

**SULTAN CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

ITEM NO: Consent C 1 A

DATE: June 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Council Meeting Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

SUMMARY:

Attached are the minutes of the June 3, 2010 Special Council Meeting as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve as submitted

CITY OF SULTAN SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – June 3, 2010

The special meeting of the Sultan City Council was called to order in the Sultan Community Center by Mayor Eslick. Councilmembers present: Slawson, Davenport-Smith, Blair and Beeler.

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are incorporated into the consent and approved by a single motion of the Council. On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Blair, the consent agenda was approved as amended. Slawson – aye; Davenport-Smith – aye; Blair – aye; Beeler - aye.

- 1) Review of the Council's recommended changes to the goals and policies in the land use element of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

DISCUSSION**Transportation Element of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan:**

The issue before the city council is to review the council recommended changes to the Transportation Element goals and policies from the city council's May 20, 2010 meeting and make proposed changes.

The City of Sultan Transportation Element consists of goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation plans to guide the development of the city's transportation system in support of the city's land use element and vision for the future.

The Transportation Element is intended to ensure that the city's transportation infrastructure and its management meet the needs of the city's residents and economy for safe, efficient, and economical local movement and access to regional transportation facilities and services.

The council reviewed the proposed changes. The detail of the changes are included in the staff report.

Brief discussion was held regarding the use of cul-de-sacs; encourage connections of streets, trails, etal.; 6 year transportation plan.

Housing Element of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan:

The issue before the city council is to review the planning board recommended changes to the Housing Element goals and policies from the board's May 18, 2010 meeting and direct staff to areas of concern.

The city council has completed its review of the land use and transportation elements of the city's comprehensive plan. The planning board is prepared to review the goals and policies in the housing element. The intent is to review the proposed amendments to the goals and policies recommended by the planning board and make additional changes as the council directs.

The regional plan, Vision 2040, contains an "overarching goal" for housing that calls for the region to:

"...preserve, improve, and expand its housing stock to provide a range of affordable, healthy, and safe housing choices for every resident. The region will continue to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people."

Vision 2040 places significant emphasis on the location of housing in proximity to growth and employment centers and promotes fair and equal access to housing. Increasing housing choices and opportunities in growth and employment centers is also a primary goal that strives to improve the efficiency of our transportation system and strengthen the region's economy.

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Through the Regional Growth Strategy, new housing development will be directed to the urban growth area and regionally designated growth centers along the I-5 corridor.

Vision 2040 encourages local jurisdictions to development mechanisms to allow for a wider array of housing types - especially affordable housing. Affordable housing is defined as monthly housing costs that are less than 30 percent of gross household income. Expenses for commuting to and from work are also critical when considering the true cost of housing. Reducing commute times by placing jobs and housing in close proximity can lower the true cost of housing.

- MPP H-1 Provide a range of housing types and choices to meet the housing needs of all income levels
- MPP H-2 Achieve and sustain – through preservation, rehabilitation, and new development a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of low-income, moderate-income and middle-income households
- MPP H-3 Promote home ownership opportunities for low-income, moderate-income and middle-income households
- MPP H-4 Promote accessibility to jobs and provide opportunities to live in proximity to work.
- MPP H-5 Expand the supply and range of housing in centers throughout the region.
- MPP H-6 Give regional funding priority to projects that advance the development of housing in designated regional growth centers.
- MPP H-7 Review and streamline development standards and regulations
- MPP H-8 Encourage the use of innovative techniques to provide a broader range of housing types.
- MPP H-9 Encourage interjurisdictional cooperation to advance affordable housing.

PSRC and the county-wide planning policies emphasize the big picture – housing diversity and affordability; jobs-housing balance and directing future housing to transportation and employment centers. The difficult work is putting these concepts into practice in Sultan. Many people in the city already feel there is sufficient (and perhaps more than sufficient) “affordable” housing. Regardless, the city has an obligation under the Growth Management Act to ensure there is adequate housing for the median household income of \$46,000.

There is community consensus the city should encourage mixed-use development. The community is split on other housing issues especially on the question of market driven versus government driven improvements. The small group that met on December 8 to discuss housing issues was strongly in favor of larger residential lots, property maintenance codes, and developer supported open space trails and tot-lots.

Members of the community that weighed in by e-mail were strongly opposed to these same ideas. Out of all the small group meetings, the housing goals and policies generated the most community feedback.

Discussion: How does the city “provide” housing opportunities? Change H3 goal to provide clarification of the policy; eliminate the use of the word “district”; clustering; language corrections. Details of the changes will be provided in the revised text to be provided at the next meeting.

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Adjournment: On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Davenport-Smith, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. All ayes.

Carolyn Eslick, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk