

City of Cosmopolis
Workshop Meeting Minutes
Planning Commission and City Council
May 2, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Mayor Frank Chestnut presiding

Councilmembers present: Carl Sperring, Kyle Pauley, Jonathan Fischer and Debbie Moran

Planning Commission members present: Ken Cummings, Judi Lohr, and Mark Collett

Staff present: Public Works Director, Darrin Raines

The joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the City Council was called to order by Mayor Frank Chestnut. Mayor Chestnut introduced Dru Garson from Greater Grays Harbor Inc. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss economic development.

Mayor Chestnut asked for input from the others in the room and that he had some ideas himself. He said he would like to bring the Council together for a retreat after some further discussions.

The Mayor told everyone that he had found out that the City is allowed to run their own marijuana store. Brian Shay of Hoquiam told Cheryl and Darrin that the City of Hoquiam would make around \$50,000 per year from a shop that is not owned by the City. Planning Chairman Ken Cummings questioned the amount of money that Hoquiam will make from sales revenue. Councilmember Pauley said at this time we could not get a license.

Mayor Chestnut brought to the group the possibility of a jail being built. He said that jails do make money. He said he would like to see a new City Hall, Police Station and a possible jail.

The Mayor reminded the group about the Solid Waste Conversion project brought to Council by Mike Meyers. It would be taking food waste and converting it to methane gas and then to electricity. Shawn Bridges asked if it would be green power and if so it can be sold to the PUD. The by-product would become fertilizer.

Cosmo is putting in an ethanol plant. It will be housed at the old Weyco truck shop. Councilmember Sperring said the City needs to annex the whole block and that it needs to be put at the top of the list for things to be done.

Mayor Chestnut asked for ideas from everyone.

Planning Chairman Ken Cummings said the need throughout the County is more assisted living facilities. There is always a waiting list and that means there is a real need. Mayor Chestnut asked Public Works Director Raines if an assisted living facility would fit into the Water Front Use District. He was told that it would.

Shawn Bridges asked if Cosmo would possibly be interested in the City putting in the boat launch and RV spots. Planning Chairman Cummings thinks we should approach Cosmo with the idea that it would be a positive thing for them. Mayor Chestnut said Mike Entz told him they were not interested in splitting the property at this time.

Planning Chair Cummings brought forth the possibility of annexing a portion of the property close to his home off Stanford Drive. The group talked about the annexation of the golf course and a portion south of the course. Public Works Director Raines said he thinks we need to do this as soon as possible.

Planning Commission member Judi Lohr said the Six Rivers Gallery needs more space and would like to move to Cosmopolis.

Shawn Bridges said he was thinking about building a shopping area on his lots.

Ben King would like to see some manufacturing businesses come to town that are family wage jobs. Councilmember Moran suggested that the land across the street from her is still available and is in the manufacturing district.

Dru Garson said he would be willing to use resources that Greater Grays Harbor Inc. has to assist the City in whatever direction it goes.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor