

DRAFT Minutes
Stevenson Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2024
6:00 PM

Planning Commission Chair Jeff Breckel called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair **Jeff Breckel**; Commissioners **Anne Keesee, Auguste Zettler, Charles Hales and Tony Lawson**

STAFF PRESENT

Community Development Director **Ben Shumaker**,
Planning & Public Works Assistant **Tiffany Andersen**

PUBLIC PRESENT

Mary Repar, Emily Harris

A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Public Comment Expectations

Shumaker explained use of tools for remote and public participants: For remote, *6 to mute/unmute & *9 to raise hand, or raise hand icon. Commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be limited to 3 minutes. Disruptive individuals may be required to leave the meeting. Persistent disruptions may result in the meeting being recessed and continued at a later date.

2. Public Comment Period:

(For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)
Mary Repar invited all to visit Stevenson’s Library December 21st they are making ornaments and in January, sock gnomes.

3. Approval of Minutes:

November 12, 2024, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by **Commissioner Lawson**, seconded by **Commissioner Hales**.

B. New Business

4. Coordination Discussion:

Shumaker opened the discussion by asking the commission what they would like to share with the Mayor of Stevenson during the next meeting. **Commissioner Breckel** would like to further integrate the Planning Commission with City Council, to see where they are headed in 2025 and discuss policy issues.

Commissioner Hales hopes to gather what the Mayor’s priorities are, if he would like to preserve or change Stevenson. He is also interested in

hearing the Mayor's thoughts on the closing of the Elementary School, coordination with the Port and which Capital Investments on the horizon that would affect the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Keese would like to check in on the ten (10) year plan and how it is being put into plans.

Commissioner Zettler wishes to hear about the City Council's plans for 2025, more specifically the plan for downtown and removing obstacles prohibiting investors from developing.

Shumaker explained what the ten (10) year plan is for new council members.

Discussion took place regarding water and waste water lines/pipes being upgraded to expand capacity. Followed by paving Railroad and Seymour with a state grant and parking thoughts on Russell.

Mary Repar, Stevenson, asked if Climate Change mitigation will be determined any time soon and believes coordination with the other agencies would be beneficial.

C. Old Business

None provided.

D. Discussion

Emily Harris was introduced. She is part of an organization called "Documenters", a group who visit government meetings to write up unbiased articles.

6. Staff & Commission Reports:

Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director provided a brief update on the following:

Periodic Update Grant: We are partnering with Skamania County to hire a consultant for regulatory level review. Looking to adopt the County's Critical Areas guidelines. If they are too different, we will keep the same.

Safe Streets for All: The City is working with a coalition of towns in the The Gorge to hire a consultant to provide a scope of work in order to ensure all streets have road safety plans, with a goal of zero automotive/pedestrian fatalities.

First Street Overlook: The project is close to 100% completion. They are fabricating the railing and will be done after installation.

Long Term Water Supply: Currently strategizing if ground water or surface water is the best investment. Capacity study was completed showing that surface water performed well.

7. Thought of the Month:

None

E. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made at 6:59 p.m. by **Commissioner Zettler**, seconded by **Commissioner Keesee**. There were no objections.