ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Bassett, Collins, Lillquist, O’Brien, Perrie and Mayor Barry.

Others present were City Manager Barkley; City Attorney Pidduck; Public Works Director Akers; Community Development Director Witkowski; Parks & Recreation Director Case; Senior Planner Smith; Administrative Secretary Helgeson; Deputy Clerk Keno and approximately 20 members of the audience.

RESCHEDULE NEW CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE

A scheduling conflict necessitates rescheduling the New City Hall Open House and Dedication.

Reschedule City Hall Open House and Dedication for January 23, 2005 from 1-4 p.m. O’Brien

Affirmed

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Approve January 10, 2005 Claims Fund Voucher Numbers 69437 Through 69765 Bassett

in the Total Amount of $1,016,173.58; January 10, 2005 Payroll Fund Check Numbers

59081 Through 59298 in the Total Amount of $268,529.61 and Direct Deposit in the

Amount of $109,259.30. Affirmed

The purpose of the special session is to: 1) Hear presentations from the Landmarks & Design Commission and other commissions and organizations on issues impacting the Central Business District: and 2) Discuss with the Environmental Commission its role and responsibilities.

LANDMARKS & DESIGN COMMISSION— CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT PLAN

Representatives of the Ellensburg Downtown Association, Historic Ellensburg, and the City’s Landmark and Design Commission summarized issues impacting the City’s Central Business District. Economic issues include the need for financial incentives to restore the second stories of the downtown historic buildings to generate interest in living downtown and flexibility in the enforcement of building codes for the downtown historic district. Special target issues include the development of second story space, signage appropriate to the historic district, guidelines for murals and increased parking to accommodate more people for longer periods of time. Specific design standards need to be
developed for downtown signage and parking. In addition, the permitting process for applicants needs to be streamlined. The City’s Comprehensive Plan and ordinances pertaining to the downtown need to be amended. The group requests a future study session with Council to present its findings in more detail.

The International Building Code regulations and how they apply to downtown renovation were briefly discussed. Council consensus was to schedule an in depth study session with the groups once the Downtown Association Director is hired and familiar with the issues—probably in March or April.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The agenda packet includes a November 29, 2004 memorandum from the Environmental Commission detailing nine areas the Commission members would like to include as future responsibilities of the Commission. Also included is a written response dated January 5, 2005 from Carol Morris, an attorney for the Association of Washington Cities, to each of the nine areas. Joe Sheeran, Commission Chairperson, reviewed the November 29, 2004 memorandum in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority, as follows:

1) Representation on a SEPA Review Committee; 2) Revision of the Critical Areas District (Chapter 13.39) using best available science; 3) SEPA mitigation monitoring (short and long term); 4) New Wetlands Inventory; 5) Preserve natural areas/policing; 6) Conservation easements as mitigation; 7) Impact fee review; and 8) Environmental education promotion. In addition, the Commission requests revisions to Ellensburg City Code Chapter 1.60 Environmental Commission to expand the Commission’s role and responsibilities and Chapter 13.39 Critical Areas District to allow enforcement and penalties.

City Attorney Pidduck summarized Ms. Morris’ responses to each of the Commission’s requests.

Staff requested Council provide the Commission with guidelines for its involvement. Council consensus was that issues such as legislative matters, development of a new wetlands inventory, revision of the City’s critical areas district, impact fee reports and environmental education are within the scope of the Commission’s roles and responsibilities. The Commission will also have a role in the Comprehensive Plan Update scheduled for this year.

Council took comments from audience members. In answer to audience inquiry, enforcement of development code regulations is provided by the Community Development Department. Community Development Director Witkowski explained the enforcement action process.

RECESS

Council recessed to executive session at 8:57 p.m. to consider the possible acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase. Council did not expect to reconvene to take action.
ADJOURN Adjourn at 9:38 p.m. O’ Brien

Affirmed

______________________________
Mayor

ATTEST: ________________________________

City Clerk