

I. INTRODUCTION

A. A BRIEF HISTORY OF TONASKET

Tonasket is a small community located along the eastern bank of the Okanogan River in north central Okanogan County, Washington. The City was named in honor of Chief Tonasket of the Okanogan Indians who historically used the present City site for an encampment. US 97, the main north-south highway through central Washington, bisects the City on its way north to the Canadian border, approximately twenty miles. The City, with an elevation of approximately 900 feet above sea level, is bordered on the west by the Okanogan River, to the north by Siwash Creek, and the south by Bonaparte Creek. The present population is estimated to be approximately 1,040.

The City, which has been the site of a U.S. Post Office since 1901, was platted in 1910 and incorporated in 1927. Tonasket serves as a hub for the agricultural, forestry, mining and tourism industries in north central Okanogan County. It is the location of two fruit storage and processing facilities, and the offices of the Tonasket Ranger District of the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest. The City is a convenient jumping off point for visitors coming to the area to enjoy the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation in the surrounding areas.

Many descendants of pioneer families still reside in Tonasket and the surrounding areas, and are interested in preserving and sharing the history of their heritage. As the hub of an area for all seasons, Tonasket would also like to take advantage of its resources by using them wisely and judiciously to the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

B. AUTHORITY TO PLAN

The Tonasket Comprehensive Plan has been prepared under the authority of the Planning Commission Act, RCW 35.63. The policies outlined in this Comprehensive Plan are intended to be implemented through such regulatory tools as zoning, subdivision and related ordinances. These regulations are intended to be developed and maintained in accordance with the goals, objectives, principles and policies outlined in this Comprehensive Plan, as set forth in the RCW 35.63.090 and the 1990 Growth Management Act (both, as amended).

C. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Tonasket is intended to be a guide for the growth and development within and surrounding the community that is both sensitive to the environment, and to the needs of community residents. The Plan is intended to guide the community in its development for the foreseeable future, or about the next twenty years. It is also intended that this Plan be reviewed on a regular basis (five year minimum) to insure that it serves the best wishes of the community.

General goals and objectives are identified by City Officials which they believe to be consistent with the attitudes of the citizens of Tonasket, and in the best interest of the community as a whole. The public review process during the adoption procedure of the Plan is intended to

reflect the approval of the community. These goals and objectives will guide development of the City to make it a more convenient, attractive, and orderly place in which to live, shop, work, and play. The Plan represents an effort to maintain those components of the community that lend themselves to quality of life, and to improve upon those that threaten to degrade that quality. The following page lists the reasons for having a Comprehensive Plan while addressing some of the ingredients that are important to the quality of life in a community.

D. WHY HAVE A PLAN?

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to:

- ✓ encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the community so as to prevent overcrowding and undue concentration of population.
- ✓ lessen traffic congestion and accidents.
- ✓ To secure safety from fire.
- ✓ provide adequate light, clean air and protection from excessive noise and contamination.
- ✓ promote the coordinated development of unbuilt areas.
- ✓ secure an appropriate allotment of land area in new developments for all the requirements of community life.
- ✓ conserve, protect and restore natural beauty and other natural resources.
- ✓ facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, and other public uses and requirements.
- ✓ ensure that Tonasket is aesthetically pleasing for residents and visitors alike and is a comfortable place to live as well as visit for people of all ages.
- ✓ provide a basis for decisions faced by the City government that reflect the needs and desires of the citizens by allowing participation and comment in the preparation of the Plan.
- ✓ comply with the requirements of the Growth Management Act and Planning Enabling Acts.

E. ELEMENTS OF THE TONASKET COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City of Tonasket Comprehensive Plan is composed of seven main elements which must be closely interrelated to serve as a satisfactory guide for future development.

These elements are:

- I. Introduction** which is this part of the Plan providing background data, purpose and intent statements, plan organization and amendment etc.,,
- II. Population** which provides important data related to historic and projection population numbers.
- III. Land Use** which is intended to show the general location, amount, and pattern of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and open space land needed in the Tonasket area in the foreseeable future.
- IV. Public Facilities** which is intended to assist the community in determining the need and location for future schools, sewer and water improvements, municipal buildings, and other municipal facilities.
- V. Transportation/Circulation** which is intended to indicate standards and locations for arterials, collector and local access streets, and pedestrian and non-motorized access in and around Tonasket.
- VI. Park and Recreation** which is intended to provide goals, objectives, and plans for the development and expansion of a wide range of parks and recreation facilities. This element summarizes a separate planning document, the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, adopted by the Tonasket Town Council in 2010 was the result of an extensive outreach effort.
- VII. Housing** refers to a housing needs assessment conducted in 1987 and suggests options for action to address housing issues in more depth.
- VIII. Economic Development** is included to generally discuss the concept of economic development and its relationship to the local economy. Goals and objectives are provided to guide a more specific strategic planning process for economic development with emphasis on public participation.
- IX. Solid and Hazardous Waste**, providing plans for the reduction and management of hazardous waste materials.

F. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Plan is easier to read and understand if one considers its organization. All maps are presented as a series of figures throughout the Plan. There are three simple concepts introduced in the Land Use element of the Plan that address land use types in the community. They are the Goals, the Assessment, and the Plan. With some variation, the remaining Comprehensive Plan elements generally follow the same format.

1. GOALS - WHAT DO WE LIKE?

Introducing each element of the Tonasket Comprehensive Plan or in some cases, each sub-element, general goals are presented. These goals represent the community's perception of two basic concepts; "Sense of Place" and "Quality of Life." More simply, this step identifies the things that the citizens of Tonasket expect from their community.

2. ASSESSMENT - WHAT DO WE HAVE AND WHAT DO WE NEED?

In determining objectives and policies that fulfill the established goals existing conditions must be assessed to determine areas where these goals are being met and those areas that need attention. It is the intention of this Plan to identify and maintain the desirable characteristics of Tonasket while, in turn, recognizing problems of the community so that strategies can be devised to address them. In other words, we must know where we are to decide where to go next.

Certain background information was gathered to describe existing conditions in Tonasket. The most extensive information collected was the Land Use Inventory. Population data was also analyzed in order to make general projections of future population trends. Public facilities were inventoried and general observations were made of existing infrastructure and services. Each element of the Plan attempts to address existing conditions based on these background studies.

3. PLAN - HOW DO WE GET WHAT WE WANT?

The Plan portion of each element, as it applies to various uses of land, includes objectives, policies and recommendations that will help to get or keep what we like or need. This is the "meat" of the Comprehensive Plan. The specific objectives, policies or recommendations that are presented in the Plan are intended to be positive strategies in meeting the general goals that have been previously identified.

G. FUTURE OF THE TONASKET COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

As time passes, technological changes are made and the social, economic, and cultural needs of the community change. In light of such change, it is necessary to constantly revise and update the Comprehensive Plan. The following strategies and ideals must be included and considered in any review of the Plan to ensure the Plan serves its intended function:

- ❖ Those community members involved in updating the Plan must believe in and be committed to the planning process, realizing the benefits of planning for the future development of the community.
- ❖ Due to the interrelationship of all elements of the Plan, a critical analysis of any proposed amendments is necessary to ensure that impacts to every element are considered.

- ❖ If the Plan is to be a vital document to the community, and a guide for its growth, it must be constantly used as a guide in making local policy decisions relating to every element of the plan.
- ❖ If planning within the City of Tonasket is to be effective, it must be coordinated with planning in Okanogan County. Problems related to future growth and development do not respect corporate limits. Development will occur in the fringe areas where the City will be impacted but will not have jurisdiction to manage the land use. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the City and county work together in the future planning of the Tonasket area.
- ❖ If effective measures are not taken to implement the Comprehensive Plan, the document will have little value for the community.
- ❖ If the Plan is to serve as a guide for community development, steps must be taken to make the Plan become a reality or it will not guide the community in the positive direction that is intended. This can result in piecemeal development with a much less predictable outcome.

H. AMENDING THE PLAN

Amendments to the Comprehensive plan will be considered on an annual basis. Proposed Amendments will be reviewed in accordance to the requirements in this section and all applicable State Law.

1. DOCKETING

The period for docketing proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan or Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designation Map (Figure III-2) will begin January 31 and end on June 1 of each year. The proposed amendments will be submitted on forms provided by the City. The city clerk or others as designated by the Mayor and Council shall review each proposal for completeness and all applicable state laws and Tonasket Municipal Code. The determination of complete application will be made by June 30 of each year.

A list of all complete applications, along with a statement of consistency or non-consistency, will be submitted to the City Council by July 7 of each year. The Council will determine which proposals to docket for further review by July 31. The proposals selected for docketing will be returned to the Planning Commission for further review.

Proposed amendments to the Urban Growth Area must be docketed with the County. The City Council will consult with the County Office of Planning and Development and Board of County Commissioners before determining if an amendment to the UGA will be forwarded for review.

The proposed amendments selected for further review will be scheduled for public hearing before the City of Tonasket Planning Commission no later than October 1 of each year. The Commission, no later than November 20 of each year, will forward to the City

Council a recommendation of approval or denial for each proposal including Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law supporting their decision.

The City Council, before December 31 of each year, conduct an open record public hearing to consider the recommendation of the Tonasket Planning Commission, testimony, and other information submitted. The Council shall adopt by ordinance any amendments to be approved or denied. The Council shall adopt Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to support their decision.

The final decision of the City Council shall be considered valid on its face. The final decision of the Council is appealable, by those with standing, in accordance with RCW 36.70C (Land Use Petitions Act).

2. FIVE YEAR REVIEW

The City Council shall order the review of the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Designation Map five years from the date of the first approval and every five years thereafter. The Council will adopt by Resolution a Scope of Work describing the process for the five year review, including a public participation plan. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any future City Council to review and revise every section of the Comprehensive Plan. The level and areas of review will be identified in the Scope of Work adopted by the Council. The public participation plan shall be consistent with the adopted Scope of Work.