City of Ellensburg

Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session

Date of Meeting January 25, 2008
Time of Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Place of Meeting CWU – Sub-Rec. Room, East University Way


Others present were City Manager Barkley; City Clerk Reno; Community Development Director Witkowski; Library Director DeSoer; Parks & Recreation Director Case; Police Chief Miller; Public Works Director Akers; Human Resources Director Hawley; Senior Planner Smith; Energy Services Director Titus; City Attorney Pidduck; and six members of the audience.

Structured Introductions – Council and Staff

Council and staff gave structured introductions.

Staff needs were identified as follows:

• Trust that leads to respect;
• Clear and open communications;
• Full engagement in advisory committees;
• Recognition that staff is at capacity – tip of iceberg is all that is visible;
• An open mind – time to educate – time to listen;
• Prioritization and clear direction;
• Feedback – clarity in Council actions;
• Use the Library information resource;
• Tell us what you want – especially on complex issues.

Council needs were identified as follows:

• Tell Council what they don’t know and what they need to know;
• Be honest about mistakes – full disclosure;
• A whole new level of flexibility/concrete answers to questions;
• New solutions from staff;
• Recommitment to public openness;
• Open door – knowledge that allows them to make good decisions – raw information;
• No surprises;
• Timely Knowledge;
• Firm legal footing;
• Honest appraisals of where we are and where we are going;
• Need challenge among Council (creative tension);
• Clean straight answers;
• Need dialogue among Council.

Staff Presentations and Discussion

The Council and staff discussed adding the following items to the Council’s To Do List:
• New funding opportunities – grant writing FTE, license tabs, REIT;
• Building Code Review;
• SEPA process review;
• West Ellensburg Neighborhood issues – zoning, growing multiple use;
• Neighborhood issues;
• Web Page – E Business;
• Capacity;
• Public Participation Plan template (Councilmember Miller will work with staff);
• Land use sequence timeline (regulatory/legislative process).

Council took a break at 12:10 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Public Input

Bob Hansen, Beverly Heckart, Ron Criddlebaugh, and Debbie Strand spoke regarding the following issues:
• Housing Chapter – Comp. Plan amendment – needs attention;
• Surroundings of Irene Rinehart Park – adjacent development and across the river – protect and preserve;

• Economic development – available land inventory;

• Directional – way finding - signage;

• Shorten development path timeline – business friendly;

• Land availability and price;

• Port authority option.

Set Priorities and Calendars

Council sorted list by department. Departments having only a few work items were not prioritized. Council placed dots next to the Council’s To Do List items for Community Development that were of highest priority. The number next to the list of items represents the number of dots that were placed next to that item.

• Critical Areas Ordinance has a high priority. Councilmembers Niner and Miller will work with staff. The process schedule will go to Council in February and public hearings will be conducted in April (required).

• Stormwater Utility – Phase I in 2008? In compliance currently – public participation process – February adoption; draft organization and implementation plan this year; to Council March and June (required).

• UGA Interlocal Agreement (8). Councilmember O’Brien will work with staff. Council will hold a study session in March.

• Retail Ordinance – regional retail amendment (8). Council may hold a special meeting on February 11, 2008. Staff will be presenting three options for the Council to consider at the next regular meeting including: 1) Repealing Ordinance No. 4497; 2) retaining Ordinance No. 4497 while developing amendatory language; 3) passing a moratorium.

• Traffic Impact Fee (6). This is dependent on other actions (land use/Comp. Plan). Councilmember Bottcher will work with staff. This will be scheduled when dependencies are addressed. There should be a stakeholder committee.

• Economic Development Strategy (5). Councilmember Tabb will work with staff. There should be a draft ready by May. Council may hold a special session in advance of the Summit.

• Downtown Plan – code/permitting, parking – Comp. Plan amendment (4). Councilmember Miller will
work with staff on implementing ordinances.

- New funding opportunities – grant writing FTE, license tabs, REIT (4).
- Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (3).
- SEPA process review (3).
- Sign Code review (2).
- Binding Site Plan Ordinance (2).
- West Ellensburg land disposition (1).
- Public Transit (1).
- Neighborhood issues (1).
- Park Impact Fee (1). The City should be on a level playing field with the County. Councilmember Bottcher will work with staff. It should be ready for Council review in 60 days. There should be stakeholder involvement.
- Comp. Plan Amendments will be discussed at the February 4 meeting.
- Housing – Comp. Plan amendment – Councilmembers Bottcher, Tabb, and Mayor Lillquist will work with staff.

City Manager Barkley stated he will summarize the priorities and give a report back to Council.

**ADJOURN**

Adjourn at 4:22 p.m. O'Brien

Affirmed

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Mayor

ATTEST: ____________________________

City Clerk