The purpose of the special meeting is a discussion of economic development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Lillquist advised the purpose of the meeting is to educate the new Council on the different players, roles and relationships in the community regarding economic development and for City Council to understand its role in the process. Representatives of the various economic development groups in the City and County have been invited to each give a 15 minute presentation to the Council.

City Manager Barkley presented an overview of the economic development organizations in Ellensburg and Kittitas County. The City’s comprehensive plan includes a chapter on economic development (Chapter 8). The City has not moved forward with this chapter due to work on implementation of the regional retail and critical areas ordinances. The City’s arm for economic development is the Ellensburg Business Development Authority, a 501(c)6 organization. City Manager Barkley outlined what the EBDA can and cannot do.

Council reviewed a map of the Williams property as well as a vicinity map showing lots proposed at one time for the undeveloped portion of the property.

Doug Ryder, Chairperson of the Ellensburg Business Development Authority (EBDA), spoke about the Authority’s microloan program and its success in being able to create a number of jobs on a small level. He discussed the fully leased facility at the airport. The Authority would like to explore opportunities with the City that are not currently being pursued but that are within the EBDA’s ability to do under its charter.

Charlotte Tullos, Chairperson of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County (EDGKC), explained the group takes in the whole County but works in partnership with the EBDA. The Group shows potential new employers around the County and identifies properties available. It was noted that Susan Grindle is currently serving as Interim Administrator for
Jim Armstrong spoke about his analysis of the work plans of the Ellensburg Downtown Association, Ellensburg Development Group and Chamber of Commerce. He reported vast differences exist in the agendas of the groups. There are strong reasons to keep the EBDA and EDGKC under one roof. He believes the County should match the level of funding provided by the City. The Board needs to get the private sector involved in funding. In order to keep the two groups together, more financial support is needed.

Ron Cridlebaugh, Director of the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce, outlined the Chamber’s strategic plan and expressed concern about Council’s recent action proposing a moratorium on the regional retail ordinance. The Chamber requested a future meeting with the Council to discuss the results of a recent business survey conducted by the Chamber.

Bob Hansen, Chairperson of the Business Recruitment Committee for the Ellensburg Chamber, spoke about the Committee’s plans for recruiting new businesses to Ellensburg—including a trip to the Puget Sound area within 60 days to sell Ellensburg. Mr. Hansen requested Council revise the out-of-date user portion of the light industrial ordinance and allow the EBDA to market and develop the vacant portion of the Williams property.

Timothy Bishop, Executive Director of the Ellensburg Downtown Association, spoke about the Association’s strategic plan. Council asked questions of Mr. Bishop.

Kittitas County Commissioner Chairperson McClain advised the County has designated the EBDA as its Associated Development Organization (ADO) for economic development funds received from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). Funds received are passed through to the EBDA. The County wants to see a measure of success in where business development is going before more investment is made. Council asked questions of Commissioner McClain.

Council opened the meeting for public comments. Seven audience members addressed the Council.

Council requested Bob Hansen submit a letter for the February 19, 2008 regular meeting regarding the need for reclassification of the light industrial zone. Council wishes to receive minutes from the meetings of the Ellensburg Business Development Authority.

**ADJOURN** Adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Miller

Affirmed

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Mayor
ATTEST:_________________________________

City Clerk