

Subject: Resolution #623 – Intent to Update Comprehensive Plan

Ordinance #1482 – Adopting Updated 2016 Comprehensive Plan for Ruston

Proposed Council Action:

RES 623: Adopt Resolution #623 affirming intent to update Ruston Comp Plan.

ORD 1482: No Action Requested. This matter is on for First Reading. Unless directed otherwise, Ordinance #1482 will be brought back for Second Reading and Adoption next month.

Dept. Origin: Planning Commission

**Prepared by: Jennifer Robertson
 City Attorney**

For Agenda of: February 16, 2016

Exhibits: Resolution #623 and Ordinance #1482 with Attachment.

Initial & Date

Concurred by Mayor: _____

Approved by City Planner: _____

Approved as to form by City Atty: JSR/2-4-16

Approved by Finance Director: _____

Approved by Department Head: _____

INFORMATION / BACKGROUND

The first Ruston Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1996, and was later updated on April 2, 2003. On February 6, 2013, the City Council initiated the Comprehensive Plan update to respond to the requirement of the state Growth Management Act to periodically update such plans. The City received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 for the purposes of updating this plan.

Since the last Comp Plan was adopted, Ruston has undergone tremendous changes, including development of the ASARCO site, population growth of about 120 people (with the population projected to approximately double by 2035), and demographic changes. In order to develop the new 2016 Comp Plan, the City engaged in a multi-year planning process that included public events and open houses; over eleven (11) meetings of the Planning Commission; an online strategy that included a project website; and meetings with stakeholders.

Out of the process, a new Community Vision was created. The community envisions that in 2035 Ruston will be a vibrant, environmentally healthy and sustainable City with a rich history and unique character with safe, attractive neighborhoods; neighborhoods will remain connected to one another, offering diverse housing choices, gathering spaces, and local commercial services; and Ruston’s people – its ultimate strength – will continue to define both the city and its neighborhoods. The Comprehensive Plan anticipates growth of approximately 500 additional housing units and 334 jobs between 2015 and 2035.

The Comprehensive Plan identifies the infrastructure and capital investments to support growth and changing community needs, and is linked to facility plans for transportation, utilities, parks and other public facilities. The Comprehensive Plan seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Preserve and enhance quality of life, including economic opportunities, public safety, human and community services, housing, education, parks and natural areas, quality neighborhoods, art and culture.
- Encourage housing choices affordable to all income levels and a range of mobility options to serve the entire community.
- Protect and restore ecological systems of the natural environment, including reducing greenhouse gases, enhancing the city's overall tree canopy coverage, protecting critical areas, and preserving areas of open space.

The Comp Plan update includes the current Shoreline Management Element, which was recently updated and approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology as consistent with state law. It is hoped that the Comprehensive Plan Vision will be realized by the entire city organization, in concert with the Ruston community and regional partners.

During the Council meeting on February 2nd, Planning Director Rob White provided the Council with a detailed overview on the process and vision that went in to creating the 2016 Ruston Comprehensive Plan. At that time, the Council directed that First Reading of Ordinance #1482 be set over to February 16th and that in order to allow the PSRC to begin its review of the City's Comprehensive Plan that a Resolution demonstrating the City's intent to adopt the new Plan should be scheduled to coincide with First Reading so that PSRC may begin its review of the Plan while the Council is finishing its work.

Therefore, on February 16th the Council is asked to adopt Resolution #623 demonstrating its intention to adopt the new Plan so that PSRC review may commence. Ordinance #1482 which adopts the Plan will be proposed to adoption in March after Council has completed its review.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

The Comprehensive Plan has no direct fiscal impact to the City. The Plan, however, does provide policy direction to a wide range of City initiatives that may occur over the next 20 years. Funding impacts of these initiatives would be discussed during the city's annual budget process. In addition, updating the City's Comprehensive Plan will keep the City eligible for State grants.

BOARD OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission recommends approval of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION / MOTION

Adopt Resolution #623.

MOTION: I move adoption of Resolution #623 expressing the intent to adopt an update of the City of Ruston Comprehensive Plan and authorizing the submittal of this proposed update to the Puget Sound Regional Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 623

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING THE INTENT TO ADOPT AN UPDATE OF THE CITY OF RUSTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THIS PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, the Ruston Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1996, and updated April 21, 2003, as amended annually as applicable; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2013, the City Council initiated the Comprehensive Plan update to respond to the requirement of the state Growth Management Act (Ch. 36.70A RCW) to periodically update such plans; and

WHEREAS, Ruston has undergone tremendous changes since the last update in 2003, including development of the ASARCO site, population growth of about 120 people, and demographic change; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged in a multi-year planning process to update the Comprehensive Plan that included public events and open houses; over 11 meetings of the Planning Commission; an online strategy that included a project website; and meetings with stakeholders and

WHEREAS, the community envisions that in 2035 Ruston will be a vibrant. Environmentally healthy and sustainable City with a rich history and unique character with safe, attractive neighborhoods; neighborhoods will remain connected to one another, offering diverse housing choices, gathering spaces, and local commercial services; and Ruston's people – its ultimate strength – will continue to define both the city and its neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan anticipates growth of approximately doubling the City's population from 759 today to 1,608 by 2035, adding approximately 500 new housing units and 334 jobs between 2015 and 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan identifies the infrastructure and capital investments to support growth and changing community needs, and is linked to facility plans for transportation, utilities, parks and other public facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to preserve and enhance quality of life, including economic opportunities, public safety, human and community services, housing, education, parks and natural areas, quality neighborhoods, art and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to encourage housing choices affordable to all income levels and a range of mobility options to serve the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to protect and restore ecological systems of the natural environment, including reducing greenhouse gases, enhancing the city's overall tree canopy coverage, protecting critical areas, and preserving areas of open space; and

WHEREAS, this update includes the current Shoreline Management Element, which was recently updated and approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology as consistent with state law; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Vision will be realized by the entire city organization, in concert with the Ruston community and regional partners; and

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act allows for amendments to comprehensive plans once annually; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 21, 2015, with regards to the proposed update to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2015, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve such proposed update; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed each element and component of the recommended Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Comprehensive Plan update satisfies the decision criteria established in Chapter 29.01 of the Ruston Municipal Code (RMC); and

WHEREAS, the City of Ruston has complied with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and the City Environmental Procedures Code (Chapter 15.02 RMC), including the issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance on January 23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2016, the City Council heard an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Update process from the Planning Director; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2016 the City Council held the first reading on this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City's Updated Comprehensive Plan must be reviewed and approved by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC); and

WHEREAS, this review by PSRC typically takes several months; and

WHEREAS, in order to allow PSRC to commence its process of review, the City needs to either pass a resolution expressing its intent to adopt the Comp Plan or pass the ordinance adopting the Comp Plan; and

WHEREAS, in order to have PSRC start its review while the City Council completes its review of the Comp Plan, the City Council wishes to demonstrate its intention to adopt the attached Comp Plan; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Statement of Intent to Adopt the Ruston 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Ruston City Council intends to adopt Exhibit “A” as Ruston’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

Section 2. Authorization to Submit the Ruston 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update to the

Puget Sound Regional Council. The Ruston City Planner is hereby authorized to submit the

Ruston 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update_(including this Resolution and all other required

submittal documents) to the Puget Sound Regional Council for review and approval.

RESOLVED this ____ day of February, 2016.

APPROVED:

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Judy Grams, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: _____

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: _____

RESOLUTION NO.: _____ 623 _____