CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session
Date of Meeting January 26, 2004
Time of Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting Council Chambers, 102 North Pearl Street


Others present were City Manager Barkley; Community Development Director Witkowski; Public Works Director Akers; City Attorney Pidduck; Planner Smith; Deputy Clerk Keno and approximately 50 plus members of the audience.

The purpose of the special session is to establish clear policy direction regarding the layout of residential streets in the general neighborhood area between Helena/Bender Road on the north/south grid and Cora/Airport Road on an east/west grid. Also included is the area around Illinois Street, Trail’s Edge Street and the Cora Street Extension north of the John Wayne Trail.

NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD STREET CORRIDORS

Community Development Director Witkowski summarized the agenda report and reviewed a map of the area including proposed arterials and residential streets.

The Planning Commission recommends Council adopt a quarter-mile grid system for future residential streets. In response to audience inquiry concerning the time frame for development of these arterials and streets, staff believes most of the area will be developed within four to five years depending upon the pace of development. Two public hearings are scheduled before Council next week for proposed subdivisions in the area.

The following audience members spoke about the layout of residential streets:

Steve Verhey, 1801 B. Street; Steve Willard, 1701 Sanders Road; Jeff Nolls, 2309 Ellington Street; Alison Carpenter, North Water Street; Jane Wright, 4500 Hanson Road; Ann Merrill-Steskal; Jack Piper; Cary Green, Ellington Street; Mitch Williams; Lori Elliott, 2140 Hannah Road; John Peak, 215 West Bender Road; George Bottcher, 711 East 2nd Avenue; Doug Stalder; Jeff Watson, 103 South Walnut; Bob Hayes, 208 West Bender Road; Lisa Larrabee; Dianne Bedwell, 309 South Sampson; Don Black, 219 West Bender Road; Mary Ann (last name unknown); Jerry Williams, 2711 North Pioneer Road; Steve and Joyce Ford, Ellington Street; Benjamin Fabion, 2302 Ellington Street; Joan Brown, Ellington Street; Dorothy Stanley, 201 East 9th Avenue; Tom Bacchus, Meadowbrook Lane; Colin Condit, 9th Avenue; and Mike Butterfield, 2310 Ellington Street.

Audience comments included support for the current grid system with neighborhood parks and trails. Neighbors would like to see pedestrian, bike and horse paths in the area as well as parks for children. The presence of street trees and walkability of the area are important. Concerns were expressed
about impacts on property values, safety, continuation of irrigation water rights, connectivity issues, existing wetlands around Water Street, park mitigation fees, and the current condition of the intersection of Water and Idaho Streets. Several audience members cited the community’s growing obesity problem; one audience member submitted a position paper from the Kittitas County Health Department urging land use decisions in light of health awareness. One individual spoke in opposition to the extension of Ellington Street. Another individual requested consideration for the families affected by the Water Street extension.

City Attorney Pidduck cautioned against discussing the plat applications scheduled for public hearings on February 2, 2004. These are quasi-judicial matters that cannot be discussed outside of the public hearing process.

**RECESS** Council recessed for five minutes at 9:10 p.m.

**RECONVENE** Council reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Council discussed the comments made about the intersection of Water and Idaho Streets. Neighborhood concerns about this intersection will be addressed when this portion of Water Street is rebuilt. Council requested staff sand this intersection during the winter months. Council briefly discussed performing a comprehensive plan review or proceeding with the current comprehensive plan. Council expressed interest in discussing this issue during its February 26, 2004 retreat.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 10:20 p.m. Lillquist

Affirmed

________________________________
Mayor

ATTEST: ________________________________

City Clerk