

# Burlington council delays on flood plain, passes budget

2 — Skagit Valley Herald

Wednesday, November 21, 1984

By GLENN HUNTLEY  
Staff Writer

**BURLINGTON** — Maybe next time.

For the second time this month, the Burlington City Council delayed action Tuesday night on a proposed flood-plain ordinance.

City Engineer Bob Boudinot suggested a second continuation of a public hearing on the proposed flood-plain law because several panels of a detailed topographical map were unavailable.

The missing map panels included part of controversial Gages Slough and the Cascade Mall site.

The matter was rescheduled

for the council's Dec. 13 meeting. The city has until Jan. 3 to adopt the law if it is to remain eligible for federal flood insurance.

The flood-plain ordinance is the "most liberal" compromise available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Steve Ladd, city planner.

The new law would create "conveyance areas," which are defined as locations that are three feet or more below the 100-year flood plain.

Development would be allowed in "conveyance areas" as long as equal excavation or structures elsewhere were removed to accommodate flood water flow. All structures would be built on pil-

ings or foundation walls that would not impede flood water.

The more restrictive "flood-way" designation was limited to river channels and areas extending 50 feet from the base of river dikes.

New buildings within other areas of the flood plain would have to be built one foot above the 100-year flood level as determined by FEMA.

City officials will meet with FEMA and state Department of Ecology representatives Tuesday to see if the flood plain ordinance is acceptable to them, Boudinot said.

In other business, the council passed a 1985 budget that totaled

\$3.9 million.

The spending plan is thin on capital expenditures, allowing just \$99,400 for all major purchases, said Stan Kersey, city supervisor.

The budget includes a new computer for the finance department, new garbage truck, cemetery fence and repairs to the Skagit River bridge, he said.

Because negotiations with city employees have not been completed, wages were left at current rates in the budget. If raises are included in the labor contracts, more money will have to be found within the budget.

The major change in next year's spending will be street

projects, Kersey said. The city has scheduled over \$1 million in street work.

The largest projects will be improvements to Garl Street. The city expects to spend about \$500,000 of a \$1.3 million loan it received from the Community Economic Revitalization Board for the project.

Another \$234,000 is expected to be spent on traffic signals at the Hopper Road Interchange and Garl Street. The money was a grant from the Urban Arterial Board.

Improvements to East Fairhaven Avenue will bring the total to close to \$1 million for street work.

Kersey said the one potential revenue problem may be the recent vote to eliminate the sales tax on the trade-in value of cars and large equipment.

If the city loses substantial income from the tax cut, it may be forced to curtail many regular services, he said.

Also, garbage fees may be changed this year, Kersey said. The present fee structure has resulted in a 10 percent increase in garbage collected, but a loss of revenue, he said.

A rate that reflects the actual cost of each garbage collection may have to be instituted, Kersey said.