CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Minutes of Council Meeting, Special Session
February 26, 2013

Date of Meeting
February 26, 2013
Time of Meeting
3:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting
CWU, Barge Hall, Room 412, 400 E. University Way

Councilmembers Present: Aronica, Elliott, Miller, Morgan, Scheffer and Mayor Tabb

Councilmembers Absent/Excused: Councilmember Lillquist will be late.

Others present were Community Development Director Smith; 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; Facilities Planning and Construction Director Yarwood; Police Services Director Luvera; Department of Public Affairs Director Schactler; Presidential Office Staff Colson and three 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 3:00 p.m.

CWU President Gaudino welcomed Ellensburg City Councilmembers to the joint meeting and introductions were held.

General discussion re: Town/Gown relations, and the possibility of more formalized joint planning

President Gaudino spoke about the Town/Gown relationship between Kent State University and the City of Kent, Ohio from the perspective of his work at Kent State University and suggested a possible site tour of the Kent campus and City of Kent with CWU and Council representatives.

Council expressed interest in making joint planning with the university more concrete. The parties discussed scheduling a meeting among CWU representatives and City staff. The City will follow up with potential meeting dates.

Current City Initiatives that impact CWU

a. Brownfields – Councilmember Scheffer spoke about the community-wide brownfields assessment. Work continues with the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Ecology to identify potential brownfield sites.

Councilmember Lillquist arrived at 3:26 p.m.
b. Housing – The City has applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to support the Kittitas/Yakima Valley Community Land Trust affordable housing project at Water Street and Bender Road. The grant would be used for infrastructure improvements, i.e., road, to the property. The City is contributing a portion of the property at the location that is owned by the City, but not needed for street right of way.

c. Transit – This is a returning partnership with the high school and University. Rankings will come out next month. The goal is a more consistent transit system that would run from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Council has directed staff to explore the creation of a Transportation Benefit District to provide sustainable funding for public transit.

d. Non-motorized Transit – The CWU Master Plan is part of the non-motorized transit process.

e. Land Use Code Update (LUCU) – The CWU Master Planning process will alleviate impacts on CWU. The LUCU will push higher densities in the downtown and livability in the downtown. The LUCU will impact university individuals who own land in the city and will give better options for development.

Councilmember Scheffer spoke about the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Partnership and the grant for the interpretative center at Helen McCabe State Park. She expressed interest in a more formal arrangement with the University to include lab space at the proposed center where students could gain practical experience. CWU is part of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Partnership.

The parties discussed the possibility of creating outside sporting venues to hold regional tournaments and attract visitors to the area. This may be an issue the parties could work on once the new University athletic director comes on board.

The parties discussed the current state of affairs of the University Bookstore/downtown business relationship. The University has formally suspended policy issues for the year.

Plans for the Future of ECTV

President Gaudino indicated CWU’s willingness to extend the agreement again if needed.

Consensus is plans are moving forward.

Legislative Agenda: How Ellensburg and CWU can be mutually supportive

The University requested the City let its legislators know CWU capital projects are important to the community. Some ideas being floated in Olympia on operational funding could cause harm to the University. Most of Central’s operational budget is spent in town through salaries. CWU tuition has increased due to cuts in State support.

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a yard sale at the Hubbell Building on March 2, 2013 with
proceeds from the sale going to the Hubbell Building renovation.

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn at 4:28 p.m. Elliott

Approved

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Mayor

ATTEST: __________________________________

City Clerk