
CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Study Session from Joint City Council and Planning Commission
February 1, 2023 – 6:00 P.M. Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Roll Call

City Council Members Present: Brendan McGoffin, Joe Burns, Sara Diamond, JoEllen Kesti & Glenn Allen. **Councilmembers** Nick Lavacca and Chuck Owen Via Zoom

Introduction of Special Guests and Presentations:

Agenda items

1. Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments – 2023 Docket

Planning Director John Coleman presented information to the City Council, Commission, and the Mayor regarding the updates to amendments in Municipal Code to set a docket every year. The Planning Commission works on the Comprehensive Plan and updating and gathering information all year, so they can pass all changes all at once. The Commission also works with the Skagit County Governments on population projection growth in commercial and residential areas. There was discussion on how the Planning Commission comes up with the plan for changes, the timeline, and how potential GMA and legislative changes will impact on the Comprehensive Plan.

After discussion, there was no action taken tonight on this agenda item. This item will be placed on February 8th, 2023 City Council agenda under Unfinished Business. Planning Director, John Coleman, requested an action to be taken to set the docket for 2023 at the next regular council meeting.

Planning Director John Coleman answered question made by City Council and Planning Commission. There was discussion of economic growth and level of jobs being created in addition to affordable housing in Skagit County. Mayor Julia Johnson recognizes people are eating out more and looking for entertainment types of businesses. There was discussion of commercial space available and location of these topics. Councilmembers expressed concern of congestion, other traffic concerns and transportation needs, the cost of living in apartments, and housing density around the farmland.

There was discussion about including new bike trails in the next Comprehensive Plan update. There was discussion of ADU units and the process. Planning Director John Coleman

estimated there have been 5 permits issued since it started in 2018. Planning Director John Coleman addressed other questions that were asked by City Council and Commissioners.

2. NorthStar Project

Mayor Julia Johnson explained how the community and Skagit County are working together towards the same goals through the NorthStar project. Applicants can apply for funding with Skagit County, NorthStar will then vet and distribute funds. Funding comes from House Bill 1590 and the funds are to be used for affordable housing and related services, mental health, and homelessness. There was mention of past and current organizations providing these services including Pioneer Center North (counseling and treatment), Family Promise (reduce the need for assistance long-term), and Marthas House (supportive housing).

There was discussion of opioid funding and Mayor Julia Johnson said City Administrator Charlie Bush would be discussing and organizing funding on this topic. Mayor Julia Johnson encouraged the City Council to come with questions next week for Jennifer Johnson and George Kosovich, Public Health Analyst with Skagit County, presenting on NorthStar project.

Adjournment

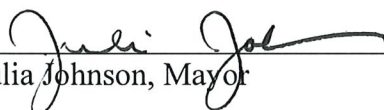
The meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

ATTEST:



Kelly Kohnken, Finance Director

APPROVED:



Julia Johnson, Mayor