

City of Mount Vernon
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008 7:00pm

Chairperson Denny Legro called the meeting to order. Present were Commission members Mark Hulst, Donnie Keltz, Gary Molenaar, and Al Lyon. Senior Planner Rebecca Lowell was also in attendance. Commission members Warren Cheney and Tom Twedt were absent.

Minutes:

Mr. Keltz moved, second by Mr. Hulst to approve the minutes of October 7, 2008. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance:

Ms. Lowell provided a brief history on the Critical Areas ordinance. Prior ordinances do not contain "Best Available Science" but the current ordinance does. The proposed amendments are designed to simplify and provide easier comprehension of the ordinance. The content has not been changed. Ms. Lowell also explained the process of mitigating wetland buffers by purchasing portions of the buffers. The funds are used to enhance other critical areas.

Mr. Hulst asked for an example of how the ordinance has been clarified. Mr. Legro noted the explanation for the application of the buffer enhancement maintenance and monitoring. Ms. Lowell stated one example would be the guidebook which thoroughly outlines processes, such as bonds; it clarifies what is required of the applicant.

Mr. Legro opened the public hearing.

Dale Ragan, 219 Warren Street, stated as long as there are no substantive changes there should not be any roadblocks. Mr. Ragan questioned why the changes were not done initially with the ordinance as he is concerned with the money spent on consultants.

There being no further public testimony Mr. Legro closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hulst moved, second by Mr. Lyon to recommend adoption of the amendments to City Council. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.