CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON

Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session
Date of Meeting March 25, 2002
Time of Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting Council Chambers, 102 North Pearl Street


Others present were City Manager Barkley, City Clerk Reno, Finance Director Carpenter, Library Director Kline, Children’s Librarian Yaba, Hal Holmes Office Manager Fuhrman, Fire Chief Schmidt, Daily Record Reporter Muir, and approximately 12 members of the audience.

CAPITAL NEEDS AND FUNDING

LIBRARY EXPANSION AND NORTH-END FIRE STATION

Library Director Kline summarized the agenda report. The Ellensburg Library expansion plan has been completed through the schematic design phase. The next step is to identify funding and timing for the construction. At the Council retreat in early 2002, Council consensus seemed to favor an election to ask the voters to fund the Library expansion with an increase in property tax. A levy to raise $1.6 million for the project would be needed. The architect’s estimate for the project is $1,458,000, which includes construction, furnishings, estimating and design fees, bid costs, sales tax, and contingency. The estimate does not include HVAC system improvements or parking. It assumes the Library would be vacated for the construction period so the library collections and services would need temporary space. The simplest and least expensive temporary location is the Hal Holmes Center and its basement.

City Manager Barkley stated Council has options to request funds be released from the Hal Holmes Trust Fund or to use sales tax reserve funds for architectural, engineering, and construction documents at an estimated cost of $110,000. A tentative date for an election could be set next February after those documents are completed. Mr. Barkley provided handouts to the Council and discussed the proposed bond debt service.

Library Board member Stanley Ray stated he favored the option to release funds from the Hal Holmes Trust Fund for architectural, engineering, and construction documents and to have the election next February. Council discussed putting this money back into a separate fund after the election.

Council then discussed the North-End Fire Station. Fire Chief Schmidt stated they have not started planning for the fire station yet. They have some ideas to combine the station with a community center next to a park at Helena and Airport Road and possibly share the station with Fire District #2. A north end fire station is in the Comprehensive Plan and impact fees could be collected for development of the station. The fire station is probably not ready to be combined with the Library.
election and may be ready in about two years. Staff’s preliminary discussions with CWU about the Brooklane Well and Fire Services agreement has identified a potential site for a fire station on Central’s land in the vicinity of Helena and Airport Road.

Direct staff to ask the Hal Holmes Trustee to allow use of Hal Holmes Trust Funds for Lillquist architectural, construction, and engineering documents and set tentative date for bond election in February, 2003. Affirmed

Direct staff to create a plan for location and cost of a north end fire station by this Fall. Sowards

Affirmed

REQUEST FROM CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (CWU) FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT PROPOSAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT

A representative of CWU was present to explain the request for a letter of support for a grant.

Authorize Mayor to sign letter of support. Barry

Affirmed

ADJOURN Adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Sowards

Affirmed

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk