

From: [Miles Becker](#)
To: [Stacie Pratschner](#); [Delaney Knox](#)
Cc: [Peter Donovan](#)
Subject: Planning Commission Feb 20 Meeting - Public Comment
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 11:57:56 PM

Caution External Message

Dear Stacie,

I am unable to attend the Planning Commission meeting tonight. I have a public comment for Item 3 on the agenda that is not related to any other agenda item. Please share it with the commissioners.

Comment:

Public participation in revisions to development code for Washington cities is codified in RCW 36.70A.040(2). It states that under the Growth Management Act, each city "shall include in its development regulations a procedure for any interested person, including applicants, citizens, hearing examiners, and staff of other agencies, to suggest plan or development regulation amendments. The suggested amendments shall be docketed and considered on at least an annual basis..." The City of Mount Vernon does not currently have a clear, transparent, nor accessible procedure for all amendment requests. The information on the procedure is not discoverable on the City website. Development Services staff, from the front desk up to the director, have either not been aware of the procedure or each has a different understanding of how it works. I followed the instructions provided to me by a city planner in January of 2024 and submitted a request for an update to the comprehensive plan and development code. Shortly after, the director notified me that the City Council passed Resolution 1049 on December 6, 2023 to put a moratorium on new code amendment requests until 2025. Even if this does not conflict with state law, Resolution 1049 appears to call only for a moratorium on development code amendments, not comprehensive plan amendments. I am asking you to advise Council and Development Services to do the following: 1) write clear instructions for a single procedure for development code amendment requests that both applicants and city staff can follow, 2) communicate the instructions to Development Services staff, 3) make publicly available the instructions in a document or webpage on the City website that can be found by using the search function; and 4) review and consider requests for comprehensive plan updates in advance of any public hearings held in 2024.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Miles Becker