

September 5, 2007

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCILS OF  
BURLINGTON AND MOUNT VERNON**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Norris called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Burlington Council members present: Mayor Pro Tem Loving, Bensen, Doyle, Valentine and Straathof. Burlington staff present: Aarstad, Martin and Thomas. Mount Vernon Council members present: As, Cheney, Fiedler and Lindquist. Mount Vernon staff present: Bergsma, Rogerson, Hanson, Love and Huschka.

Mayor Norris welcomed the City of Burlington Council to the joint meeting. He also acknowledged in attendance County Commissioners Dillion and Dahlstedt and representatives of Dike Districts 3, 12 and 17. Mayor Norris stated that The purpose of this joint meeting is to see a presentation by Burlington **Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin** regarding the updated Pacific International Engineering hydrology and hydraulic analysis and discussion of the impending new FEMA base flood elevation maps and how that will affect our communities in Skagit County.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

**Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin** presented historical data used by the Army Corps of Engineers, two recent studies completed by Pacific International Engineering and one study completed by Northwest Hydraulic Consultant and results from an investigation of historic flood marks on the Smith House in Hamilton. FEMA is using data provided by the Army Corps of Engineers based on flood data from in 1897, 1909, 1918 and 1921 provided by hydrologist James Stewart. However after the recent studies those figures have been proven to be skewed and will cause an increased elevation in the new FEMA flood base elevation maps. This outcome will affect the Cities' ability to certify the Dike Districts levies. Mr. Martin added that FEMA is not addressing the floodway issue at this time and has indicated that they will not do so until the new flood base elevation maps are published.

Mayor Norris encouraged citizens to contact their government representatives at all levels about the issues regarding the flood base elevation maps.

Mr. Chuck Bennett of Dike District 12 stated that the levees began to appear around the 1880's when Dutch farmers began to settle here. They used the levees to protect their farmland from spring time flooding.

Mr. Gary Rowe, Skagit County Administrator, stated that the County does not endorse establishing a floodway because of the unknown ramifications.

Mr. Bob Rouw, a private attorney, stated that even if no floodway is officially established the flood regulations still require that local jurisdictions respond in a certain way to the new flood elevation maps.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to adopt Resolution 746 approving the adoption of the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis prepared by the Cities' contractor to be used for the calculation of the FEMA base flood elevations within the jurisdiction of the Cities. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cheney. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mayor Pro Tem Loving** opened the floor for City of Burlington Council. After some discussion a motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Doyle** to adopt Resolution 9-2007 to adopt the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis prepared by the City's contractor to be used for the calculations of the FEMA base flood elevation within the City of Burlington. Motion carried 5-0. (**Resolution # 9-2007**)

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Councilmember Cheney moved to adopt Resolution 747 authorizing the participation of the City of Mount Vernon in the Skagit Flood Advisory Conference Team. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mayor Pro Tem Loving** inquired if there were questions regarding the City of Burlington’s participation in the Skagit Flood Advisory Team. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve Resolution 10-2007. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Doyle** to approve Resolution 10-2007 authorizing the City of Burlington to participate as a member of the Skagit Flood Advisory Conference Team. Motion carried 5-0. **(Resolution 10-2007)**

Mayor Norris added that there is also a request to authorize his signature on three separate letters. Two letters are to Mark Carey the Director of the Mitigation Division Region X of Homeland Security which includes the completed studies, investigation of the Smith house in Hamilton and one letter to Congressman Rick Larsen requesting his support on this issue.

Councilmember Cheney moved to authorize Mayor Norris to sign three letters, one to Congressman Rick Larsen and two to Mark Carey, director of the Mitigation Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fiedler. Motion carried 6-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. by Mayor Norris.

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Marie Lambert  
Interim Finance Director / City Clerk

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Roger “Gus” Tjeerdsma  
Mayor