

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, May 15, 1985

11:00 a.m. Visitation - American Government Class - Skagit Valley College.

Hearing Rooms B & C

1:30 p.m. Public Hearing - Consideration of an Ordinance Declaring Skagit County a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 15, 1985, with Commissioners Vaux, Walberg and Rohrer present.

PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING SKAGIT COUNTY A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE.

Megan Cheney, on behalf of Jerry McInturff, Skagit County Auditor and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, read the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in the Skagit Valley Herald on May 3, 1985.

Chairman Vaux explained the procedure to be used in giving testimony. He noted that all correspondence received by the Board was made a part of the record.

Tope Ryan, Box 423, La Conner, referred to a letter to the Board written by Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.); with regard to the number of bombs used in past wars and the much greater number of weapons available today.

Jim Pizzuto, of Sedro Woolley, asked Commissioner Rohrer if any other countries, such as Russia, have been notified of Skagit County's interest in adopting a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Ordinance.

Commissioner Rohrer stated that he had no comment at this time, and would answer the question after the vote.

Barbara Evans Cram, of La Conner, stated that she is the Chairperson for Skagit Citizens for Nuclear Disarmament. She read the letter from Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., in which he stated that nuclear weapons can never defend anyone, but only destroy everyone.

Ms. Cram presented the Board with an amendment to the "purpose" paragraph of the proposed ordinance to include the following (Exhibit #1):

For the purpose of this ordinance, nuclear weapons are defined as bombs or other warheads which derive their force from the fission or fusion of atomic nuclei and shall include any material, device

or part, the function of which is exclusively to contribute to the operation of a nuclear weapon and which is destroyed as a result of the detonation of said weapon.

Valentine Ellis, of Sedro Woolley, stated that he was opposed to the proposed ordinance because of the possible detrimental effect it might have on new employment opportunities in Skagit County.

Robert Sund, of La Conner, pointed out that employment through the manufacture of nuclear weapons would not be honorable employment.

Jim Hill, of Mount Vernon, felt that a county that's worth defending from nuclear power is worth defending with whatever means available. He felt curtailing all employment remotely connected with the manufacture of nuclear weapons would be putting Skagit County residents out of many jobs.

Don Bockelman, of Sedro Woolley, used Einstein's Theory of Relativity to explain the total destruction which would be caused by nuclear explosion.

Ron Ryan, 1715 Whitmarsh Road, Burlington, spoke with regard to the surplus of property available due to the lack of employment in Skagit County.

Rusty Kunzey, of Sedro Woolley, felt the ordinance was allowed under the Constitution. He pointed out that this was not an economic decision.

Robbie Robertson, of Mount Vernon, asked the Board to define "manufacture" under the "purpose" paragraph.

Chairman Vaux stated the intent of "manufacture" was to prohibit the building of bombs in Skagit County. However, nuts and bolts, etc., could be manufactured in Skagit County. Commissioner Walberg and Commissioner Rohrer concurred.

Mr. Robertson stated that he would not object to the intent of the ordinance, although he felt the placement of signs stating Skagit County is a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone would indicate to potential employers that Skagit County may have other restrictions which might also interfere.

Aaron Katz, of Seattle, supported the proposed ordinance and felt further military expansion would have severe detrimental effects through the additional economic cost to the country.

Bob McCauley, of Oak Harbor, presented a picture of an American Eagle wearing a shackle, which symbolized the bird chained from flying due to the Nuclear Free Zone Ordinance. (Exhibit #2)

Holly Graham, of La Conner, supported the ordinance on a moral basis.

Hazel Lindstrom, of Bow, pointed out that Skagit County is in a wipeout zone because of our proximity to the military bases. She felt the ordinance would be unenforceable, and requested the Board place this matter on the ballot again so voters can understand it.

Alan Wold, a Mount Vernon minister, urged the Board to pass the ordinance as presently written.

Joy Werner, of Anacortes, opposed the ordinance because she felt it would stand in the way of our freedom in the future.

Zell Young, of Mount Vernon, was in favor of the ordinance. He stated we would not have an unemployment problem in Skagit County if it weren't such a beautiful place in which to live.

Edward M. Oldfield, of Clear Lake, felt declaring Skagit County a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone would be cowardly.

Joan Cross supported the ordinance and pointed out that building more bombs is not a wise economic investment.

Ken Ward, of Stanwood (formerly of Skagit County), spoke on behalf of those citizens who gave their lives for freedom. He read a portion of the Constitution stating that the United States will protect each state from invasion. He opposed the ordinance.

Alice Hastings, of Mount Vernon, supported the ordinance. She stated that our republican form of government should ensure that such an ordinance be passed, due to the number of people who voted in support of it.

Dero Forslund, of Rockport, opposed the ordinance. He stated we have a republic form of government, rather than a democratic form. He felt the ballot issue misrepresented the proposed ordinance.

Michael Fay, supported the ordinance as a means of keeping Skagit County clean.

Russell Miller, equated the invasion of Europeans into Indian territory to the invasion of other causes into America. He felt adequate weapons should be available if needed to defend our country.

Richard Houghton, of Guemes Island, supported the ordinance because he felt we need to learn how to work with the Russians rather than against the Russians in order to protect the entire world.

John Piazza, Vice President of the Skagit/Island Builders Association and President of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC), read a copy of a form letter signed by many people in the area who were in support of the ordinance, except for the provision allowing highway road signs to be displayed identifying Skagit County as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. He presented these letters and other letters from people who did not support any portion of the ordinance, to the Board. (Exhibit #3)

Mr. Piazza stated that he was personally against the ordinance.

Carl Landerholm, of La Conner, stated that he was a United Methodist Pastor in La Conner and Bayview. He favored the ordinance as an alternative to nuclear weapons which aren't going to lead us to peace.

Brian McGinnes, of Clear Lake, stated that he represented the Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association, which opposed the ordinance. He presented a letter to the Board suggesting a statement to the federal government expressing the opinion of Skagit County residents would be more appropriate. (Exhibit #4)

Waldon Hastings favored the ordinance as being beneficial to the world.

Dewayne Granacki, representing Skagit County Board of Realtors, presented a letter to the Board which expressed opposition to limiting component manufacturing, limiting transportation through Skagit County, and most especially to road signs identifying Skagit County as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. (Exhibit #5)

Rick Wallace, of Anacortes, was in favor of the ordinance, including component parts and the signs. He pointed out that the same amount of money used by other industry would create two to four times the number of jobs as military increases would. He felt war is obsolete as a method of solving conflict.

Leif Burkland, of Mount Vernon, expressed opposition to the ordinance.

Grace Hubbard thanked the Board for listening. She favored the ordinance and stated that she was patriotic in doing so.

Andrew Azure, a senior at La Conner High School, opposed the ordinance because he felt it would send the message to the federal government that we are not willing to defend our country.

Stanley Odle felt passage of this ordinance would not be an act of cowardice, nor would it stop nuclear war in the world. However, on the issue of trying to prevent a nuclear war, it is better to voice our opinion against nuclear weapons than to do nothing at all.

Debbie Aldrich, of Bow, read an article from "Remedy" by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. (Exhibit #6). She stated that additional military growth really means very little economic growth. Skagit County wants jobs other than those associated with nuclear weapons. She also presented the Board with a list of Nuclear Free Zones established in the world (Exhibit #7).

Mike Cossler, of Mount Vernon, stated that the decision has already been made by the voters to adopt such an ordinance. With regard to the signs, he felt they would act as a reminder of the people's choice.

Ruth Forslund, of Rockport, opposed the ordinance because the voters were not adequately informed to make an intelligent choice.

Rochelle Wallace, of Anacortes, favored the ordinance as a bright star in an often dark future.

William B. Downey, of Mount Vernon, supported the ordinance and pointed out that there is no such thing as a winnable nuclear war.

Dale Look, a senior at La Conner High School, felt the time to pass an ordinance would be when the Soviets agree to do the same and reduce their nuclear arms.

Vince Sellen stated that he favored the ordinance because democracy has spoken.

Joe Soler supported the adoption of the ordinance.

Tope Ryan pointed out that the country already has many more bombs than we need to destroy the world.

Robbie Robertson felt that the placement of signs might scare off prospective industry from locating in Skagit County.

Barbara Evans Cram stated that such signs would encourage the proper type of industry to locate in Skagit County. She reiterated her request to add "component" in the definition of purpose.

Bob McCauley stated that to be prepared for war is to protect peace. He asked the Board to lay their jobs, not their lives, on the line and reject the ordinance.

Don Bockelman continued with his description of Einstein's Theory of Relativity and the effects of a nuclear explosion on the earth and all beings.

Joy Werner felt this ordinance would further weaken the federal government's work in negotiating with the Russians.

Alan Wold urged the Board to adopt the ordinance.

Ken Ward felt there were two misconceptions: (1) We have a republic form of government where representatives make the decisions. He felt people assumed we have a democracy. (2) Mr. Ward stated that those supporting the ordinance are not cowards, but they are being deceived.

Grace Hubbard pointed out that several Russian satellite countries have hosted nuclear free movements, however, they were suppressed.

Dero Forslund presented the Board with a copy of "The Spotlight" (Exhibit #8) and a booklet entitled "Republics and Democracies" (Exhibit #9) to further express his objections to the ordinance.

Debbie Aldrich urged the Board to promote jobs for peace.

Brian McGinnes felt the people did not vote on this specific ordinance.

Zell Young stated that he would like to see "components" added to the ordinance. He also favored the placement of signs in Skagit County.

Ruth Forslund stated that she preferred a resolution to an ordinance, but was not in favor of either one.

As there was no further testimony, Commissioner Rohrer motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Walberg seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rohrer motioned to reconvene at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 1985, in Hearing Rooms B and C, to deliberate the matter. Commissioner Walberg seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

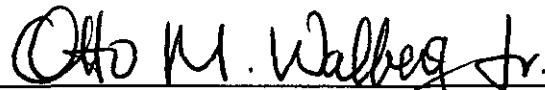
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Walberg motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

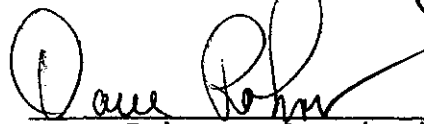
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



W. W. Vaux, Chairman

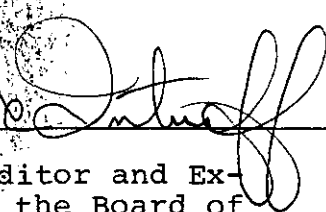
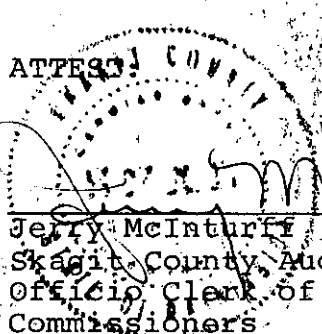


Otto M. Walberg, Jr. Commissioner



Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST



Jerry McInturff
Skagit County Auditor and Ex-
Officio Clerk of the Board of
Commissioners