

**TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE  
RECESSED COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2011, 7:00 PM  
South Prairie Town Hall  
121 NW Washington Street**

*The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript.*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Mathieu Cameron** called to order and presided over the Recessed Council Meeting of June 23, 2011, at 7:05 PM, at the South Prairie Town Hall located at 121 NW Washington Street, South Prairie, Washington. Mayor Peggy Levesque was absent.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Council Members:** Gerald Boures, Mathieu Cameron, Karen Shell and Tony Caldwell were present. Laura Heideman was absent.

**Also in attendance:** Kenny Booth, Watershed Company; Sarah Lukas, Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE); Roger and Chris Tolman, Mary Roach, Suanne Summers, Jim Frank, Dwight Partin, Karen Leming, Patty and Tyler Lamb, Ann Davis, Barb Wigton, and Marla Nevill, Clerk/Treasurer

**FLAG SALUTE:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Mathieu Cameron** requested everyone stand for the "Pledge of Allegiance."

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 23, 2011:**

- ❖ **Councilor Tony Caldwell** moved to approve the Agenda for June 23, 2011. **Councilor Karen Shell** seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE PUBLIC WORKSHOP:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Mathieu Cameron** introduced Kenny Booth, Watershed Company, and Sarah Lukas, WDOE. Kenny Booth gave an overview of the work they have completed to date and the documents that have been submitted to the Department of Ecology for approval. Sarah Lukas gave an overview of how the Shoreline regulations began and a summary of where the Town of South Prairie stands and what they are required to complete in order to be in compliance. She explained that the Town of South Prairie had received a grant to update the Shoreline Master Program and the status for completion of the process. Citizens stated the following questions or concerns: 1) Regulations are in place to protect the creek from humans; but what protects the property owners from the creek? 2) What can be done about the bridge acting as a dam? 3) Could the Town put up diking? **Response: Sarah Lukas** stated the Shoreline Master Program would regulate building of structures in the shoreline. **Kenny Booth** stated the SMP would outline what could and could not be in the shoreline. 4) It is not just WDOE regulating what can and cannot be done. There is more involved than WDOE. **Response: Kenny Booth** stated wants us to update the SMP manual, but we still have to deal with agencies at the State and Federal level. We will take into account other agency regulations and try to maintain a level of consistency. 5) Concerns were stated about the endangered species in South Prairie Creek. **Response: Kenny Booth** stated the endangered species are regulated at the Federal level. 6) Do we have to use the 2003 Pierce County regulations? **Response: Kenny Booth** stated we have developed a draft SMP within the last few weeks. 7) A question was raised about sandbags. **Response: Kenny Booth** stated sandbags are more for emergency measures. 8) Are the regulations different for a river vs. a creek? They have been told that it should be changed and reclassified as a river not a creek. If it was reclassified as a river, we would qualify for grant funding. **Response: Kenny Booth** stated that should not have an impact. He said it

makes no difference whether it is a creek, stream or a river. 9) How does this affect property owners in the Shoreline jurisdiction? And, what can and cannot be done in the Shoreline jurisdiction? **Response: Kenny Booth** stated the Town of South Prairie has used Pierce County SMP regulations. He said that document did not spell out the distance from the stream. He stated the SMP regulations come down from the Critical Areas Ordinance, which is still in effect. 10) Where did the 200 feet come from? **Response: Kenny Booth** said it came from the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), which was approved in 2007. He said the Town is operating in the 200-foot buffer. 11) With taxes going up, we could oppose increase since we cannot do anything with our property. **Response: Kenny Booth** said today we have a 200-foot buffer; and we are working on updating the SMP and reducing the buffer considerably. 12) If we are considered to be in the floodplain, it does affect us when trying to refinance. **Response: Sarah Lukas** gave a brief description of conforming and non-conforming use and said she would email the information to Marla Nevill. **Kenny Booth** stated as the regulations are written, we have to make sure there is not net loss. He said when coming up with the appropriate regulations, we have to consider that houses essentially have to stay away from the shoreline. **Sarah Lukas** said if the structures flood now, what would be the benefit of building closer to the creek? 13) Concerns were stated about the log jams upstream from South Prairie. It was suggested to request the Army Corp of Engineers to remove the log jams. 14) Someone said 200-foot setback was too much. **Response: Kenny Booth** said the starting point in the SMP Update draft is 100 feet. 15) Who has final say? **Response: Kenny Booth** said the absolute final say would be WDOE, who would do the final review and approval. 16) Knotweed Control Project was discussed. **Response: Sarah Lukas** said she would contact Pierce Conservation District tomorrow to find out when they would start the Knotweed Control Project. 17) Concerns were stated about bank erosion. **Response: Kenny Booth** said the SMP would have guidelines to address this issue. He would absolutely take into consideration these issues and stay within the State guidelines. He said the Town would have time to review the SMP document. He said we have one year to finish the process. He said another public workshop would be scheduled for probably around September. 18) Concerns were stated about people accessing the creek through their property even though "No Trespass" signs are posted. **Response: Sarah Lukas** said the water is public but if they cross your property to get to the creek that is trespassing. 19) Several citizens said they would like to see more public access. **Response: Councilor Tony Caldwell** asked for suggestions where the citizens would like to see more public access. 20) Would the SMP state what could be done with vegetation? **Response: Kenny Booth** said yes it would. 21) What happens with very large trees that are rotting? **Response: Sarah Lukas** said to have an arborist look at them and if deemed dangerous, they could be removed. 22) Does it have to be verified by an arborist? **Response: Sarah Lukas** said after checking the guidelines, that there were no requirements for an arborist in the guidelines. She said it would be the Town's responsibility to enforce. **Kenny Booth** said you could improve setbacks by improving the conditions closer to the creek.

**Kenny Booth** requested that citizens return their comments to the Town Hall as soon as possible. **Sarah Lukas** proposed coming back possibly in September for a development workshop. **Councilor Tony Caldwell** raised questions about the grant. **Sarah Lukas** stated the legislature approved the remaining \$8,000 to complete the SMP Update. **Kenny Booth** said the Council would have to approve the final document several months before the June 2012 deadline in order to submit the documents to WDOE for approval. He said the current contract ends June 2011. He will prepare a new contract for Town approval. **Sarah Lukas** said the invoice is due to WDOE by July 20, 2011. **Kenny Booth** said he would get the invoice to the Town within the first week in July. The citizens were informed that the draft documents would be posted to the Town's website; and they were encouraged to submit comments to the Town Hall as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- ❖ At 9:05 PM, **Councilor Gerald Boures** moved to adjourn. **Councilor Karen Shell** seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Date Approved: July 5, 2011**