City of Sequim, Washington
Resolution No. R2016-16

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICIES THAT IMPROVE THE CITY'S SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Whereas, water, waste water, surface water, transportation, energy, and waste management are essential elements for healthy communities and healthy economies;[1] and

Whereas, the City Council recently adopted goals that pertain to each of these elements; and

Whereas, the *Alliance for Innovation* identified Resources as one of four "Next Big Things" driving 44 trends, with six trends related to resources: climate change, food insecurity, water shortages/access, energy grid disruption, mining, and the NORC shift (migration away from tropical zones toward higher latitudes); and

Whereas, North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NOP RC&D) studied vulnerabilities and risks associated with impacts of climate change and presented a "Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" with adaptation strategies at Study Session in November 2015.

1. City staff and Council members participated in workshops resulting in the RC&D plan;
2. Particular vulnerabilities identified for Sequim include water supplies, storm intensity, public health, and risk awareness;
3. At Council's request, City staff reviewed adaptation strategies in the plan;
4. Staff agrees that several preparedness strategies are relevant to the City; and

Whereas, Washington State published "Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State's Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy," outlining actions to protect human health, safeguard infrastructure and transportation systems, improve water management, reduce losses to agriculture and forestry, protect sensitive and vulnerable species, and support communities by involving the public; and

Whereas, RCW 70.235.070 makes a greenhouse gas emission reduction policy (such as R2012-11) a prerequisite in getting capital development funding from the state and, increasingly, an adopted climate action plan is also required or provides an advantage in winning grants and loans; and

Whereas, much of the task of responding to impacts from climate change has fallen to local governments and is best accomplished in conjunction with local businesses and citizens; and

Whereas, sustainable cities address the "triple bottom line," ensuring an environmentally, socially, and economically healthy and resilient community for existing populations, without compromising the benefits to future generations;[2] and

Whereas, resilient cities are prepared to absorb and recover from stresses while maintaining their essential functions, structures, and identity, adapting and thriving in the face of continual change; [3] and

---

[1] Paul Roberts, President, Association of Washington Cities Board of Directors, remarks at AWC Annual Conference, Wenatchee, June 26, 2015

[2] American Public Works Association Center for Sustainability: http://www.apwa.net/centerforsustainability

[3] ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) – Local Governments for Sustainability webpage: http://www.iclei.org/agendas.html

Whereas, building resilience to impacts from climate change is not an emergency, however, it prevents periodic events from becoming emergencies. Resilience includes health and safety as well as the economy, and better resilience fosters economic investment;[4] and

Whereas, measurable objectives are needed to assess progress and efficiency; and

Whereas, the City is actively working to ensure adequate water supplies in the future given expected changes in local precipitation patterns (the portion that is rain is increasing, the portion that is snow is decreasing); and

Whereas, the City has a strong mix of water resources to work with including reclaimed water, the ability to recharge groundwater, the potential ability to conserve water, irrigation system water rights, River water rights, and well water rights; and

Whereas, messaging is important when it comes to climate preparedness and the City has resources in place for education and outreach.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that City staff is directed to utilize pertinent resources, particularly those from Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), Association of Washington Cities (AWC), American Planning Association Washington Chapter (APA-Wa), American Public Works Association's Center for Sustainability, NOP RC&D's 2015 report on climate preparedness, and Washington State's 2012 climate response strategy, and implement the following strategies:

1. Ensure the next Comp Plan update includes goals for infrastructure resilience and climate change mitigation in the areas of transportation, solid waste, water/wastewater/stormwater, buildings, parks, clean air, and local food availability;
2. Ensure that infrastructure resilience and climate change mitigation are integrated, during regularly-scheduled updates, into all Master Plans, Capital Improvement Program, land use and development plans, Emergency Management Plan, and Hazard Mitigation Plan;
3. Forge partnerships with local and regional stakeholders concerning climate preparedness and in tracking emerging issues;
4. Build on existing networks and channels to educate City staff and residents on adaptation and resiliency;
5. Set measureable objectives for mitigation as well as preparedness (for example, a measurement method for emissions is necessary to know whether a reduction has occurred since passing R2012-11);
6. Ensure that annual City budgets appropriately support these objectives;
7. Report to Council every two years, at minimum, on progress in each of the above strategic areas, using cross-referencing among existing plans as a way to avoid inefficiency or duplication of effort.

Adopted by the City Council this 25th day of July, 2016.

Dennis L Smith

Dennis Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Kuznek-Reese, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kristina Nelson-Gross
City Attorney

[4] Smart Growth America: http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/