CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: July 10, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting: Council Chambers, 501 North Anderson Street

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

Others present were City Manager Barkley; Community Development Director Witkowski; Public Works Director Akers; Planning Technician Johnson; Deputy Clerk Keno; and nine members of the audience.

The purpose of the special meeting is to provide time for Councilmember discussion and consideration of comprehensive plan issues and draft policy language. Council is scheduled to review draft comprehensive plan Chapter 5 – Transportation

Chapter 9 – Economic Development

Council noted several entities have reviewed this chapter and concluded that it is inadequate and needs more work. Council discussed referring Chapter 9 back to the consultant for further work or alternatively forming an ad-hoc committee to work on the chapter.

Chapter 9 could be removed from the Plan as it is not a required element and could be amended back into the Plan next year. Staff recommended against assigning the chapter to an ad-hoc committee due to the time constraints of the comprehensive plan update process and the need for Council to issue a final draft Plan for SEPA. Additionally, Council already has draft Chapter 8 – Natural Environment assigned to committee. Council could come back next year and amend the Plan to add this chapter. Council discussed setting the chapter aside and bringing it back later as an amendment versus leaving the chapter in the draft with minor changes. Councilmember Niner’s handout detailing her proposed suggestions was discussed.

After lengthy discussion, Council consensus was to leave draft Chapter 9 – Economic Development in the draft comprehensive plan. Council will come back and review this chapter. Council requested the public submit written comments referencing the draft chapter’s goals, policies and programs. Copies of Councilmember Niner’s proposed suggestions for the chapter can be obtained from the Community Development Department.

Chapter 5 – Transportation

Page 126 of 227 (Page 51):

Council discussed Goal T-3 and reviewed a handout from Councilmember Lillquist of proposed
changes to Goal T-3, Policy J. The consultant has provided two alternative Policy Js for Council consideration.

Council discussed Program #2 dealing with the prohibition of cul-de-sac streets and Program #3 requiring pedestrian and bicycle access at the rear of cul-de-sacs or loop streets as well as city maintenance of public rights of way.

**Adopt** amendments to Goal T-3 as submitted on the handout from Councilmember Lillquist to read as follows:

Goal T-3: Provide a “multimodal” community transportation system that moves people and goods efficiently.

Policy J:

Encourage the design of new streets in the city to use a street grid system, *at an interval of ½ mile for arterial streets*. *Within the ½ mile sections, attempt to maintain a ¼ mile connection for auto circulation, with 200 to 800 foot pedestrian connections, depending on zone density* reducing the use of cul–de-sacs and parking lots where such pattern limits the future development of a regular grid system or threatens interconnectedness between neighborhoods.

Program 1:

Prepare a north Ellensburg subarea street plan with street connections on or close to a 660’ grid.

*For all undeveloped areas of the city, UGA, and rural transition zone, prepare maps of future street alignments, especially for arterials, considering existing development patterns and physical barriers such as streams and steep slopes.*

Program 2: Prohibit cul-del-sac streets except in situations where no other street type is possible.

Program 3: Require pedestrian and bicycle access at rear of cul-de-sacs or loop streets, dedicate such access ways as public rights of way, and commit to City maintenance of those rights of way.

Program 4: *Create a street fund to finance the City’s share of matching grants and LIDS, and to complete motorized and nonmotorized transportation systems.*

Program 5: *Coordinate with Kittitas County to identify and protect future street alignments in the UGA and rural transition zone.*

Policy J: Encourage the design of new streets in the city to adhere to the existing street grid system prevalent in the community, discouraging the use of cul-de-sacs and parking lots where such pattern limits development of a regular grid system.
Program 1: Prepare a north Ellensburg subaera plan.

Program 2: Develop incentives for use of non-cul-de-sac streets.

Program 3: Require pedestrian and bicycle access at rear of cul-de-sacs.

Affirmed

Amend Goal T-3, Policy J, Program 3 to read as follows: Carlson

“Require pedestrian and bicycle access at rear of cul-de-sacs or loop streets., dedicate such access ways as public rights of way, and commit to City maintenance of those rights of way.”

Council asked questions of staff.

Amend to read:

“Require pedestrian and bicycle access at rear of cul-de-sacs or loop streets. Carlson

Council/staff discussion.

Amend to strike Goal T-3, Policy J, Program 3 in its entirety. Carlson

Council asked questions of staff.

Vote on motion as amended. Barry, Carlson, Perrie(Yes)

Bassett, Lillquist, Niner, O’Brien(No)

Motion defeated

Further Council discussion and questions to staff.

Eliminate Goal T-3, Policy J, Programs 2 & 3. Perrie

Council asked questions of staff.

Amend to strike the words “Encourage the” from Policy J, Goal T-3 to read as Lillquist follows:

“Encourage the dDesign of new streets in the city to shall use a street grid system at an interval of ½ mile for arterial streets. Within the ½ mile sections, attempt to maintain a ¼ mile connection for auto circulation, with 200 to 800 foot pedestrian connections, depending on zone density.

and strike Programs 2 and 3.
Further Council/staff discussion.

Divide the motion. Barry

Motion approved(Perrie—No)

Vote on motion to strike Programs 2 and 3 from Policy J, Goal T-3. Motion approved

(Bassett, Niner—No)

Vote on motion to strike the words “Encourage the” from Policy J,

Goal T-3. Motion approved

Page 130 of 227:

Council discussed Goal T-10 and reviewed a handout from Councilmember Lillquist of proposed changes. The changes proposed incorporate amendments suggested by Shape Up Kittitas County (SU). Councilmember Lillquist outlined the proposed changes.

Amend Goal T-10 of the draft comprehensive plan to incorporate the changes Lillquist

proposed on the handout submitted by Councilmember Lillquist which read as follows:

Goal T-10: (SU) Implement a nonmotorized transportation system that increases the number of residents who choose to walk or bicycle in lieu of driving

Policy A: Encourage other transportation modes.

Program 1: Revise zoning to permit mixing of land uses.

Program 2: (SU) Update the Nonmotorized Transportation Plan to develop a comprehensive nonmotorized circulation plan and implementation program.

Program 23: Prepare a North Ellensburg subarea plan to encourage walking and bicycling Build streets, trails, linear parks, and pathways to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas as both recreation and transportation facilities.

Program 34: Prepare a CBD urban design and access plan to encourage walking and bicycling.

Program 45: Investigate ways to provide effective and attractive public transportation, such as a trolley or jitney system linking the CBD to the west interchange.

Program 6: (SU) Wherever possible, retrofit existing streets with pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Policy B: Reduce auto demand on local and arterial streets.
Program 1: Revise zoning to permit mixed uses near services.

Program 2: Design higher density projects to be compatible with future public transportation service.

Program 3: (SU) Develop, design, and construct standards for walkways and bikeways which emphasize connectivity and reduce operations and maintenance costs.

Policy C: Increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety along arterial streets.

Program 1: Revise street standards to increase separation of pedestrians from travel ways.

Program 2: Revise zoning to permit zero or reduced building setbacks in commercial districts.

Program 3: Introduce calming measures to slow traffic on non-arterial streets.

Program 4: Consolidate pedestrian crossings on University Way at traffic lights.

Affirmed

Council requested the handout entitled “Washington State Department of Transportation’s Recommendations for Helping to Create Transportation Efficient Land Use Through Comprehensive Planning and Code Revision” be considered and incorporated into the City’s draft plan.

Council set additional special meeting dates for discussion of the draft comprehensive plan for Wednesday, July 26th and Monday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m.

The public comment cards distributed to and collected from the audience during the meeting were reviewed.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Carlson

Affirmed

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Mayor

ATTEST: ________________________________ City Clerk