Economic Development Discussion

The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss economic development priorities and the best way to achieve those goals.

Staff reviewed the historical background and present status of City-funded economic development activity under the City’s contract with the Ellensburg Business Development Authority (EBDA).

Current activities of the EBDA were reviewed as follows:

1) Manage the business incubator and airport building;
2) Act as point of contact for potential new businesses;
3) Promote existing business enhancement and business retention; and
4) Manage the Geddis Building until the sale closes.

Council discussed the history of economic development in the City and County, the parties/entities involved and their interaction with each other. Port Districts as well as the contract requirements for the business incubator were discussed.

After discussion, Council consensus/direction to staff was as follows:

1) The main focus of economic development should be business recruitment and retention; development of local resources. Request EBDA to come up with the tasks it needs to accomplish to obtain the City’s economic development vision within the scope of the existing TIP Strategies and the comprehensive plan.

2) Provide Council with a written report on incubator monies received by the EBDA as well as the possibility of divesting ownership of the incubator. Council is interested in liability and deferred
maintenance issues; overall financials and specifics.

3) Review comprehensive plan for internal perspective with perhaps assistance from CWU students.

The possibility of creating a future in-house staffing position for business development in connection with Goal “Economic Development 2 (ED2) – Stimulate and diversify Ellensburg’s economy” was briefly discussed.

Recess

Council recessed to executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss two litigation issues, one real estate issue and one personnel matter. The executive session was expected to last approximately twenty minutes with potential Council action to follow.

Reconvene

Council reconvened in open meeting at 8:00 p.m. with all councilmembers in attendance.

City Attorney Weiner summarized the lawsuit filed in King County, Washington against the City in August, 2012 by New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC over payment of taxes for cell phone customers in the City. The original claim was for $52,000. The City joined a defense consortium with 16 other cities named in the lawsuit. New Cingular Wireless is offering to settle the total claim for $36,000; the City’s share will be $4,326. Staff recommends the City accept the settlement offer which will put an end to the legal defense costs incurred by the City.

Motion to accept New Cingular Wireless’s settlement offer to the City Morgan of Ellensburg in the amount of $4,326.00. Approved

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Morgan

Approved

_______________________________

Mayor

ATTEST: ______________________________

City Clerk