

Commissioner Dever said it might be a good idea to make sure they had a technical understanding of some of the bigger issues such as classification of soils, drainage areas, and what those meant technically. If talking about protecting or enhancing the use of something, it was important for everyone to have a clear understanding of what that meant. He said most of the comments were about drainage, flooding and the protection of those two types of soils.

Commissioner Chestnut said he was referring to drainage and soil class.

Commissioner Dever said it was better to ask questions up front and get a professional opinion, that way there would be no debate and everyone could understand how important those issues were together.

Vice Mayor Cromwell said it boiled down to the main contentious areas and they needed to make sure there was the expertise on hand to deal with the technical aspects, making it an interesting study session. (15)

Receive proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment, CPA-2008-7, amending Horizon 2020 to include Chapter 16 – Environment.

Amy Miller, Planner, presented the staff report which read:

The Comprehensive Plans Committee (CPC), in conjunction with Planning Staff, had been working since April 2008 to draft a new chapter in Horizon 2020 concerning environmental issues. This chapter was initiated in April 2008 and the CPC and staff started meeting in September 2008 regarding timeline, process, and the development of a draft overview, strategies, and outline. The draft outline, strategies, and overview were then presented to the Planning Commission in November 2008 to not only get input from the public, but also the Planning Commission. A series of educational meetings were held from December through March 2009 on various sub-topics of the chapter. Community organizations, researchers, and other experts in their fields were invited to give brief presentations to the group in order to help educate staff and the CPC on certain issues.

Staff and the CPC worked over the next year to develop the “April 2010 Draft”. The “April 2010 Draft” was posted to the website in early April and comments were received from both the public and Planning Commissioners at the April 28th, 2010 meeting. Staff then worked with CPC to revise the draft document based on those comments. The “August 2010 Draft” is reflective of those revisions.

A website has been setup to act as a central hub for information regarding the drafting of this chapter (<http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/H2020-Env>) and the “August 2010 Draft” is posted to this site. In addition, an email distribution list has been created to keep people informed about the chapter as it moves through the process. Members of the public can sign up to be a

part of this email distribution list by visiting the City's subscription page (<http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscription>) and signing up for the "Horizon 2020 Chapter 16: Environment" list under the Public Meetings heading.

Staff recommends approval of this comprehensive plan amendment adding Chapter 16: Environment to Horizon 2020 and recommends forwarding this comprehensive plan amendment to the Lawrence City Commission and the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation for approval.

Commissioner Chestnut said regarding the study session, it might be good to have a reminder of the initial chapter of Horizon 2020 which was not a blank document. He said in consideration of this chapter, the preamble needed to be read to understand the context and not consider it in a vacuum.

David Corliss, City Manager, said writing code in this area was particularly challenging as seen with the environmentally sensitive areas code language where the City struggled to make sure that it was operational. He said he had concerns about how well it would be road tested when having a lot of development that impacted those code requirements. The comments about making sure we understood this was a comprehensive plan and was not code language was very important. He said he mentioned the environmentally sensitive area language because they had all seen its evolution and maturation and its changes.

Vice Mayor Cromwell said the City was writing an environmental chapter because environmental issues were important to Lawrence and were relevant to the planning issues that Horizon 2020 addressed. He said it was important to remember not to get too caught up in the wording-smithing of a document when it was not necessarily going to be important to the outcome.

This was another example of a tremendous amount of work and would be useful in clarifying the City's position. It would be a useful tool in planning. Not many communities had similar chapters which would make Lawrence distinguishable. It would be interesting to receive the County's perspective on this issue and there would be opportunities for public input during the first part of the year.

Corliss asked if it was the Commission's desire to have both this Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Environmental Chapter) and Northeast Sector Plan at the same meeting.

Vice Mayor Cromwell said it was difficult to get everyone together for a study session and was in favor of tackling both issues at the same time. He said the environmental chapter impacted the sector plan.

Commissioner Dever said enough time should be allocated to discuss both items because the items were uniquely conjoined specifically the biggest points of contention were the same. He said he hoped both items would pass at a similar time frame.

Commissioner Johnson agreed.

Vice Mayor Cromwell asked what the process was in the next step.

Corliss said he anticipated the City Commission would agree on a joint study session date and staff would do its best to use the list serve and email list to let the interested citizens and stakeholders know about that public meeting. Then, dependent upon direction coming out of the study session, would place it back on the City Commission agenda to take public comment and then any action that the City Commission requested. It would be sometime after the study session so people could be notified and maximize the opportunity for comment. **(16)**

Consider approving annexation (A-9-3-10) of approximately 51.13 acres located at the southwest corner of N 1800 Road (Farmer's Turnpike) and E 1000 Road (Queens Road Extended). Adopt on first reading Ordinance No. 8594 for the annexation (A-9-3-10) of approximately 51.13 acres located at the southwest corner of N 1800 Road (Farmer's Turnpike) and E 1000 Road (Queens Road Extended).

Toni Wheeler, Director of Legal Services, presented the staff report which read:

Background

On September 21, 2010, the governing body received the property owner's petition for and consent to annexation. In accordance with the City's annexation policy, the governing body referred the request to the planning commission for a recommendation because the tract of land is larger than ten acres in size. The planning commission considered the annexation at its regular meeting on October 27, 2010, and voted 8-0 to recommend the Board of County Commissioners make the finding required by K.S.A. 12-520c so the annexation could proceed. The planning commission also found that the annexation complied with Horizon 2020.