

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES
July 19, 2011

Mayor Pro Tempore Tibor Lak called the July 19, 2011 Study Session to order at 9:36 a.m.

Council Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Tibor Lak, Peter DeVries, Michael Molohon, Robert Francis, Elmer Larsen, and Cheri Kelley Farivar.

Staff Present: Joel Walinski, Nate Pate, and Chantell Steiner.

1. Critical Area's Updates

City Administrator Joel Walinski introduced the Council to Susan Driver and Sandra Strieby who were contracted to prepare the Critical Areas review and Ordinance needed for the required updates. The packet included a copy of the draft amendments, scenarios for discussion, evaluation process and checklists, staff reports, maps of the critical areas that identify the existing data and resources, samples of mapping prepared for the Shoreline Master Program, and the Department of Ecology comments and response materials provided by Ms. Strieby.

Susan Driver and Sandra Strieby proceeded to review the proposed amendments to Chapter 16.08 Critical Areas. Council reviewed updates to current article language and new article language that includes the following articles on the Table of Contents and Critical Area Regulations: Generally, Technical Study and Reporting, Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, Frequently Flooded Areas, Geologically Hazardous Areas, and Wetlands.

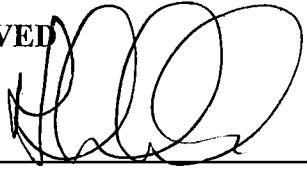
Council reviewed each of the topics above making various minor recommendations to the consultants and staff. Council reviewed the decision making processes; items that are addressed by Staff versus Council when reviewing applicant requests. Staff briefly reviewed the levels and tiers of approval and interpretation for administrative review and when the hearing examiner is utilized for such items as a variance. A note was made to change the language to specify the hearing examiner not the Planning Commission in the review process.

Ms. Driver and Administrator Walinski identified two other items that were discussed by the Planning Commission that pertained to a previous Leavenworth Water Problem Study and the Riparian Habitat Area. Councilmember Farivar voiced concerns with the Leavenworth Water Problem Study; Ms. Driver and Ms. Strieby noted that it would be used as reference for indicating potential areas, the more specific area studies of specific properties would be used in the decision making process. Ms. Strieby then reviewed the provided maps related to the Riparian Habitat Area and addressed a specific property question raised by Councilor DeVries on how the critical areas review would be interpreted for that property.

Staff and Council reviewed the next steps of the process. Staff identified the changes the Council would like to see made to the documents. Mayor Pro Tempore Lak stated it should be emphasized that this process is being moved forward based on state requirements. Councilor Larsen stated he would like to see the City explore the possibility of addressing the wetland issue with a area wide mitigation plan that small land owners may be able to buy into.

Study Session adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVED



Tibor Lak
Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST



Chantell Steiner
Finance Director/City Clerk