



CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022, 6:00 PM

**IN PERSON - Sedro-Woolley Municipal Building, Council Chambers
325 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley**

Committee: Councilmembers Joe Burns (Chair); Sarah Diamond; and Glenn Allen

Lead Staff: Charlie Bush, City Administrator

a. Call to Order

Chair Burns, Councilor Diamond, and Councilor Allen were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 6:06

b. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

c. Discussion and Possible Action Items

- 1) Chamber of Commerce Update from Chamber Executive Director Pola Kelley

Ms. Kelley was not able to attend the meeting.

- 2) Business Development Committee 2022 Work Planning

The commission discussed retail recruitment and industrial losses. There was a discussion of needs for parking for businesses and the desire to have more commercial areas zoned along State Route 20.

The committee discussed the loss of industry/businesses and possible contributing tax policy.

The committee discussed the need for business recruitment, particularly with a focus on recruiting from the Seattle area. The City could focus on industrial businesses, companies that build things. The committee discussed taking a look at the State's incentives to target opportunities.

There was a discussion about the status of the Downtown Association that formed a few years ago, the need for community events, and whether the design review committee was still in place.

The committee requested a briefing from Planning and Building Director John Coleman.

The committee discussed the possibility for impact fee deferrals and expressed an interest in hearing more from the City Attorney on this possibility and other incentives that are possible to offer.

The committee discussed the power of ports, the importance of demographics in site selection, and whether Sedro-Woolley can compete well within EDASC. There was discussion about how Sedro-Woolley is a clean and safe community and how more people now have an opportunity to work remotely. The committee discussed its desire to fill up vacant industrial spaces in town and current international manufacturing trends.

A further focus on events, especially Downtown, received some discussion. There was also some discussion on tourism and how to bring new residents into the community's historic traditions.

The committee requested that it hear from the Port, EDASC, and/or the Chamber at its next meeting. The committee also requested John Coleman for its March meeting.

d. Next Meeting: March 16, 2022. The Business Development Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise posted.

e. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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