

MINUTES
Joint Work Session of the Veneta City Council & Planning Commission
Monday - September 25, 2006 - 6:00 p.m.
Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon

Council
Present: Mayor T. J. Brooker, Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter, and Marion Esty

Planning
Commission: Chairman James Eagle-Eye, James Bruvold, Len Goodwin, and Lily Rees

Absent: Councilor Sharon Hobart-Hardin

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Margaret Boutell, Community Services Director; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Brian Issa, City Planner; Byron Vanderpool, Lane Council of Governments; and Jenea Jones, West Lane News

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brooker called the City Council to order and James Eagle-Eye called the Planning Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. REGION 2050

Staff Report (Margaret Boutell)

Margaret said the public will be given an opportunity to comment on Region 2050 during the regular Council meeting. She said this is the time for the Planning Commission to give the Council some feedback and their opinions on whether or not the City should endorse the project. After receiving feedback from the Planning Commission and the public on the strategy and technical report the City may take action to endorse the Region 2050 strategy as presented, endorse the strategy with caveats, not endorse the strategy, or table action to another date prior to October 30, 2006.

She said the Regional Growth Strategy contains a concept and map that directs growth into areas where the land capacity and visions of the communities support it. The strategy contains a vision to protect and sustain quality of life which are stated in regional goals and objectives to be collectively endorsed through public outreach. Growth is projected for areas where there will be the least impact on the environment, forest, and farm lands. The projected areas of growth are based more on land capacity than on historical population trends. The strategy contains actions that each jurisdiction can take independently of each other.

If the City endorses the plan, implementation remains voluntary. Cities will be able to pick and choose what parts of the strategy they want to adopt into their Comprehensive Plans. For those that choose to implement it, the strategy is a powerful tool to manage growth, facilitate approval of state requirements, bring federal and state dollars into the region, retain and attract jobs to the region, and protect natural and environmental resources and productive farm and forest resource lands.

Margaret said the Region 2050 Vision for sustaining the quality of life of the region is very broad with a list of goals and objectives for seven quality of life categories: land use & development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, natural resources & environment,

community facilities & services, and education. The Regional Growth Concept is a graphic and data depiction of the regional vision which is supported by assumptions and analysis in the technical report for the Strategy. The concept contains a generalized, non-parcel map showing potential growth and urban reserve areas. The Concept also shows the proposed coordinated population allocations which for Veneta are 20,567 by 2055. The concept also includes potential housing densities, employment density, and 2055 UGB acres with the potential growth areas.

The Regional Concept is not a property specific land use or comprehensive plan. Those types of plans are implemented in a different way.

The Region 2050 Strategy includes a chapter on implementation, monitoring, and amendments which include optional implementation actions and funding strategies which participating agencies can take to achieve the local and regional goals to protect quality of life in their communities in the seven identified categories.

Staff provided the Council and Planning Commission with excerpts from the Region 2050 Technical Report relevant to Veneta including the basis for the potential future growth areas based on land capacity and a comparison of adopted coordinated population allocations to proposed allocations.

Lane Council of Governments representative Byron Vanderpool said by endorsing the Region 2050 Strategy the Council is not adopting the coordinated population or the Region 2050 population figures. He said the State requires each county to adopt coordinated population projections and the 13 entities in Lane County negotiate for how that population is allocated. Currently LCOG coordinates the negotiations. That process needs to happen regardless of which entities endorse the Region 2050 Strategy. The State has a complex formula for determining what the projected population is for each County and the County has found it to be non-negotiable.

Veneta is getting close to the currently adopted coordinated population figure for 2025. Plans have to be based on coordinated population figures. If Veneta cannot get a new population figure it puts them in a bind.

Margaret said one advantage of endorsing the Region 2050 Strategy and Technical Report is that the technical information will be available for use by the City.

Jim Bruvold said the City should consider the options laid out by ECO Northwest for economic development.

Margaret pointed out that page III-17 mentions Veneta specifically as being a community that will have some demand for some large retail uses. Page III-18 lists traffic congestion between Veneta and areas to the east may limit the type of businesses that locate in Veneta. Transportation has been listed as the most critical issue for growth in the Veneta and Elmira area because of the limited capacity of Hwy 126.

The last piece of the Regional Growth Management Strategy Process is a discussion paper that lists optional actions Veneta can take, the first being endorsement of the Strategy.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman about what happens if the City grows faster than the projected coordinated population, Byron Vanderpool said it does not mean the City has to stop growing; however, it is the number the state funding agencies will support when the City undertakes projects for water, sewer, or other infrastructure.

Len Goodwin said the coordinated population is a critical number because the Comprehensive Plan has to include that number and the City is limited to plan for that population.

Len Goodwin said the coordinated population estimates are critical because they will need to be used in the Comp Plan. He said for a regional plan is very interesting but it does not provide anything more than guidance to policy makers that they may or may not use.

Len Goodwin said Eugene may have chosen to reject the plan because the reduced population growth rate had negative implications for its revenue base.

Margaret said the City Council is being asked to endorse the goals and objectives of the Region 2050 strategy. She said endorsement does not place the City under any financial obligations.

Marion Esty said Eugene, Springfield, and Cottage Grove have a different personality than Veneta. She said there may be more value in the plan for Veneta and other small cities that have endorsed it. She said endorsing the strategy doesn't lock the City into anything.

Len Goodwin said he agrees the strategy may have some value for Veneta; however, he is concerned it may create the impression that it has more meaning than it really has. He said the policy has been rejected by 81% of those within the region. He said he agrees work should be done on the coordinated population which he feels is not acceptable.

Ric said because some of the cities have chosen not to endorse Region 2050 it is no longer a regional strategy. He said some of the information is more reflective of the growth Veneta has been experiencing. By supporting the findings in the plan, Veneta can use the data in the Region 2050 when updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Lily Rees said she agrees with Marion that there is some value to the Region 2050 strategy. She said she would still be interested in knowing the rationale for the cities that chose not to endorse it.

Jim Bruvold said a lot of time and effort has been put into the Region 2050 process. He said he feels the strategy is a good plan and he would recommend Council endorsement.

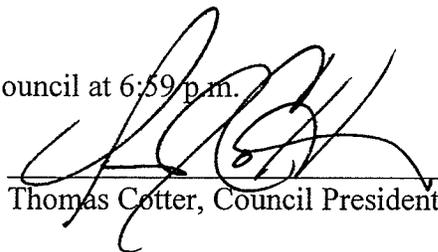
Len Goodwin said if the City Council wants to endorse the Region 2050 strategy, it's not a bad thing to do.

Mayor Brooker said he considers Region 2050 a tool that the City can use.

Marion Esty brought a couple of news articles for staff to share with the Council and Commission.

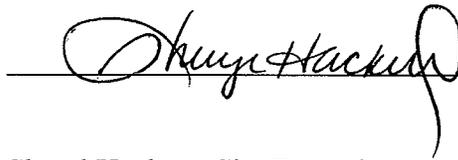
3. **ADJOURN**

Mayor Brooker adjourned the Veneta City Council at 6:59 p.m.



Thomas Cotter, Council President

ATTEST:



Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder

Chairman James Eagle Eye adjourned the Veneta Planning Commission 15 6:59 p.m.



James Eagle Eye, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder