

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1996

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Department Head Meeting (Commissioner's Conference Room).
11:00 a.m. - Noon. Public Hearing - Clarification of Natural Resource Ordinance.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 23, 1996, with Commissioners Ted. W. Anderson, Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present.

PUBLIC HEARING - CLARIFICATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE ORDINANCE.

Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing.

Tom Karsh, Planning, presented a proposed Ordinance clarifying and correcting Section 1 of Ordinance No. 16291 relating to Natural Resource Lands. Mr. Karsh stated that it came to attention of the Planning Department that there was an unattended "drafting error" in the final adopted version of the ordinance and that it deals with the ability to consider comprehensive plan changes and rezones. Mr. Karsh reminded the Board that there were three requests for comprehensive plan changes and/or rezones. Mr. Karsh stated that Planning staff recommends that the draft provided today, which shows the cross-out and added language, be approved. Mr. Karsh mentioned that this clarifies that all of lands that aren't being labeled as natural resource lands, (the land that is called non-resource on maps that was adopted with ordinance), that those properties have its zoning remain what it was prior to natural resource deliberations and that rezones can be considered for that property.

Commissioner Hart briefly discussed the original intent and it was clarified that if land was ag land or forest prior to the decision, if the decision effected it, then it would remain as it was on map.

Tom Moser, Attorney, representing Howard Pellett, resident of Guemes Island, spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance stating the it makes sense to maintain this language as it was previously stated and that it makes sense to keep the language as it is until the growth management act is adopted. Mr. Moser continued by reviewing prior discussions and decisions made in this regard, stating that the rural character and rural community language was not defined. Mr. Moser stated that this would allow neighborhood business zoning on island when the purpose of the rezone is not defined as rural character. Mr. Moser added that Guemes Island is not in an urban growth area, and it is inconsistent to now allow rural to neighborhood business to begin an urban development in rural designation.

Doyle McClure, Friends of Skagit County, stated his opposition of the proposed changes. Mr. McClure raised the question of the public process, as there was no information available to the public before this hearing and to their knowledge other than the newspaper announcement. Mr. McClure stated this should have been considered by the Planning Commission. Mr. McClure requested the language remain as it is. Mr. McClure commented on the new language appearing as though the County was going to do some quick rezones before the adoption of the comp plan and while this language does not change anything, it appears that this would allow quick rezones.

There being no further public testimony, Commissioner Hart made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hart mentioned these proposed changes in the Ordinance is keeping directly with the intent of the ordinance and made a motion to approve the Ordinance Clarifying and Correcting Section 1 of Ordinance No. 16291 Relating to Natural Resource Lands. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion.

John Moffat, Chief Civil Deputy, responded to Mr. McClures comments by stating that this change was not an amendment which would warrant a formal process. Mr. Moffat stated that this is a clarification and change to reflect the intent that the Board had at that time and that a Public Hearing was not required, but in excess of caution, decided to give notice as a Public Hearing. Mr. Moffat reiterated that this is just a clarification in Section 1.

The motion passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16331).**

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Ted W. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Harvey Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Ted W Anderson
Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Harvey Wolden
Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart
Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST.

Kathy Brown 10/28/96

Debby Sims, Clerk
Board of Commissioners