



Planning Commission Meeting

433 Cherry Street, Sumas, WA 98295

Monday, January 29, 2024, at 5:30 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Josh Clawson, Ex-Officio
Carson Cortez, City Planner
Michelle Quinn, City Clerk

Planning Commissioners

Jacob Williams
John VanWingerden
Helen Solem
Lizette Custer
Teresa Josephson

John VanWingerden made a motion to approve October 16, 2023, Minutes, Lizette Custer seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Carson Cortez, City Planner, went over the Washington State Department of Commerce presentation presented to the city council. This is an overview of the process for the comprehensive plan review which will be due June 30, 2025. Carson went over the department of commerce plans with the Growth Management Act (GMA) and their goals for the GMA Planning.

Carson explained that there is a bill before the state senate to extend our due date to December 31, 2025, for the periodic update for the comprehensive plan.

Carson Cortez, City Planner advises with the comprehensive plan update we will be reviewing the land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, and the newly added climate change chapters of the comprehensive plan. The city also has a review of economic development and our shoreline management.

Carson highlighted the sections that will be reviewed over the course of the comprehensive plan review.

Chapter 3 Land Use Element will cover zoning, existing land usage, geology, wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat.

Chapter 4, Capital Facilities is to be consistent with the statutory requirements. This is an overview of our public facilities, streets, road sidewalks, utility systems and recreational facilities.

Chapter 5. Housing Element is about the existing housing conditions and the census for population and housing growth. Reviewing for more affordable housing and housing needs.

Chapter 6. The transportation element is an inventory of our transportation facilities and services, traffic forecast based on land use plans and the level of service standards for all arterial and transit routes.

Chapter 7, The Utilities Element is a review of our capacity of all existing and proposed utilities of the cities.

Chapter 8, Economic Development Element is for economic development goals and polices for the city. This deals with the international border crossing which is a major factor that impacts Sumas' economic development.

Chapter 9, Shoreline Management Element, the shoreline master program was updated at the end of last year and approved by the city council.

Carson also advised that the city will also have to make sure an ADU ordinance is in place six months after the comprehensive plan is due. Also, cities below 25,000 population can adopt the counties critical area ordinance by reference. The county and city planners are going to be setting a plan for the timeline on each of these steps.

The next planning commission meeting was set for March 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Jacob Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Teresa Josephson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.



City Clerk



Councilmember Josh Clawson, Ex Officio