CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AT THE ELLensburg PUBLIC LIBRARY AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO RCW 39.04.280

The proposed resolution declares an emergency at the Ellensburg Public Library and waives competitive bid requirements pursuant to RCW 39.04.280. The resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into contracts as may be necessary to restore, repair and replace the Library's flood-damaged property without being subject to state bid laws. Library Director DeSoer updated Council on the Library's operational status and repairs made. There is no estimate at this time as to when the Library can re-open fully due to the amount of work that needs to be done. The Library's tentative operational schedule has been provided to the newspaper.

Move to authorize Mayor to sign Resolution No. 2008-11 with the findings contained therein.

Council asked questions of staff.

Vote on motion. Affirmed

OVERVIEW OF THE CITY’S ADMINISTRATION OF THE SEPA PROCESS AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PRACTICES, PROCEDURES AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Lillquist advised that Carol Morris, AWC land use attorney, made the decision not to come today due to the weather. The special meeting with Ms. Morris needs to be rescheduled. Council can make the decision whether to hear staff’s report on the City’s administration of the SEPA process and discuss refining questions for Ms. Morris. In any event, an executive session to discuss pending litigation will be needed.

Council discussed available dates for rescheduling the special meeting with Carol Morris as well as the training presentation through the Association of Washington Cities.
Establish April 24, 2008 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on, if necessary for meeting Miller with Carol Morris to include AWC training.

Council/staff discussion.

Withdraw motion.

Establish April 24, 2008 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. as a special meeting to meet with Carol Miller Morris to discuss SEPA procedures and critical areas ordinance sideboards. Affirmed

Council consensus was to proceed with staff’s report on the City’s SEPA process and refine questions for Ms. Morris.

Senior Planner Smith presented an overview of the City’s SEPA process as outlined in the memo provided in Council’s March 27, 2008 agenda packet. Mr. Smith also distributed and reviewed handouts for the SEPA Process from the SEPA handbook including the SEPA Application Environmental Checklist for the City of Ellensburg, SEPA public involvement requirements, SEPA Review Process explanations and Ellensburg process differences. The greatest difference in the Ellensburg SEPA process is the addition of the initial 35-day comment period in conjunction with the Notice of Application. Council made the decision approximately ten years ago to add this comment period to the process.

Council questioned the status of the consultant evaluation of the Community Development Department and the potential reorganization. Staff anticipates having this information for Council at the April 24, 2008 special meeting. Council asked numerous questions of staff and staff prepared a record of those questions that will be referred to Ms. Morris for answering.

Council took public comment from the audience. Doug Mitchell, Planning Commission member; Jack Piper and Rick Cole spoke. Comments included the need for a hearing examiner; consistency in interpretations/decisions; and SEPA guidelines vs. City Code specifications. Staff noted the SEPA decision making process at the City is impacted by the requirements of other agencies involved in the SEPA process, such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology and Yakima Indian Nation.

Council can send additional questions to Carol Morris via e-mail.

Council requested the SEPA Responsible Official provide a list of items where he finds himself asking for more than what the City Code specifies. Council would also like more information on the hearings examiner process to be provided on a future Council agenda.

At 3:25 p.m. Council took at 12 minute break.
RECESS

Council recessed into executive session at 3:35 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and potential litigation for approximately ten minutes. No action will be taken.

RECONVENE

At 3:50 p.m. Council announced an extension of the executive session for 5 minutes.

At 3:51 p.m. Council returned to open meeting. No action taken.

ADJOURN Motion to adjourn at 3:52 p.m. Tabb

Affirmed

Mayor

ATTEST: City Clerk