

Lewis County Planning Commission

Public Hearing

In-Person & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

November 12, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Planning Commissioners Present: Jason Alves, District 1; Gretchen Fritsch, Jeff Skutley, District 2; Lorie Spogen, District 1; Roger Moore, At-Large; Frank Corbin, District 3; District 3; Bob Russell

Staff Present: Mindy Brooks, Director of Community Development; Guilherme Motta, Senior Long-Range Planner; Katie Johnson, Office Assistant Senior.

Planning Commissioners Excused Absences:

Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes – September 10 & 22, 2024
- Staff Report for SB5290 – October 23, 2024

1. Zoom Guidelines

The clerk dispensed with the Zoom Guidelines.

2. Call to Order

A. Determination of a Quorum

7 Commissioners were present; there was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda for November 12, 2024. Commissioner Russell made the motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Moore. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the meeting notes from October 8 and 22, 2024. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the notes as presented, second by Commissioner Alves. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

******Guilherme Motta was introduced as the new Senior Long-Range Planner. The Commissioners each introduced themselves as well.

6. Public Hearing: Permitting Timeframes of SB5290

A. Staff Presentation: Mindy Brooks, Lewis County Director of Community Development, shared a presentation on the permit timeframes for SB5290.

Commissioner Skutley asked how Lewis County compares to other counties in terms of the timeframes and deadlines. Mindy Brooks, Lewis County Community Development Director, stated these deadlines come from the RCWs therefore all counties should be the same. Lewis County is typically within the timeframes.

Commissioner Alves asked if someone is building something in a UGA, which jurisdictions do these timelines affect. Mindy Brooks stated that she has been in contact with Centralia and Chehalis as there are current ILA agreements with both cities. The ILAs need to be updated to address the timeframes. In the meantime, Mindy Brooks suggests that if a developer wants to permit a project in the UGA they request an extension to the timeframes to ensure the processes can be completed. The code was changed to state the applicant can request an extension of any time frame instead of the previously stated 90-day extension.

Commissioner Alves asked if AI is a part of the conversation in relations to plan reviews. Mindy Brooks stated that is not a topic of conversation at this time. The new software will streamline much of the process.

Commissioner Moore asked how the refunds will work and if it affects General Fund. Mindy Brooks stated this process won't affect General Fund because the refunds come from the fees collected.

Commissioner Skutley asked what the commission is voting on. Mindy Brooks stated the commission needs to vote on the code amendments. The commission was provided the code amendments via the staff report prior to this meeting and prior to the October 8th meeting.

Commissioner Russell stated the permit center does not allow applications to be turned in without

all the requirements. He also stated he has no reservations about this subject.

B. Public Testimony: There was no public testimony.

C. Deliberation and Vote

The Chair close the record and entertained a motion to submit a letter of transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners to recommend approval of amendments to Lewis County Code 17.05, 17.10 and 17.130, as presented in this staff report. Commissioner Russell made the motion, second by Commissioner Moore. The motion carried unanimously, 7 Yes and 0 No votes.

7. Good of the Order:

A. Staff: The December meeting will be in the new Hearings Room of the Community Development Environmental Health building. Mindy made a proposal to the Planning Commissioners to have a potluck to celebrate the new Hearings Room and the end of the year. Commissioners agreed to a potluck for the December meeting.

*As a reminder, at the first meeting in January, new 2025 officers will need to be elected. There are no term limits on the officer positions.

B. Planning Commissioners: None

C. Calendar: The next meeting of the Planning Commission will occur on December 10, 2024, and the agenda items will be a workshop on the Comp Plan and the draft 2025 docket.

Adjourn

Commissioner Russell made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.