CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Minutes of Council Meeting, Regular Session
Date of Meeting March 19, 2001
Time of Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting Council Chambers, 102 North Pearl Street

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Barry, Bassett, Bennett, Brown, Collins and Mayor Perrie.

Others present were City Manager Barkley, City Attorney Pidduck, Children’s Librarian Yaba, Holmes Center Manager Fuhrman, Deputy City Clerk Keno, Executive Assistant Gigstead, Daily Record City Reporter Halliday and approximately 17 members of the audience.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Perrie read a proclamation for “National Older Workers Employment Week” in March which recognizes the contributions of current library employees Bonita Redberg, Ray Wheeling, and Tom Dell through the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Authorize Mayor to sign proclamation. Bassett

Affirmed

AGENDA APPROVAL

Approve agenda. Bassett

Items 5.H., 5.I., and 5.J. of the Consent Agenda were moved to 6.B., C., and D.

Vote on motion. Affirmed

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the Consent Agenda were distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and were enacted by one motion with separate discussion to the extent any items were removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.

Approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Barry

A. Approve Minutes - February 26, 2001, Special Session

Approve Minutes - March 5, 2001, Regular Session

B. Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions
C. Accept Bid Call 1999-20 - Canyon Road Improvements Project as Complete

D. Authorize Purchase of One Ton Regular Cab & Chassis from State Contract and Reject Other Bids for Bid Call 2001-09

Approve Revised Route for Yakima River Canyon Marathon Street Closure on March 31, 2001.

Authorize Mayor to Sign McElroy Park Development Consultant Services Contract

Authorize Mayor to Sign Addendum to Chamber of Commerce Agreement for Tourism Marketing

Approve Time Extension to March 20, 2005 for Sparling Plat Final Approval

Approve March 19, 2001 Claims Fund Voucher Numbers 47449 Through 47708 in the Total Amount of $1,513,319.98 and Payroll Fund Check Numbers 39300 Through 39692 in the Total Amount of $599,113.57. Affirmed

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Perrie recommended the following appointment to boards and commissions: Thomas Newbold, Beautification Commission.

Confirm Mayor’s appointment of Thomas Newbold to the Beautification Commission. Bennett Affirmed

APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF SENIOR CENTER RESTRICTED FUNDS OF $9,500 FOR PURCHASE OF THREE COMPUTERS

For clarification purposes, the title of this agenda item incorrectly states an expenditure of $9,500 for the purchase of three computers for the Senior Center while the agenda report requests expenditure of $4,500 of the $9,500 donation.

Approve $4,500 expenditure from Senior Center Restricted Funds for the purchase of Barry three computers. Affirmed

AWARD BID CALLS 2001-04 - BACKHOE/LOADER 4 X 4, AND 2001-10 - BACKHOE/LOADER 4 X 2
Council noted the lack of Kittitas County bidders and encouraged local dealers to submit bids to preferably keep tax dollars in our community.

Approve the Case 580E backhoe for “trade-in” and award bid for backhoe/loader Bennett 4 x 4 to Smith Tractor and Equipment Company, Inc. for $59,184.30; award bid for backhoe/loader 4 x 2 to Smith Tractor and Equipment Company, Inc. for $66,339.70. Affirmed

ORDINANCE NO. 4272 - MT. VIEW AVENUE SIDEWALK ASSESSMENT AREA

At the March 5, 2001 meeting, Council held a public hearing and gave first reading to Ordinance No. 4272 which allows for the creation of an assessment reimbursement area for the Mountain View Avenue Sidewalk Project.

Read for the second time, Ordinance No. 4272. Bassett

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington, ordering the improvements of the south side of Mountain View Avenue, between Ruby Street and East Wilson Creek, by the construction of new concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and appurtenances, all in accordance with Resolution 2001-04 of the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington; establishing an Assessment Reimbursement Area pursuant to RCW 35.72.050 and providing that payment for said improvements be made by assessment to said properties. Affirmed

Adopt Ordinance No. 4272. Bassett

Barry

Bassett

Bennett

Brown

Collins

Perrie

Motion approved.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE - ESTABLISH CHANGE FUND FOR ELLENSBURG YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTER

The proposed ordinance establishes and sets a $50.00 change fund for the Parks & Recreation Administrative Office which is now housed at the new Ellensburg Youth & Community Center building.
Read for the first time, Ordinance No. 4273. Bennett

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington amending the Ellensburg Municipal Code relating to Change Funds, and adding a new section to the Ellensburg City Code entitled 2.16.450 - “Parks & Recreation Administrative Office Change Fund” to establish a change fund for the Parks & Recreation administrative office. Affirmed

MODEL ORDINANCE FOR GAMBLING TAX

At a special Council meeting on February 26, 2001 staff presented background information concerning municipal taxation of gambling activities. The State Gambling Act, Chapter 9.26 RCW, constitutes the exclusive legislative authority for any city gambling taxes. The model gambling tax ordinance presented is in accordance with the City’s legislatively delegated authority and is similar in content to city gambling tax ordinances in effect throughout the state. Section 6.70.010 of the model ordinance sets forth the maximum tax rates a municipality is authorized to impose for specific gambling activities. These rates are presented only as a starting point for Council consideration and staff is neither recommending nor discouraging these rates.

Several councilmembers proposed varying tax rate scenarios based on a three year ramp up of rates and the number of card tables in the establishment. Some councilmembers supported increasing the monetary penalties for late payment.

Council requested staff provide information detailing administrative and enforcement costs to assist in setting tax rates that ensure the City’s costs in administering the tax are not greater than the tax revenue generated.

A local tavern owner and representatives of the Wild Goose Casino spoke about gambling issues with their businesses and requested Council consider their business costs in setting a fair tax.

Staff to write a revised gambling tax ordinance for the City of Ellensburg incorporating Bennett the following rates, penalties and effective date:

Section 6.70.010 Gambling Activities And Tax - For items (1), (2), (3), and (4) a graduated three year tax with a rate of 0% at year 1; 1% at year 2; and 2% at year 3; and for item (5) a graduated three year tax with a rate of 3% at year 1; 6% at year 2; and 8% at year 3 with all rates to be revisited after three years and rates to take effect on July 1, 2001.

Section 6.70.080 Failure To Make Timely Payment Of Tax Or Fee - increase penalty for item (1) from $5.00 to $10.00; item (2) from $10.00 to $20.00; item (3) from $15.00 to $30.00; and item (4) from $25.00 to $50.00.

Council’s intent at the end of the three year period is to re-examine the tax through public input and staff and council discussion.
Vote on motion. Affirmed

MANAGER’S REPORT

Fire Chief Selection Process

One of the two candidates interviewed last week for the position of Fire Chief is still under consideration. A decision will be made shortly regarding whether to make an appointment, or continue the search. Chief Alder will retire on March 30, 2001. A decision regarding appointment, or interim leadership will be made in the next few days.

Sprague Street House

Following several minor repairs, the sale of the Sprague Street house should be ready to close in the near future. Planning has begun for the development of the lot to the west of the Ellensburg Youth and Community Center into a parking lot.

Communication from the School District - Washington School

The City has received communication from the School District suggesting that negotiations begin regarding a property transaction that would involve trading Whitney Park and an amount of cash to be determined for the Washington School and the Washington School block. The District has been advised that Council will hear a preliminary feasibility report from staff on the Washington School site, as well as two other sites under consideration for a future City Hall, on April 9th. The Manager will reply to the School District this week indicating continued interest in this discussion, but also indicating that no significant steps toward such a transaction can take place without Council direction.

Water Street Project

Work continues on Water Street, weather permitting. The signal standards and mast arms are in place at the intersection of Water Street and Capitol Avenue, and are representative of the design that will be repeated throughout the project. Work has begun on the adjacent sidewalks as well.

Library Expansion Plans

The Manager, Library Director, and architect met last week to view several revised Library expansion options. The concept will be in front of the Library Board next month, and will follow shortly to the Council. Also coming to the Council will be a plan for financing a Library expansion, including flexibility to fit into the new or medium term planning horizon.

Ongoing Discussions Between the City and CWU

The City and CWU have started discussions in two different policy areas, which will involve the Council shortly. The first is driven by water conservation measures, and involves the relationship
between the University and the City regarding the Brooklane Well. The second area is the planning of off-street parking for University use, and how the Residential Parking Zone agreement fits into this process. Council will be updated as these discussions progress.

**Skate Park**

Skate Park users are reminded the Park closes at dark as part of the agreement reached with the surrounding property owners. In addition, recreational items such as bicycles, skateboards and scooters are not to be ridden on downtown sidewalks. The City is taking a firm enforcement stance on these issues.

**Downtown Litter Control**

Kittitas County Corrections Center inmates will be performing supervised litter control in the downtown area. Staff is exploring the possibility of using individuals sentenced to community service to perform litter control in the downtown area at night with the Ellensburg Police Department Power Shift supervising these individuals.

**Road Repairs**

Street crews have begun the annual crack sealing process.

**Utility Rates**

A record number of utility customers are on the budget payment plan. Staff is working with customers to extend gas payments through the summer in an attempt to ease the hardship of higher rates. Electric rates are expected to double at the wholesale level in October. Staff is looking at a potential bond sale to ease rate increases to customers.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS**

Councilmember Bennett requested staff check into the operational status of a wind machine on the west side of Ellensburg, an RPZ parking issue involving a business on Eighth Avenue and parking enforcement in city parking lots.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Bennett

Affirmed

Mayor

Attest: