commission decided to schedule the presentation for June 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

The UGA update was that the City is still working with the County to obtain final approval of its proposed UGA request. The Commission discussed annexation in agricultural zones and the restrictions the County may place on properties in those zones. Property owners may be required to pay a fee to the Whatcom Conservation Fund to annex into the City if their property is removed from the agricultural zone designation.

The Commission discussed concerns that raising homes may cause additional water runoff onto neighboring properties. Lizette asked whether the City has a map showing all homes that have been raised.

4. Adjournment

John Van Wingerden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacob Williams seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Josh Clawson, Ex Officio

City Clerk