CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session
Date of Meeting       June 27, 2012
Time of Meeting       3:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting      CWU, Barge Hall, Room 412, 400 E. University Way

Councilmembers Present: Aronica, Lillquist, Miller, Morgan and Mayor Tabb

Councilmembers Absent: Arango (Excused), Elliot (Excused)

Others present were City Manager Barkley, Public Works Director Akers, Deputy Clerk Keno, CWU President Gaudino, Chief of Staff Holter, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs Clark, Vice President/Provost for Academic and Student Life Levine, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management Vertrees, Department of Public Affairs Director Schactler, Presidential Office Staff Colson and approximately 14 members of the audience.

JOINT MEETING WITH CWU CABINET

The purpose of the special meeting is an opportunity for the City Council and the CWU Cabinet to exchange and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Mayor Tabb called the special meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

CWU President Gaudino welcomed Ellensburg City Councilmembers to the joint meeting and introductions were held. The meeting began with a review of the University’s marketing efforts and facilities master plan.

CWU Marketing Update

Public Affairs Director Schactler gave an update on the CWU Marketing Program through a powerpoint presentation. She highlighted the “Learn, Do, Live” focus of the program through website redesign, print, video and audio media and marketing partnerships. Planning is underway to get CWU alumni into the downtown by holding alumni functions at downtown businesses.

Mayor Tabb expressed appreciation for the work done by CWU to make the City part of the process to enhance the community and promote the University.

CWU Campus Master Plan

Bill Vertrees, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, gave a presentation on the CWU Campus Master Plan. The Facilities Master Plan Update will be available on CWU’s website in late July and includes major revisions. The public SEPA process will be in the late fall. Central is planning for a future capacity of 10,000 FTE students on campus and 4,500 FTE students in six university centers plus teaching sites located on community college campuses across the state. Mr. Vertrees
discussed the “Science Neighborhood” as a major part of the capital plan. This includes: Science II – Construction; Samuelson Communication and Tech Center – Construction; Nutrition, Exercise and Health Science – Design, as well as combined utilities. These projects total $175 million dollars and Central hopes they will all be funded in the next ten years.

City Manager Barkley asked how the City can assist with securing state funding for these projects. It was noted funding will depend on the outcomes of this fall’s state elections and the priorities determined by the governor and legislature. CWU will require City outreach with other entities. In answer to City inquiry, Mr. Vertrees advised CWU is planning for on-going self-funding renovation of its existing housing facilities with renovation of Short-Getz planned for next year.

Public Reserve zoned land owned by the University and not contiguous to campus was discussed in terms of zone change in the event of University sale of that property.

**City Projects and Initiatives**

City Manager Barkley advised the City is in the middle of a transit study—the outcome of which will be consideration of forming a transit district and the funding for it. The entryway signage program came together quickly with the combined efforts of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, CWU and City and will have an immediate positive impact on the Tourism Promotion Plan. There is significant CWU presence and participation on the Downtown Revitalization Committee. The Dolarway Road improvements are scheduled to be finished shortly. The traffic signal upgrades at 5th Avenue and Main Street and University Way and Chestnut Street have been accomplished. The Main Street Overlay paving project from Jackson Avenue north to University Way will be commencing shortly and will last approximately two weeks.

City Manager Barkley outlined projects detailed in the City’s Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2013-2018. In 2013 design improvements are planned at the West Interchange; the City does not know if those improvements will include a traffic circle.

2014 will see the re-paving of University Way to Brick Road which will be dependent on budget issues. Construction of intersection improvements at Dolarway and University are planned for 2015. In 2016 the levee from Dolarway to Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park will see asphalt resurfacing. All of these projects are budget dependent.

The City is in the last stages of the Rotary Park Master Plan. CWU will have a role in monitoring and analysis of data from the Renewables Energy Park.

The City’s legislative agenda realizes that funding is not going to materialize; the City is looking for more legislative freedom in how the money it does receive from the State is utilized. The City’s financial situation is very healthy, it is paying down debt and moving to a biennial budget in the next budget cycle. CWU projects benefit the City through collection of sales tax and building and permit fees as well as construction workers and vendors who spend money in the community while working
on these projects.

Council discussed the way finding and streetscape signage project as well as the possibility of improving the appearance of some areas of Canyon Road with xeriscaping.

**Joint Legislative Priorities**

Due to CWU's regional impact, Mayor Tabb asked CWU to notify the City of any regional issues with which the City Council could provide assistance through discussions with neighboring city councils. Mayor Tabb offered City assistance to work with CWU on public records disclosure issues at the legislative level.

Grant excused absences for this meeting for Councilmembers Arango and Miller Elliott. Approved

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn at 4:43 p.m. Miller

Approved

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Mayor

ATTEST: _______________________

City Clerk