

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
AUDITORIUM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**

**2:00 P.M.**

**JUNE 6, 2023**

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright; Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith; and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kate Jimenez, Administrative Assistant; Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim Community Development Services Director; Zach Torrance-Smith; Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager; Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Josh Frederickson, Engineer; and 3 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**INTERNATIONAL BLDG CODE**

**CDS**

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider Amending Kittitas County Code Chapter 14.04 and Title 20 and to Adopt the 2021 International Building Codes with Washington State Amendments.

**JEREMY LARSON, BUILDING OFFICIAL**, explained they received information on the delay of Code Implementation until October 29, 2023, and requested the Board to take no action and close the Public Hearing.

There was no action taken and the Public Hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**DEPT FISH & WILDLIFE**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:01 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing continued from May 2, 2023, to consider a Franchise Application for a Wildlife Fence with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife in the vicinity of Stevens Road, Ellensburg. He noted the record was open.

**MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/INTERIM CDS DIRECTOR**, provided a Staff Report and explained how the Department of Fish & Wildlife has requested a fence for Elk in the County Right of Way to keep them from migrating onto I-90. He said the State legal team as well as the Prosecutor's office has reviewed and signed the document.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** moved to approve the Non-Exclusive Fence Franchise with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, to use County Right-of-Way within Kittitas County, Franchise Agreement. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 2:03 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider a Speed Reduction on Thomas Road and to Amend Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.08.025 Speed Limits.

**JOSH FREDERICKSON, ENGINEER,** reviewed a Staff Report, including the background, fiscal impacts, and recommendation to reduce the speed from 50 MPH to 40 MPH on Thomas Road from Wilson Creek Road (MP 0.00) to Naneum Road (MP 1.51).

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: BEN KOKJER, KITTITAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** said for consistency purposes they recommended consideration of a speed limit of 35 MPH to make it easier for motoring public, and that would also allow for side-by-sides. **CINDY KEEBLE** said she appreciated the Public Works Department's speed study and requested the Board to lower the speed limit on Thomas Road to 35 MPH. She noted how she'd spoken to 80% of the neighboring property owners and they all agreed with the speed reduction as well. **TAMERA SCHAUT** explained how she cannot ride her horse on the road due to the high rate of speed, blind spots, and curves. She asked the Board to approve lowering the speed limit. **PATRICK BUFI** said where he lives nearby, his neighborhood is posted at 25 MPH and was in favor of lowering it in that area as well. **LINDSEY BOISSO** said she walks on Thomas Road daily and people don't move over or slow down and it can be dangerous. She said there's been a significant amount of traffic increased since the Naneum bridge went out. **PAT KELLEHER** expressed concerns with the County website and the notification link wasn't available with proposed documents. He felt County roads should not be below 50 MPH and if there are issues near the curves, then signs should be put in place to reduce the speed at those points. **ARTHUR KUEBLE** commented in favor of the request to lower the speed limit on Thomas Road. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-004, Establishment of a Speed Zone and the Placement of Speed Limit Signs on Thomas Road and Amending Section 10.08.020, Speed Limit of the Kittitas County Code. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** said the recommendation was based on science and although it was recommended to be lowered to 40 MPH, the discussion of ATVs, and lowering it to 35 MPH should not make people angry. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** said the data supports the request and would be voting in favor of the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**NON-DOCKET AMENDMENTS**

**CDS**

At approximately 2:28 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider Non-Docket Amendments to Kittitas County Code Titles 8, 12, and 17.

**JAMEY AYLING, PLANNING MANAGER**, reviewed a Staff Report regarding the 2023 Non-Docket Code Amendments including:

DOCKET ITEM 1: Proposed amendments to Title 9 Parks to include adding Impact Fees for Parks and properties located within the City of Ellensburg Urban Growth Area. The amendment would bring Kittitas County into compliance with the adopted Interlocal Agreement. He said the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the amendment.

DOCKET ITEM 2: Proposed amendments to Title 12 Roads and Bridges. Staff recommended revising the current road standards for the properties in the UGA of Ellensburg to facilitate the orderly transition of urban services from the County to the City throughout the UGA. The generalized Interlocal Agreement will implement uniform and consistent urban development standards in order to further the transition of the UGA to urban service levels. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended remanding Title 12 amendments to Staff for revisions.

DOCKET ITEM 3: Proposed amendment to Title 17.11 Urban Growth Area, removing the effective date of June 30, 2023, reference and removing the notice and opportunity to comment section from the applicability Title 17.11.033. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment as proposed.

DOCKET ITEM 4: Proposed amendment was to amend Title 17.22 Urban Residential Zone, removing reference to the properties not subject to the Interlocal Agreement in order to remain consistent with the City of Ellensburg standards intended with adoption of the ILA. It would also clarify the minimum lot size for single family dwellings in the UR zone. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment as proposed.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** moved to approve Docket Items 1 through 4 Brett moved to approve Docket Items 1 - 4 and direct Staff to prepare enabling documents. **COMMISSIONER OSIDADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was concluded at 2:36 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Chairman Cory Wright