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

Others present were City Manager Barkley; Fire Chief Elliott; Deputy Clerk Keno; Kittitas County Fire District #2 (KCFD) Chief Sinclair; KCFD #2 Commissioners Clerf, Smith and Hammond and approximately ten members of the audience.

The purpose of the special joint meeting of the City Council and Kittitas County Fire District #2 Commissioners is to discuss the concept of joint strategic planning and a comprehensive consolidation study for KCFD #2 and the Ellensburg Fire Department.

Fire Chief Elliott summarized the agenda report. Kittitas County Fire District #2 and Ellensburg Fire have shared resources effectively for decades on an operational level. Financial constraints, increasing service demand and a desire by all parties to fully research service delivery alternatives have lead staff to a time and place where full consideration of all interoperability issues, including the possibility of consolidating the departments make sense. Interoperability is best described as the level of cooperation between the agencies. Future interoperability might include continued automatic aid between the departments, reductions in the level of cooperation between the departments or increased cooperation and possibly even merging the agencies to improve emergency service delivery to the community while better controlling costs. Both agencies are requesting Council and Commission direction in this matter.

Both organizations are looking at how to work better effectively for the benefit of the citizens. Staffing levels for both agencies were reviewed. The first step will be to direct Chief Elliott and Chief Sinclair to work together to develop a joint strategic plan. If the plan supports the establishment of a fire authority or a merger of the two entities then voter approval would be required. At this stage of the planning process the earliest time for an election would be Spring, 2006. The entities are suggesting the creation of a Citizen’s Advisory Committee as part of the educational process. The roles and responsibilities of Fire District #2 Commissioners were discussed.

Fire Chief Elliott distributed a proposed outline for exploring KCFD #2 and City of Ellensburg Fire Department interoperability and possibly the option of merger/consolidation along with a proposed timeline for completion of a study. The study goal is a stable source of emergency services funding that the community is willing to support. Currently neither entity has any depth in its system. Chief Sinclair distributed a list of potential Citizen Advisory Committee candidates. None of these individuals have been contacted. The Council and Commission discussed how such a committee could be formulated; one suggestion was to include a representative from CWU administration.
Council asked questions of staff.

Direct Fire Chief Elliott and staff to explore options for interoperability and cooperative O' Brien agreements with Fire District #2 and the City of Ellensburg.

Amend to include authorization for the establishment of a citizens advisory committee as Lillquist needed.

Vote on motion as amended. Approved

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Carlson

Affirmed

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Mayor

ATTEST: __________________________ City Clerk