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

Others present were Community Development Director Witkowski; Public Works Director Akers; Energy Services Director Titus; Deputy Clerk Keno; Bill Grimes of Studio Cascade, Inc.; and 35 plus members of the audience.

The special meeting is a continuance of the February 13, 2006 special meeting to give audience members who had signed up to speak at that meeting an opportunity to comment about draft comprehensive plan Chapters 4 (Land Use); 5 (Transportation); and 2 (Community Profile).

Council listened to public comment from 22 members of the audience.

Audience comments included the impact big box stores will have on crime in the community as well as the economics of big box stores; loss of newspaper advertising; and loss of real estate values.

One individual spoke in support of an alternate Scenario #5 that would use the West Ellensburg Business Park site as an alternative for major retail.

One individual spoke in support of an overlay zone for the Urban Growth Area (UGA) and stressed the need to work with the County on a UGA growth pattern.

Hope Source representatives spoke in support of the need for affordable housing as the community continues to grow. Another impact of growth is the increased demand for public transportation services in the community.

Another individual stated freeway visibility should not be a consideration and City revenues should not be given a priority in the planning process.

Eight individuals spoke against sprawl and in support of Scenario #1. Other individuals spoke against Wal-Mart and regional retail.

One individual spoke in support of Scenario #2.

A representative of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County requested the land use chapter be reviewed as a whole to include the creation of developmental land for industry, creation of family wage jobs and mixed use development in the central commercial district.
One individual spoke in support of increasing impact fees to include schools, fire and police. Another individual spoke about taxable retail sales in Yakima County versus Kittitas County.

Another individual spoke in support of a compromise between Scenarios #1 and #2 with an emphasis on the downtown.

Randy Lamb spoke in support of his family’s proposal (Scenario #3) for regional retail with a strong downtown.

A representative of the Kittitas County Health Department’s “Shape Up” program requested the final Comprehensive Plan adopted by Council specifically mention the health of the community.

Council briefly discussed the risk of taking no action and the resultant loss of sales tax revenue that would occur if a big box store located elsewhere in Kittitas County.

Council requested staff obtain crime statistics from the Police Department for the Ellensburg Fred Meyer store. Council agreed to review the remaining public comment cards that were not addressed during the meeting at a future comprehensive plan special meeting.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 9:36 p.m. Carlson

Affirmed

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Mayor

ATTEST: _____________________________ City Clerk