CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Minutes of Council Meeting, Regular Session Date of Meeting April 2, 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, City Clerk Reno, Fire Chief Alder, Senior Planner Caspar, Energy Services Director Titus, Executive Assistant Gigstead, Daily Record City Reporter Halliday and approximately 13 members of the audience.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Perrie read a proclamation for “Arbor Day” on April 11, 2001.

Authorize Mayor to sign proclamation. Bassett

Affirmed

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Fire Chief Alder for his retirement.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Approve agenda. Barry

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: Bennett

A. Approve Minutes - February 9, 2001, Special Session

Approve Minutes - March 12, 2001, Special Session

Approve Minutes - March 19, 2001, Regular Session
B. Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions

(1) Environmental Commission - February 21, 2001

(2) Library Board - March 13, 2001

(3) Parks & Recreation Commission - March 14, 2001

(4) Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - March 27, 2001

(5) Arts Commission - March 27, 2001

Approve Expenditure of Funds for Public Restroom Facility and Tourism Web Site as Appropriated in Lodging Tax Fund’s 2001 Budget

Approve Waiver of Library Card Fees for Children During Summer Reading Program

Accept Resignation of Richard Keller from Landmarks and Design Commission and Authorize Mayor to Sign Letter of Appreciation

Approve April 2, 2001 Claims Fund Voucher Numbers 47709 Through 47902 in the Total Amount of $395,067.93. Affirmed

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICANT INTRODUCTIONS

There were no applicants present.

CITY COUNCIL APPLICANT INTRODUCTIONS

The following City Council applicants were present to speak on their qualifications for the vacant City Council position: Brian Bartels, Dwight “Lee” Bates, Robert Davis, and Torrey Wing.

Nominate all candidates present tonight. Bassett

Affirmed

City Clerk Reno read the ballots as follows: Councilmembers Bassett, Bennett, Brown, and Collins and Mayor Perrie voted for Robert Davis; Councilmember Barry voted for Dwight “Lee” Bates.

City Clerk Reno administered the oath of office for Robert Davis.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED ORDINANCE - GAMBLING TAX

Mayor Perrie opened the public hearing for a proposed gambling tax ordinance.
At the meeting on March 19, 2001, the City Council considered a gambling tax ordinance in draft form which complies with the City’s taxing authority under state law and is similar in content to city gambling tax ordinances in effect throughout the state. After discussion, the Council gave staff direction concerning tax rates, penalties and implementation dates.

There being no public testimony, Mayor Perrie closed the public hearing.

**Read for the first time, Ordinance No. 4274.** Bennett

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington amending the Ellensburg Municipal Code relating to taxation of gambling, and creating a new chapter of the City Code entitled 6.70 - “Gambling Tax”.

Amend Section 6.70.160 - Section 2 to change December to July 2003. Bennett

Affirmed

Vote on motion. Affirmed (Perrie, Brown - no)

**PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED ORDINANCE - STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) CODE AMENDMENTS**

At the February 20, 2001 meeting, the City Council opened a public hearing to receive testimony from the public on the proposed changes to the SEPA Code amendments. The Council continued the public hearing until this meeting. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes and recommended Section 1.42.16 be amended to designate the Senior Planner as the SEPA responsible official instead of the Community Development Director. Staff does not recommend this proposed language be changed.

The Planning Commission also recommended seven other changes to the ordinance. Three of those changes have been included in the draft ordinance.

Jack Piper, 300 East Helena, University Place Partnership, stated he is opposed to the Community Development Director being the responsible official for SEPA and also approving projects. He recommends the Senior Planner be the responsible official.

Matt Morton and Doug Mitchell, Planning Commission members, explained the Planning Commission’s rationale for the motion to have the Senior Planner be designated as the SEPA responsible official as follows:

The Senior Planner is not responsible for any land use permit approvals and this recommended change will preserve the appearance of fairness and reduce potential conflicts of interest.

If the Community Development Director is also the SEPA responsible official, there could be conflicts
with his current responsibilities in also approving other permits and land use actions such as short
plats, critical areas and building permits.

If someone else with administrative authority, such as the Public Works Director, is also designated
the SEPA official, there could be conflicts with his current responsibilities in approving other permits
such as grading permits, fill permits, and culvert permits.

A memo from the City Attorney was included in the agenda which addresses the Planning
Commission’s concerns. He does not recommend the proposed SEPA responsible official be changed
in the ordinance.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Perrie closed the public hearing.

Consider ordinance at the April 9 study session and April 16 regular meeting. Bennett

Affirmed

ORDINANCE NO. 4273 - 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.
Ordinance No. 4273 was given first reading at the March 19 meeting.

Read for the second time, Ordinance No. 4273. Bassett

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

Adopt Ordinance No. 4273. Bassett

Bassett

Bennett

Brown

Collins

Davis

Perrie
Motion approved.

**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY MUSEUM REPORT**

Ruth Harrington was present to give the City Council an annual report on the use of city funding for various programs at the Children’s Activity Museum, including After School Adventures, First Friday Evening Free, and After School Scholarship Funding.

**CONSIDERATION OF ISSUING BONDS TO MITIGATE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE AND FINANCE CONSERVATION**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is increasing its wholesale electric rates this October. The exact amount of the increase is unknown at this time but is expected to range between 50%-400%. The amount of the increase will depend on how much power BPA must buy on the open market and what the cost of that power will be. Instead of passing these costs directly on to the City’s customers, staff would like Council to consider issuing bonds to “buy down” the rate increase and provide funding for an aggressive conservation program. If the Light Fund were to borrow $10 million ($7.5 million for rate mitigation and $2.5 million for conservation) it is estimated that a 10% rate increase would be needed each year in 2001, 2002, and 2003 followed by a 5% rate increase in 2004. This assumes that the rate mitigation bonds would be taxable and issued for ten years at 6.5%. The conservation bonds would be tax-free, 5% bonds issued for twenty years.

Council directed staff to continue looking into the matter.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

**Senate Budget Keeps I-695 Backfill**

PSSB 5345, the Senate budget proposal released on March 28, retains I-695 backfill funding at a 93.1 million dollar level for the 2001-2003 biennium. The City will receive $70,000 in revenue.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS**

**Lodging Tax Advisory Committee**

Councilmember Brown submitted a letter of resignation from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Barry

Affirmed

Mayor

Attest:
City Clerk