



Planning Commission Meeting

433 Cherry Street, Sumas

Monday, March 17, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Ex-Officio Josh Clawson

Carson Cortez, City Planner

Michelle Quinn, City Clerk

Present

Jacob Williams

Helen Solem

Teresa Josephson

Lizette Custer

John VanWingerden

Lizette Custer made a motion with corrections suggested to approve February 18, 2025, Minutes, Teresa Josephson seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Carson Cortez, City Planner opened the meeting with an update on the flood meeting he attended. The meeting had a good turnout with representatives from different agencies and local businesses regarding the flooding in 2021. The workshop was a discussion on potential ways to solve the flooding issues for any future flooding.

Carson introduced this is a non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolution regarding population, housing, and employment allocations that Whatcom County has passed. The GMA requires counties and cities comprehensive plans to be coordinated and consistent. The county-wide planning policies and inter-local agreements for the population, housing, and employment are important to the comprehensive plan update and the UGA process. This resolution is also going before the city council for consideration.

The discussion about the comprehensive plan chapter #1 Introduction, everyone accepted the current draft with no changes. Teresa inquired about the climate change element section, Carson explained we do not have the information at this time to complete this section.

The discussion about the comprehensive plan chapter #2 Background, Lizette would like to go over the history section, updating information may not be accurate. Another part of the historical background is regarding the recent flooding in paragraph five, they do not feel it is a correct statement for all residents who live in Sumas. Everyone agreed the vision and goals section was a great description of Sumas.

Carson stated chapter eight economic development element does not have any changes at this time and asked for any thoughts. Discussion on the goals and policies they would like to see an update to the wording, more with cross-border policies that may affect future businesses in town.

Teresa inquired about the climate change element and if there is any information out there to review to help create this section. Carson stated this a brand-new section. The climate element will need to be created for the comprehensive plan update. Carson said there are state guidelines for the climate element, but Sumas is so small and most of it will not apply to us.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

John VanWingerden made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lizette Custer seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Josh Clawson, Ex Officio

City Clerk