

Burlington okays limits on floodway

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BURLINGTON — After an informal review Thursday, the Burlington City Council gave its approval to the Skagit River Flood Control Committee's proposal for a "restricted density floodplain" designation.

The committee's proposal would prohibit property owners in the Skagit River delta from altering 25 percent of their land in any way that would restrict the flow of floodwater. The floodway designation was mandated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so that local municipalities can meet requirements for subsidized flood insurance.

The informal council discussion also revealed an overriding concern to pursue what has been termed the "best solution" by the committee: the construction of a dam on the Skagit River.

"If the dam is the best solution, then I believe the legislation should be changed so that we can achieve that goal," said Councilman John Doyle.

Councilman Duane Loving added, "I think we should fully pursue this. Don't let FEMA push us around. We must present a united front to these people."

Referring to the Wild and Scenic River Act, the federal law which would prohibit construction of a dam on the Skagit River, Loving said, "What is done can be undone."

A report detailing the council's review of the floodway issue and its acceptance of the committee's proposed designation will now be forwarded to the Skagit County Board of Commissioners. The county will propose a final flood control resolution to all county municipalities at a later date.

In other council action Thursday night, the sale of the Old City Hall building, to Kendall Gentry was okayed. The sale had been delayed until the Burlington Board of Adjustments passed a parking variance. Total amount of the sale was \$40,700.

City Engineer Bob Boudinot announced to the council that construction began this week on Sewer Project No. 1, the area north of Gages Slough. Universal Utilities Contractors of Woodinville, whose bid of \$448,066 made them the low bidder in August, is the company working on Project No. 1.

Boudinot also announced that R. C. Finkbonner Construction of Seattle will be starting construction work on Project No. 3 — the Gilkey's Addition — "sometime next week."

The council also okayed a conditional use request by Gary Minor of Burlington and Don George of Anacortes.

Minor intends to move his "specialty used car and pickup" business next door to George's insurance office at 500 South Garl Street. Minor said a maximum of 25 automobiles will be present on the lot at any time and that no major repair work will be done on the property.

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