Approve agenda as written. Barry

Affirmed

STAFF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

City Manager Barkley discussed the following issues:

Costs

• Energy & Materials

• Health Care Costs

• Retirement Funding PERS/LOEFF

• Concrete/Asphalt/Metals

Limits on Revenue

• Banked Property Tax Authority

• Building Permits & Fees

• Transportation Impact Fees

• Park Impact Fees

• Storm Water Utility

Utility Billing to Monthly YE 2006

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY
REGIONALIZATION – Fire, EMS, Animal Control, Library Services, Recreation, GIS, Courts
(Revenue should offset)

GROWTH – Development Management Agreement with County in UGA

Energy Services Director Titus discussed staffing issues and retirement impacts.

Mr. Titus discussed the electrical utility and gas utility and the growth rates in the City. The costs for the City continue to increase. Legal staff is currently reviewing a proposed revision to the Utility Section of the City Code, which would increase the amount of funding from development. The City needs to add a second take station for growth and reliability. Also, Bonneville Power Administration is changing the way it operates, which will affect cities.

Mr. Titus discussed information technology. Next year, the City will be changing from Novell to a Microsoft system. The City will also be looking at permitting and GIS software.

Deputy Fire Chief Elliott discussed the annexation of the City Fire Department into the Kittitas County Fire District 2 which will take effect on January 1, 2007. The Fire District also asked the voters for a tax increase and that did not pass.

The Fire Department will likely receive a federal grant for six additional firefighters at the beginning of next year which will pay 50 percent of the salary costs for the next four years.

Public Works Director Akers discussed the water and sewer utilities and the cost of service analysis that is in the process of being completed. Mr. Akers also discussed the Street Department and the increase in project costs; transportation impact fees; and storm water utility.

Council took a break at 10:20 a.m. and returned at 10:35 a.m.

Community Development Director Witkowski summarized the department’s major issues and discussed the challenges related to growth in the city. The draft Comprehensive Plan is out for public comment at this time. Mr. Witkowski also handed out and discussed a staff report related to fee schedule issues.

Police Chief Miller provided a handout that indicated the Department has over 16,000 calls for service a year. Mr. Miller discussed the event based staffing obligations, commitments and collaborations, and recent initiatives that affect the Police Department. The Police Department needs to reduce services in some areas or find a long term funding solution to increase the staffing levels for primary functions that the department needs to be doing. The Criminal Justice Sales Tax is one possible funding source.

PUBLIC INPUT

Don Fuller, Bob Endicott, Evelyn McClure, and Eleanor Rogers, members of the Adult Activity Center
Advisory Board, spoke about the Adult Activity Center.

Council took a lunch break from 11:58 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Council reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers in attendance: Councilmembers Barry, Bassett, Carlson, Lillquist, Niner, Perrie and Mayor O’Brien.

Others present were City Manager Barkley; Public Works Director Akers; Energy Services Director Titus; Community Development Director Witkowski; Police Chief Miller; Finance Director Ariwoola; Library Director DeSoer; Parks & Recreation Director Case; Assistant Fire Chief Elliott; and Deputy Clerk Keno.

Finance Director Ariwoola emphasized the supporting role the Finance Department plays for other City Departments. The City is growing and the Department’s work increases in conjunction with that growth. He discussed the need for a rainy day fund for unexpected expenditures. Director Ariwoola discussed the concept of “inside” customers and “outside” customers.

Library Director DeSoer outlined personnel changes at the Library and Hal Holmes Center. At the September 18, 2006 regular meeting Council approved a contract with the County for library services that will result in increased funding for the library in 2006. This funding will allow the City to give free library cards to individuals residing in the unincorporated areas of Kittitas County. This service will not be available to residents of Kittitas, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum or Roslyn; some dissention from these cities is expected. Director DeSoer reviewed Library and Hal Holmes Center accomplishments from the handout distributed earlier in the meeting. Staff hopes to develop the City-owned lot at 2nd Avenue and Pine Street (currently in use as rental and storage income) into a parking lot within the next two years. Staff will be reviewing the Library Trust Fund and working with the Finance Department to maximize the financial return from the Fund.

Issues at the Library include the deficiency in the materials budget which remains at the 1998 funding level as well as the need to replace the Gates computers in the City’s computer lab. The cost of library materials continues to increase and technological advancement makes materials available in more formats. Staff is reviewing funding options for replacement of the computers with the assistance of the City’s IT Department. The roof at the Hal Holmes Center is 20 years old and the roof at the Library is ten years old. Replacement of these roofs will be a huge expense in the next couple of years. Staff will not be pursuing purchase of the RFID technology tags as discussed with Council during prior budget years. In answer to Council inquiry, the Gates Foundation grants for computers were a one-time opportunity and Washington State is not on the Foundation’s schedule for return funding. Council briefly discussed the history of past efforts to create a library district.

Parks and Recreation Director Case outlined the responsibilities of his Department. A recent new responsibility has been Director Case’s involvement as a park development coordinator assisting local entities and organizations with project development in the City’s parks. In the 2006 budget
Council authorized the employment of two seasonal workers. At some point the Department will need to increase employees at the Youth and Community Center as well as the Adult Activity Center. Staff is in the preliminary stages of reviewing an alternative site for the off leash dog park. Work continues on trying to find grant funding for the John Wayne Pioneer Trail reconnection route. Future park sites in the Northeast neighborhood area are being explored. Staff is working with the State on funding for an access trail to Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. A corridor linking the John Wayne trail to West Ellensburg Park was discussed.

In answer to Council inquiry, the City is responsible for renting the downtown flower nodes to individuals and organizations for maintenance. Some nodes do not have working irrigation systems and in those cases Parks Department staff are hand watering the nodes. The Department plans to work with the Ellensburg Downtown Association and downtown business owners in an effort to establish a process for maintenance of the planters.

Council discussed a complaint from the ladies softball association regarding the continued lack of field lighting at West Ellensburg Park. Staff outlined the history of the Whitney Park property exchange as part of the Washington School purchase and the verbal agreement to partner with the softball association and other entities to purchase and install lighting at West Ellensburg Park. The lighting removed from Whitney Park has been retained at the City Shop but is not sufficient to light the Park. To date there has been no partnership assistance from the softball association. Staff estimates the lighting would cost approximately $230,000.

Council discussed the status of the Animal Shelter Subcommittee’s efforts to involve all Kittitas County towns/cities in a regionalization of the Animal Shelter. The status of the pursuit of contracts with the towns/cities was discussed as well as the creation of a non-profit entity. Council consensus was to pursue further discussion with the County Commissioners. Issues discussed included pet licensing through the veterinarians in a County-wide program, microchip implants and lobbying for privatization.

Council would like to see a recognition program for City volunteers.

Council briefly discussed whether it would take a position on the property rights initiative—I-933. No decision was made.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 3:20 p.m. Carlson

Affirmed

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Mayor

ATTEST: ________________________________ City Clerk