

Transcription: Excerpt of Feb. 9, 2008 Council Retreat:

**Comments by Sultan Mayor and Council Members
re Sultan's 2004 Comprehensive Plan Expenditures and non-compliance**

C/M K. Blair I would love to see...a total of how much we've spent on the 2004 Comprehensive Plan and all the changes that we—we've had to make sense, including the grants, a couple by CTED, \$10,000 which is not even 5%, actually, of what we've spent.

Mayor Eslick Laura's [*sounds like she says, "laying that down"*] and she's going to have it for you.

C/M K. Blair Because I think that's a tool that we need to use with the—with the governor *now*, to fight not only for us, but for other small cities that are experiencing – The only cities, by the way, according to the feedback that I've gotten at the AWC...the only cities that are not having this problem are cities that don't have a citizen fighting against the city in the Growth Management Hearing Board. The ones that do, have a similar problem.

Mayor Eslick So the comp plan, we assume—that they—they assume that the comp plan is correct unless it's being contested. That's where [*unintelligible*]. However, we know that there were problems with the comp plan. We know that. Yes.

C/M Jim Flower I have a couple questions. The structure of the Growth Management Hearings Board, is there more than one?

Mayor Eslick Growth hearings board? Yes. But not in levels. Throughout the state, there's, what, three?

C/M Jim Flower There's three. Before Ben Tolson left office he had had a conversation with me about pursuing a change of venue in light of *ex-parte* conversations between our present Growth Management Hearings Board [*C/M Blair verbalizes agreement, "um-hm"*] and Fallgatter and Kirkman.

Mayor Eslick I have to say this about that, Jim. I want to do more research on this and find out what the—what the whole problem has been before anything else, before we do anything like that. And—and we don't have that time right now. The first things we have to do is fulfill the re—requests from the hearings board right now for those two weeks. Then I think if that is not going to work, then we need to take some other avenues at what was [*unintelligible*]. But I really think that we need to understand that we've been guilty, not necessarily that you and I did it, but the city has been guilty. And so we need to make sure that we are going to try our very best to accomplish what they requested, and then move forward. During that time of moving forward, we're going to find out why, how much money was involved in it, where we went wrong. But that doesn't—*isn't* going to stop us from doing this right. We have to do it right.

C/M Jim Flower I'm not—I'm not opposed to doing it right. I just want a level playing field.

Mayor Eslick Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I understand that. I really do understand that.

C/M Jim Flower And right now it just feels--seems to be quite tilted. I was hoping with, uh, with bringing in Andrew Lane as representing us that this would help.

Mayor Eslick I thought we did an excellent job yesterday – or on Thursday. He knows how they work. He’s been involved with—with them before, and he—he kind of understands it. I—I think that we’re okay. I really do. Let’s—let’s give this a chance. Any other questions about the Comp Plan? ‘Cause we’re going to go through it in detail in a little bit.

C/M S. Slawson At AWC we were in the Small Cities Group, basically anybody under 5,000 population; every city there has the same issues with that. Where’s our money going? It’s going to consultants and lawyers. That we have more lawyers and more consultants than we do city staff. We’re constantly being eaten up. There were some suggestions that maybe we contact [*unintelligible*] and say, “Hey, why don’t you supply us with a person from the State to write these plans for us, and we’ll pay you the money. That way the plan will be [*unintelligible*] what you want.” That is what they talked about. We should be right now talking to the governor, talking to our representatives, our senators saying, “Hey, we’re doing this. We’re trying to get [*this*] accomplished the way you want it. For some reason, once we pass it to you, somebody picks it apart. You know, we don’t have the that does this. We hire professionals. So you need to put—set the guidelines for right-of-way. And somebody needs to go in and tell them – tell the governor and Val Stevens and Kirk [*Pearson*], Dan Kristiansen and—and Kirk Pearson and help us. We also need to get help from the County, you know? Our representative Dave Somers, and just say, “Hey, we could meet up here. You know? You know, Dave, you know, we need help.” And they should be coming back and helping us and if we have to go before the governor, we should be proactive on this and start talking to her right now.

C/M K. Blair We need [*unintelligible*].

C/M Jim Flower I would agree. And I would say that it’s in the county’s interest to make sure that need to talk about this in cooperation. Because we don’t need another Startup. They—they don’t want the burden of Sultan. They—they would be in their interest (sic) to do whatever possible to make sure that we survive.

C/M K. Blair Yes. [*end of this discussion*]

[At which point Mayor Eslick begins her statement re how the City fared during the Feb. 7, 2008 hearing of the merits of the City’s Motion before the CPSGMHB (Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board). The City’s motion was to request another year in which to make compliant its 2004 Comprehensive Plan. See G.R.I.T.’s Press Release re the cost of this botched Plan, weighing in at close to a quarter of a million dollars.]