CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session

Date of Meeting: November 23, 2009
Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting: Council Chambers, 501 North Anderson Street

Roll Call.


Absent/Excused: Tabb.

Others present were City Manager Barkley, City Attorney Pidduck, Public Works Director Akers, Energy Services Director Titus, Community Development Director Smith, Planning Supervisor Bailey; Finance Director Ariwoola, Fire Marshal Seemiller, Parks & Recreation Director Case, Deputy Clerk Keno and ten members of the audience.

Agenda Approval

Motion to accept amended agenda. Bottcher

Approved

DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) REGARDING THE NANUM WATERSHED LEASE

Department of Natural Resource (DNR) representatives Jean Williams and Milt Johnson were present to answer questions about the Nanum Watershed Lease with the City which terminated in September, 2009. Public Works Director Akers explained the history of the lease and reviewed a map of the property. The lease does not reference public access. The DNR desires to keep the area open for pedestrian and horseback use. In answer to Council inquiry, the DNR would be interested in discussing purchase of the City’s property to include a public access easement.

Council asked questions of staff.

Direct staff to pursue an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources Elliott (DNR) to end the lease, to not renew the lease and to sell the property to the DNR and encumber it with a public access agreement.

Council discussion.

Vote on motion. Approved (Bassett, Bottcher – no)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Economic Development Group of Kittitas County (EDGKC) is requesting City Council endorsement of its Economic Development Strategic Plan. Council viewed a powerpoint presentation of the strategic plan. Kittitas County, as well as the cities of South Cle Elum and Roslyn have already endorsed the plan along with a verbal endorsement from Kittitas.

Council asked questions of the EDGKC.

City Council to endorse the general concepts of the Economic Development Miller Strategic Plan. Approved

Funding, reporting and input issues were discussed as well as the incubator contract. Council would like to receive minutes from the EDGKC in addition to quarterly reports.

Council recessed for a twelve minute break at 8:58 p.m. and reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES

As part of its code compliance activities the County is re-designating the former areas identified as Urban Growth Nodes (UGNs) to either Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), Master Planned Resorts (MPRs) or Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRDs). In the earlier GMA activities some future population was allocated to those UGNs and now, in conjunction with the re-designation of the UGNs to GMA compliant technology, that population needs to be re-allocated accordingly. A November 16, 2009 letter to the Kittitas County Auditor from RIDGE as well as a proposed population allocation resolution from the Kittitas County Conference of Governments (KCCOG) was distributed.

Council discussed the issue at length. Staff noted new population numbers come out in 2010.

Authorize our COG representatives to sign the resolution only if the 4,615 Miller people are redistributed proportionately throughout all categories except Kittitas. Approved

DISCUSSION OF DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND SCOPING OF THE UPCOMING GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUE

Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2010 GO Bond Projects list distributed by staff as well as the debt service requirements. If a project comes in under cost the extra funds can be moved to another project on the list. Finance Director Ariwoola advised the City can afford the debt servicing payments. A bond issue is the best way to preserve the City’s cash.

Affirm the Proposed 2010 GO Bond Project list as presented. Miller
Council discussion.

Vote on motion. Approved

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR 2010**

Move to authorize City Manager to sign contracts related to the employee Elliott health benefits program for 2010. Approved

Council recessed to executive session at 10:33 p.m. for an estimated time of ten minutes to consider the acquisition of real estate when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.

The executive session commenced at 10:35 p.m. and Council returned to open meeting at 10:45 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn at 10:46 p.m. Miller

Approved

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Mayor

**ATTEST:** ________________________________

City Clerk