AGENDA APPROVAL

Approve agenda. Barry Affirmed

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES’ OFFER OF ADDITIONAL $5 MILLION LIMITED LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG

The Association of Washington Cities’ Risk Management Services Agency, the insurance pool of which the City is a member, has notified the City it is now able to offer an additional $5 million in liability coverage for 2007 at an estimated cost of $8,369. The City's current coverage is $5 million; the added coverage would increase the City's total coverage to $10 million.

Authorize the City Manager to accept AWC's offer to purchase an additional $5 million in Carlson liability coverage for 2007 and make the coverage effective as of January 1, 2007.

Council asked questions of staff.

Vote on motion. Affirmed

LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE REGARDING ENTRY SIGNS

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee requested this meeting to discuss the entry sign project which has been on hold for several years. The entry sign project was part of a three part project which included public restrooms and downtown directional signage. Those two projects have been completed leaving the entry sign project remaining. Committee Chairperson Bassett and committee members present updated Council on the history of the entry sign project and the work accomplished to date. Photos of the locations of the current entry signs as well as the park at Mountain View and Canyon Road were distributed. The South Interchange entry sign was considered for placement at the park before the Spirit of the West sculpture project began. There has been some discussion on incorporating the south entry sign into the sculpture project. Sufficient funds have been budgeted for
the signs for some time.

Staff suggests including Central Washington University in the entry sign discussion as well as consulting with the City’s Public Works Department since CWU is in the process of working on additional signage for the University. Dolarway Road improvements and signage were briefly discussed as well. Identification of organizations to be included in the project were discussed. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee wishes to take the lead on the project and will request input from other organizations on the Committee’s work done to date. Diana Tasker, representing the Spirit of the West sculpture project, advised their organization has been approached about the installation of a similar sculpture at the West Interchange and requested involvement of their organization in the sign entry project.

Council consensus was for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to proceed with the project and include the following organizations in the discussion: CWU, Ellensburg Downtown Association, Downtown Task Force, Chamber of Commerce and Spirit of the West. Representatives of the interested groups will be invited to the next Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ELLENSBURG ANIMAL CONTROL CODE

City Attorney Pidduck summarized the agenda report on pages 27-30 of the agenda packet. The City’s Animal Control Code, enacted in 1990, has not been amended since 2000 and is in need of significant revision and updating. The Animal Shelter Committee has been meeting for several months and has arrived at a draft ordinance it recommends for review by Council and the public. The draft document contains extensive revisions the Committee believes will enhance and improve Animal Control enforcement and services, from licensing, impoundment and adoption provisions, to improved standards of animal care, spay and neuter requirements, and comprehensive, clearly stated standards identifying owner responsibilities for the behavior and control of their animals. The draft ordinance includes a proposed new chapter which would enable the City to regulate kennels, pet shops and catteries. The draft ordinance has not yet been reviewed outside of the Animal Shelter Committee and is submitted as a study session document only.

Deficiencies existing in the current Animal Control Code were reviewed and discussed. City Attorney Pidduck reviewed the proposed amendments to the Animal Control Code on pages 28-30 of the agenda.

Amendments are proposed for licensing, control of animals, impoundment, violation notice and adoption, rabies vaccinations, minimum standards of animal care, wild and exotic animals, and animal waste. A new section (5.30.040 - Definitions) is proposed which would require a cat or dog owner to spay or neuter their animal unless the owner obtains an unaltered animal license. Another new section (5.30.140 - Abatement of Nuisances) establishes an abatement process, a provision missing from the present Animal Control Code. A new section for Found Stray Animals (5.30.340) would create an obligation upon the part of a person finding a stray animal to notify the animal control
authority within 24 hours of taking possession of the animal and to release the animal to the animal control authority upon demand.

A new chapter 5.32 ("Kennels, Pet Shops And Catteries") is proposed to regulate the operation and maintenance of kennels, catteries and pet shops for dogs, cats and other animals by providing standards of health and safety in the care of such animals.

Council asked questions of staff. A handout from Mayor O'Brien with questions and comments on the proposed ordinance was discussed.

In answer to Council questioning, the Committee was not comfortable doubling the licensing fees because it felt doubling fees would punish individuals whose animals are already altered. Council requested staff provide licensing fee information from cities comparable in size to Ellensburg. Animal micro chipping versus tagging was discussed.

Educating the public about the draft ordinance was discussed. Consensus was to have staff make adjustments to the ordinance draft based on Council's direction this evening and distribute the revised draft to Kittitas County veterinarians, pet stores/kennels and the community for input in advance of a future public hearing on the ordinance.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Barry Affirmed

________________________________ Mayor

ATTEST: _____________________________ City Clerk