

Transcription: City of Sultan Feb. 9, 2008 Council Retreat, Monroe, WA
Specifically: Re Feb. 7, 2008 CPSGMHB Hearing of City Motion to extend
Comprehensive Plan Compliance date to Dec. 31, 2008

Mayor Carolyn Eslick: The biggest part this last week that I had to deal with was the Growth Manage[ment] Board. They specifically asked me to come to meet with them, along with Deborah [*Sultan City Administrator Deborah Knight*] and our two – and [*unintelligible*], our planner, and Andy, who is our attorney [*Andrew Lane, Cairncross & Hempleman land use specialist*] and....it was pretty devastating.

We can't do anything in our future until we get this thing done. We have somehow gone through the last two years of not accomplishing this. I tried to look – I pulled the contract for Reid Shockey – I just got that yesterday. I'm looking at the scope of work. I'm trying to figure out what happened. What did we do we pay this money – as Kristina's [*Sultan Council member*] asked over and over and over again – why have we paid this money and we don't have a comp plan? I don't know yet. But I'm gonna find out.

But in the meantime, we have to move forward. And they were not nice to us on Thursday. They weren't nice. They're – this was not a [*unintelligible*]. They really wanted to sanction us. And they asked the two – the, uh, Josie [Fallgatter] and Jeff [Kirkman], "What do you wanna do? What do you think we should do with these folks" And they said, "Sanction! Sanction!" Right?

[unidentified male voice] That's right.

[They said] "They've given – we've given them every possible chance in the world and nothing's happened." And that is true, you know? And we keep pointing fingers: Whose fault was it? We don't know. And do we, do we need to recoup some of that money? I don't know yet but I'm gonna look into it. I'm going to find out if we can recoup, or at least get some credit for some of that that we spent.

But in the meantime we have been given two weeks to accomplish three things: One is that we have to tighten the schedule that Reid Shockey put forward to us. We have to have this done, ready in September. Completely done, this comp plan. We have to, in the two-week period, figure out –and I say that because I still haven't read completely Fallgatter V and what the development regs were that were the problem – we have to figure what those were and---and come to a solution for those. That's Number Two. And Number three, they want us to put a moratorium on development. And I have to tell ya folks, I don't think that's a bad idea. It depends on how we conform that so it doesn't kill us financially in the meantime; because that could do it, that could do it to us, too, if it isn't written properly and isn't...it isn't developed properly through us. So all of that in the next two weeks is gonna be worked on. And in our [*unintelligible*] that's really up to you folks. You have to decide that.

We were very lucky that they gave us the two weeks. Very, very lucky. And I begged for fairness, literally. I was not allowed to speak, I didn't know that, I spoke. They said, "Well, under the circumstances that's you're in, we'll let you speak." And I did say, "You

know, I'm new. Give me a chance. Give the rest of the new council people a chance. We didn't know." You know what the other thing is? We always, as council, as I was before, we expected these hired people to do what they're supposed to do! Guess what? Ultimately we're responsible. We are responsible.

So what I'm going to be asking all of you that are on city council [is] to really take part in this project. And that means when we get sections to be read, I need you to read them. I need you to make through anything that doesn't look good, feel good, doesn't look like our vision, [and] anything that looks obscure.

And we're gonna have to have more meetings. I'm sorry to tell you that, but we're gonna. We have to do this. Because this is the future. And if we don't, you know what happens? There is no more Sultan. There really is no more Sultan. As we know it today. We can be unincorporated and still be a Sultan in the county, like a Startup. That's what it is. So we have no police department, we have no, you know, *[unintelligible]*.

So I hope today that you will commit to me to help me through this (sic) next few months, these next nine months.

Most of you know that I'm working now for the next couple [months]. And if it takes three months, I will do – I will not work in my other job, or any other job, and only concentrate on this to get this done. And I committed that to the—to the board the other day, on Thursday. This is how important it is for me. We all have a stake in it, 'cause we live here. Some people don't live here and they don't have the stake that we have, so we have to work harder on it.

Does everybody here agree with me? *[unintelligible]* part of this? Are you going to help me through this? That means more reading, more meetings. Huge!

C/M Slawson Some of the other council members that don't know what the sanctions were?

Mayor Eslick Sanctions – the sanctions mean –

C/M Slawson But what were they – *[unintelligible]* -- what sanctions were they gonna put on?

Mayor Eslick They will stop all sales tax to our city. And what does that mean?

Administrator (Deborah) Knight: \$250,000 for sales tax. Liquor tax, I think – Laura, if I remember correctly -- \$53,000 in liquor tax? It also means real estate excise tax, no real estate excise tax. And the problem with that is it's those revenues, of course, that support the building and development department and that support the police department. Our police department is more than half of our general fund. Our general fund is \$1.2 million. And so if we begin to reduce those revenues, we have to go back and take a look at public safety again. And I wrote a note to the attorney in the middle of the Growth Management Hearings Board meeting that said, "If—if they decide to go with scan—sanctions, this is gonna decimate the city's budget." And so when we return back to the Growth Management Hearings Board in two weeks, we're gonna have to have, you know, that—that outlined, which is hu---if you—if you sanction us, you know, the government decides to sanction us, here are the things that happen. Because what

the Growth Management Hearings Board does is they recommend sanctions to the governor, and then it goes to the governor's desk and they governor has to actually implement sanctions. And to my knowledge, that has never happened with the exception of Chelan County, which was, um, uh, they were proactively not participating in the –

Mayor Eslick In—in this year.

Admin. Knight -- growth manage—yeah, in the Growth Management Act, rather than somebody like us who keeps trying to get it right and haven't been able to get it accomplished yet.

[end of transcription; complete audio of this discussion can be found at www.ittakesgrit.org]