Planning Commission Meeting

433 Cherry Street, Sumas, WA 98295
Monday, November 18, 2024, at 5:30 PM

Minutes

Present

John VanWingerden
Lizette Custer
Helen Solem
Teresa Josephson
Jacob Williams

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

Lizette Custer made a motion to approve October 21, 2024, Minutes, John VanWingerden seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Carson Cortez, City Planner, opened the meeting with going over what happened at the public hearing regarding the subdivision on Sumas Avenue. The applicant and a homeowner did not want a connecting sidewalk to Highway 9, the area runs through private property. Discussion on having sidewalks throughout town to make walking paths for our residents.

Jessica Koehler wanted to know if the commissioners have any concerns or questions about subdivision that should be brought to the council before they make their final decision. One concern was about why the City must maintain the retention pond. Carson explained that the City maintains all the retention ponds in town. Helen Solem would like to see landscaping as part of the developer's responsibility, the city has no requirements for a subdivision to have landscaping.

The commission would really like to see an agreement between the single-family residents due to sharing the roof and wall.

Carson Cortez, City Planner, went over the community vision and goals on what the town wanted to be from the prior comprehensive plan. The city's vision from the 1992 survey was to protect the natural elements, protect the residential character for a rural town, encourage commercial development, encourage clean industrial development, enhance the facilities at existing parks and develop new trails, protect groundwater resources and critical areas for shoreline management.

Helen and Lizette both agree with the past community vision for our town. Carson said that the projected population and employment growth plan for Sumas was presented to the Whatcom County Planning Commission along with all the other cities. The general feedback from the community has not been

encouraging, the whole county's projection for the population and employment is higher than the state's prediction over the next twenty years.

The next commission meeting January 06, 2025

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

Councilmember Josh Clawson, Ex Officio

City Clerk