

CITY OF ELLENSBURG
AGENDA
Council Conference
Thursday, February 18, 2021
3:30 PM - Utility Advisory Committee

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. ELECT CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.A Approve minutes - January 21st, 2021 regular meeting minutes
[UAC Minutes 1-21-21.pdf](#)

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Consent items have been distributed to committee members in advance for study and will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a committee member or at the request of a member of the public with concurrence of a committee member.

- 5.A [2020 Cured in Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project Acceptance](#)

- 5.B [Agreement with Natural Selection Farms for Biosolids Reuse.](#)

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS Time is set aside each meeting to allow citizens to address the Utility Advisory Committee on city utility issues that are not on the agenda. Please limit remarks to three minutes. The Committee will not take action when the issue is first raised, but may place the issue on a future agenda. Citizen comment on items on the agenda is also welcome. Please let the chair know you wish to speak and then wait to be recognized.

7. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.A CenterFuse Broadband Feasibility Study
[2021 UAC Broadband Update Feb 18 Submitted.pdf](#)

8. ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- 9.A [Dolarway Substation Improvements](#)
[2021_D1 Cost Breakout UAC Meeting.pdf](#)
[2021_D1 Preliminary Schedule UAC Meeting.pdf](#)

- 9.B [HB 1084 Revised Letter](#)
[HB 1084 Written Testimony - Final.docx](#)

9.C Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

[UAC February 2021 Public Works & Utilities Issues Update.docx](#)

10. NEXT MEETING

10.A March 18th, 2021 at 3:30 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

January 21, 2021

Time of Meeting

3:30 PM

Place of Meeting

Virtual Conference

Nancy Lillquist, Chairperson, term expires May 31, 2022

Ed Barry, Vice Chairperson, term expires May 31, 2023

Nancy Goodloe, City Council, term expires May 31, 2021

Gary Gleason, CWU, term expires May 31, 2022

Bob Johnson, KITTCOM, term expires May 31, 2023

Jim Goeben, Telecommunications Utility customer, term expires May 31, 2023

Vacant, City Utility Customer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lillquist called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Nancy Lillquist, Chair; Nancy Goodloe, City Council; Gary Gleason, CWU. Jim Goeben and Bob Johnson were absent due to no telecomm items. Ed Barry, Vice Chair was absent (unexcused).

Also present: Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director; Mike Helgeson, Assistant Public Works Director; Kim Caulkins, Operations Analyst; Jon Morrow, Stormwater Manager; Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer; Buddy Stanavich, Power & Gas Manager; Darren Larsen, Assistant Utilities Director; Julie Coppock, Rate Analyst.

Chair Lillquist moved to amend the agenda to add House Bill 1084 to 8.B. under discussion items.

3. ELECT CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Members chose to defer the election of chairpersons until the February 18th meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.A. Approve minutes - December 17th, 2020 regular meeting minutes

Goodloe moved to approve the minutes. Gleason seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent items have been distributed to committee members in advance for study and will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be

removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a committee member or at the request of a member of the public with concurrence of a committee member.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

7. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.A. Amendment # 2 to the Reecer Levee Certification Contract with Aspect Consulting
Jon Morrow explained the need for amendment #2 to the contract with Aspect Consulting.

Goodloe moved the committee make a favorable recommendation to City Council to authorize amendment #2 to the Reecer Levee Certification Contract with Aspect Consulting. Gleason seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

8.B. House Bill 1084

Darin Yusi presented a brief summary of HB 1084 and shared a proposed draft testimony to present at the public hearing on January 22nd. Members suggested modifying the testimony to indicate that without natural gas, the strain on the electric infrastructure could cause blackouts during peaking loads in winter months. Staff confirmed the revision would be made.

Gleason moved to submit the testimony to the legislature regarding House Bill 1084. Goodloe seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

8.C. Natural Gas Rebates for 2021-2022

Darin Yusi presented the proposed two year budgeted natural gas rebates. Members discussed rebate types and the possibility of further removing and/or modifying rebate types and amounts of some rebates or to leave as proposed.

Gleason moved to approve the proposed natural gas rebates. Goodloe seconded. **Goodloe/Gleason in favor, Lillquist abstained; motion approved.** Lillquist amends motion to reduce the duration of the proposed rebates to one year. All in favor; **motion approved.**

8.D. CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION ACT - UPDATE

Buddy Stanavich shared a list of CETA requirements the City must meet in 2021.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

9.A. Introduction of Mike Helgeson, Assistant Public Works Director

Mike Helgeson, the new Assistant Public Works Director, was introduced during roll call.

9.B. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Staff shared updates for each Public Works & Utilities Department.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.A. February 18th, 2021 at 3:30 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Kim Caulkins
Recording Secretary
Drafted: 1/22/2021
Approved:

Good morning. My name is Darin Yusi, I am the Gas Engineer at the City of Ellensburg. The City of Ellensburg has been providing natural gas to its community since 1956 and currently has nearly 4,900 customers that depend on natural gas on a daily basis.

The City of Ellensburg and surrounding communities, have an abundance of resources that benefit our community members, including natural gas. Natural gas provides many of our citizens an affordable, reliable and efficient source of energy that the City is proud to provide. The natural gas system relies on qualified workers who earn the family living wages that this bill seeks to maintain. For example, the 2018 Kittitas County average wages ranged from \$39,597 - \$42,669, while a gas journeyman earned \$88,670 in 2020.

Our gas utility, and local government is fully supportive of being responsible to our community now and into the future. We agree that carbon emissions are something that need to be addressed for our future generations and it is our responsibility to not delay these efforts. That being said, we feel additional time is necessary to help further decipher the language and intent of HB 1084, with hopes of revisions to the bill that could continue the reductions of carbon emissions without potential impacts to electric utilities and rates, and without decreasing the energy redundancies and reliabilities that are currently in place. Resource adequacy should be a main concern when developing legislation - with coal-fired generation going offline at an accelerated pace, we need to encourage more residents to have reliable and efficient energy in their homes, not less, or risk the inevitable rolling blackouts. The City would also appreciate the opportunity to provide input and comment on this Bill as it moves forward through the process.

The natural gas industry has played a major role in helping to reduce carbon emissions, while at the same time providing a reliable and affordable energy source. Emphasis and focus should continue to be in making customer appliances more efficient, continuing to research and expand upon renewable natural gas (RNG), and limiting direct methane into the atmosphere from natural gas transmission and distribution systems.

The City of Ellensburg operates its own electric and natural gas utility. At this time, the City needs more time to fully review and analyze the Bill to determine the comprehensive effect and impacts to our utilities, our customers and our community. Our community has enjoyed a secondary source of safe, reliable and economic energy as well as reducing electric load requirements on our infrastructure during wintertime peaking of the electrical system. Gas heat is currently approximately 50% the cost of electric heat, with average gas customers paying \$91/mo. to heat their homes in winter compared to \$175/mo. for electric heat in Central Washington. It would be irresponsible to force our customers to pay twice as much to heat their homes with electricity, and further disproportionately impact low income citizens of our state.

I believe Washington HB 1084 should be tabled to allow a more thorough review by all citizens and utility service providers, with a goal of coming up with a revised bill that seeks for continued reductions in carbon emissions, but without the complete removal of a necessary energy source. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your staff to discuss further.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:	February 18, 2021
Agenda Subject:	2020 Cured in Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project Acceptance
Submitted by:	Mike Helgeson Public Works & Utilities
Recommended Action or Motion:	Staff is recommending UAC forward a favorable recommendation to Council to accept Bid Call 2020-04, Cured-In-Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project, as complete.
Background/Summary:	Bids were solicited for the rehabilitation of approximately 3,238 linear feet of 6", 8" & 10" concrete and vitreous clay sewer line. The City awarded Columbia Pumping the Cured-In-Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation project March 19, 2020 in the amount of \$164,692.62. Work on the 2020 Cured-In-Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project is complete and all required paperwork filed. City staff is recommending the Utility Advisory Committee to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to accept bid call 2020-04 as complete.
Previous Council Action:	Council awarded Bid Call #2020-04 to Columbia Pumping & Construction at their April 6, 2020 meeting.
Analysis:	The original contract amount was \$164,692.62 with the final amount of \$151,272.22 after completion of project.
Financial Impact:	Final project cost of \$151,274.22 is below the contracted amount. The project was budgeted and processed in the 2020 Sewer fund.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:	February 18, 2021
Agenda Subject:	Agreement with Natural Selection Farms for Biosolids Reuse.
Submitted by:	Mike Helgeson Public Works & Utilities
Recommended Action or Motion:	Staff is recommending that the Utility Advisory Committee forward a favorable recommendation to Council for approval of this agreement.
Background/Summary:	Staff has negotiated an agreement between the city of Ellensburg and natural Selection Farms, Inc. (NSF) for the beneficial use of biosolids. The City of Ellensburg has had an agreement with NSF to transport and apply the City's biosolids, since October of 2011. The current agreement expired in December 2020. Last year, NSF hauled and applied 272.1 tons of biosolids for the City.
Previous Council Action:	Council approved the original agreement with NSF in October of 2011.
Analysis:	Staff and NSF have negotiated an agreement to continue recycling the Wastewater treatment Plant's biosolids for beneficial use. NSF will transport and apply the City's biosolids for a service fee of \$56.08 per wet ton. The proposed agreement is for a length of five (5) years. The contract language has been agreed upon but the contract has not arrived.
Financial Impact:	Adequate funds exist in the 2021/2022 Sewer Budgets for the agreement.

Report to Ellensburg Utility Advisory Commission

CenterFuse
Ellensburg Business Development Authority
February 18, 2021

Who is CenterFuse?

- Public Development Authority
 - Authorized by RCW. 35.21.730
 - Operates under the authority of Chapter 1.62.16 of Ellensburg City Code
 - Governed by a volunteer board
 - Quasi-governmental
- Employs a part-time Executive Director
- Mission: The mission of CenterFuse is to strategically recruit businesses, and connect them to resources so they can start, grow, and prosper
- Strategic Goal: We bring family wage jobs to Ellensburg and grow the media family income

Ellensburg Business Development  CENTERFUSE ||

Broadband Feasibility Study

- Grant funded (Nov 2019) by WA Commerce
- Project purpose: to create and document a description of the broadband 'eco-system' in Ellensburg's UGA resulting in
 - Recommendations of data-informed strategies to enhance broadband efficiency and access; and
 - Information for future comprehensive broadband projects focused on economic development, security and access
- Competitive RFP process to identify consultant
- Consultant partnership of Finley Engineering and CCG Consulting
- CenterFuse Board adopted the final study at the Feb. 10, 2021 meeting

Ellensburg Business Development  CENTERFUSE ||

Broadband Feasibility Study - Findings

- Customer experience
 - Service is robust in downtown area with 3 fiber providers (more than seen in other markets)
 - Outside of downtown, general city and UGA broadband service is sub-par
 - Customer confidence is low (e.g. customers subscribing to 2 or 3 providers for uninterrupted service)
- Speed and reliability
 - More than 33% of home internet connections are too slow, unreliable
 - Upload speeds are sluggish
 - Fragmented service delivery cannot meet current and future demand
 - Internet speeds fluctuate during the day and are not uniformly delivered throughout the city
- Access
 - 15% of residents have no home broadband connection
 - 35% of residents still use DSL
- Security
 - Ellensburg's broadband lines run to Seattle and Portland; not east, which would provide system stability in the event of a natural hazard such as an earthquake

Ellensburg Business Development  CENTERFUSE ||

Broadband Feasibility Study - Solutions

- Matching fund to help downtown building owners connect to fiber
- Technical assistance for small businesses
 - Effective deployment of broadband inside buildings
- Diverse routing of broadband fiber to ensure emergency resiliency
- Expand and improve the quality of residential broadband networks
- Explore options for financing fiber infrastructure
- Secure grant funding to help pay for fiber extensions
- Build, sustain partnerships with broadband providers

Broadband Feasibility Study - Data

Service providers:

- Fiber (Charter, City Fiber, Consolidated)
- DSL (Consolidated)
- Wireless (Symplified Tech, WiFyber, Kittitas Broadband)
- Cellular (Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T)
- Satellite (DISH, DirecTV)

Customers of broadband internet:

- 1440 non-gov., non-ag. businesses; 200 in downtown
- ~8500 residential units
- 1 school district; 5 K-12 schools
- 1 comprehensive public univ.
- 1 regional hospital w/clinics
- 2 local gov'ts w/sub-divisions

In closing

CenterFuse Board 2021

James Jankowski, Chair	Jared Vallejo, Member
Linda Schactler, Vice Chair	John Perrie, Member
Grant Clark, Treasurer	
Garrett Poshusta, Secretary	

W. ellensburgcenterfuse.com | O. (509) 955-3880 | E. director@ellensburgcenterfuse.com



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 18, 2021

Agenda Subject: Dolarway Substation Improvements

Submitted by: Paul Meyer Public Works & Utilities

Recommended Action or Motion: None For Information Only

Background/Summary:

As a continuing effort to improve electric utility reliability for our current and future customers, the Electric Division is scheduled to begin preliminary engineering and planning to replace and relocate the Dolarway D1 transformer. The D1 transformer was manufactured in 1959, is reaching its end of life, and is currently the oldest substation transformer in our system. The transformer is owned by the City but located on land within the adjacent BPA Ellensburg substation. After the City completes this project the BPA land lease can be terminated.

The Electric Utility System Plan recommended that the City remove the D1 transformer from service from the BPA Ellensburg substation, and purchase a new transformer that would be installed at the City's adjacent Dolarway Substation.

Previous Council Action: None

Analysis: N/A

Financial Impact: The engineering estimate for this project is \$2,458,800 per the attached Cost Breakout. The Light Department has included in the 2021 - 2022 budget \$2,473,404 for this project.

The anticipated timeline for this project is 28 months to completion.

Attachments:

[2021_D1 Cost Breakout UAC Meeting.pdf](#)

Energy Services Department

DATE: March 18st, 2021

PROJECT: Dolarway (D1) Substation Improvement Project

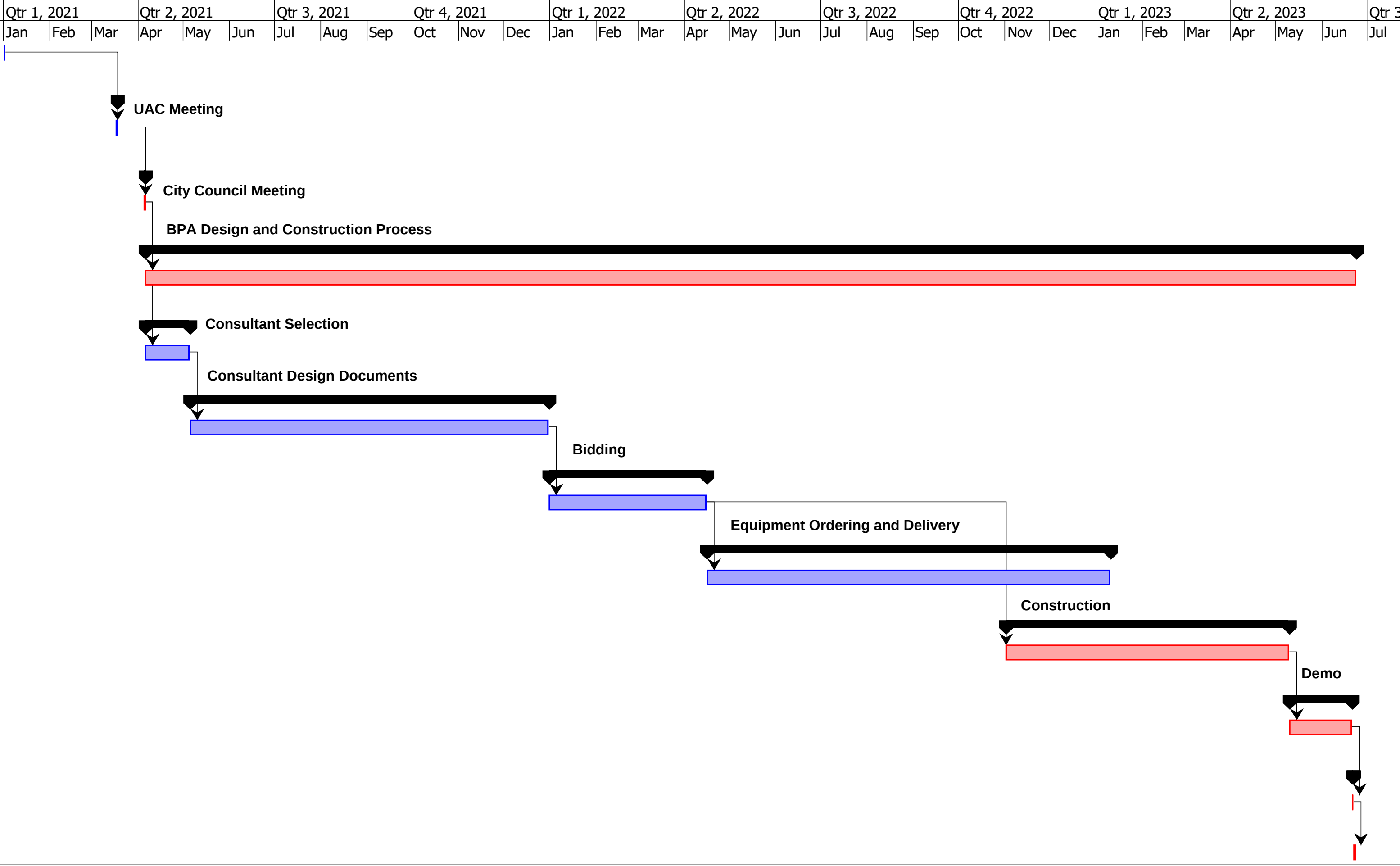
RE: Utility Advisory Committee



501 N. Anderson Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Energy Services Department – 509-962-7124

Item	Description	Estimated Cost
1	Dolarway D1 Substation Consultant Design and Fees	\$290,000
	Substation Design	\$185,000
	Substation Specification and Bid Documents	\$50,000
	Substation Project Construction Support	\$30,000
	Substation Commissioning	\$25,000
2	Equipment Cost	\$882,000
	XFMR Equipment Cost	\$684,000
	Circuit Switcher Equipment Cost	\$44,000
	Circuit Breaker Equipment Cost	\$40,000
	Relay Rack	\$35,000
	Manual Disconnect Switches (12.47kV) x 4	\$24,000
	Steel Structures	\$55,000
3	Labor Costs D1 Installation	\$752,000
	Site Prep, Foundation Work, Excavation, Etc.	\$340,000
	Equipment Installation	\$62,000
	Bus Work Installation	\$41,000
	Control Wiring	\$26,000
	Feeder Getaway Improvements	\$160,000
	Demolition Work (Old XFMR, Steel Structures, Soil Re-Conditioning)	\$123,000
4	BPA Fees and Design	\$125,000
	BPA Pre-Design Fees	\$50,000
	BPA Construction Fees	\$75,000
5	Contingency	\$409,800
	Contingency 20%	\$409,800
Total Project Cost		\$2,458,800



D1 Substation Time Line



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:	February 18, 2021
Agenda Subject:	HB 1084 Revised Letter
Submitted by:	Kim Caulkins Public Works & Utilities
Recommended Action or Motion:	Information Only - No suggested action
Background/Summary:	At the January UAC meeting, Darin Yusi presented a proposed written testimony for the initial WA State HB 1084 hearing. The proposed testimony was approved under the condition some language would change regarding the blackouts sentence. The language was changed from ". . .risk the inevitable rolling blackouts." to ". . .risk the inevitable rolling blackouts during peak hours and winter months.". A full copy of the written testimony is attached.
Previous Council Action:	n/a
Analysis:	n/a
Financial Impact:	n/a
Attachments:	HB 1084 Written Testimony - Final.docx

My name is Darin Yusi, I am the Gas Engineer at the City of Ellensburg. The City of Ellensburg has owned, operated and maintained a natural gas utility since 1956 and currently has nearly 4,900 customers that depend on natural gas on a daily basis.

The City of Ellensburg and surrounding communities, have an abundance of resources that benefit our community members, including natural gas. Natural gas provides many of our citizens an affordable, reliable and efficient source of energy that the City is proud to provide. The natural gas system relies on qualified workers who earn the family living wages that this bill seeks to maintain. For example, the 2018 Kittitas County average wages ranged from \$39,597 - \$42,669, while a gas journeyman earned \$88,670 in 2020.

Our gas utility, and local government is fully supportive of being responsible to our community now and into the future. We agree that carbon emissions are something that need to be addressed for our future generations and it is our responsibility to not delay these efforts. That being said, we feel additional time is necessary to help further decipher the language and intent of HB 1084, with hopes of revisions to the bill that could continue the reductions of carbon emissions without potential impacts to electric utilities and rates, and without decreasing the energy redundancies and reliabilities that are currently in place. Resource adequacy should be a main concern when developing legislation - with coal-fired generation going offline at an accelerated pace, we need to encourage more residents to have reliable and efficient energy in their homes, not less, or risk the inevitable rolling blackouts during peak hours and winter months. The City would also appreciate the opportunity to provide input and comment on this Bill as it moves forward through the process.

The natural gas industry has played a major role in helping to reduce carbon emissions, while at the same time providing a reliable and affordable energy source. Emphasis and focus should continue to be in making customer appliances more efficient, continuing to research and expand upon renewable natural gas (RNG), and limiting direct methane into the atmosphere from natural gas transmission and distribution systems.

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Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Ellensburg Utility Advisory Committee
Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates
February 18, 2021

Consent Items

Agenda Reports for items approved by the City Council since our last meeting are attached.

All Utilities

- Bids were opened on January 27th for the Bull Road Utility Extension project. The City received 6 bids for the project, with the apparent low bid from Belsaas and Smith Construction being \$4,254,204.86. Bids received are as follows:
 - o Belsaas and Smith Const. \$4,254,204.86
 - o LaRiviere, Inc. \$4,364,715.53
 - o Advantage Dirt Contractors \$4,761,825.57
 - o Granite Construction Company \$5,090,407.57
 - o Strider Construction Co. \$5,283,602.86
 - o Johansen Construction Co. \$5,651,882.69
 - o Engineers Estimate \$5,366,318.85

The apparent Low Bid is Belsaas and Smith Construction, in the amount of \$4,254,204.86. As discussed at the January UAC meeting, this was needing to go straight to Council for award, to save needed time to award the contract. Therefore, award of the contract to Belsaas and Smith will be before City Council at their Feb. 16th, 2021 meeting, and this is just informational only.

Sewer

- Maintenance staff had to deal with a leaking roof in the admin building. This is a reoccurring problem that has been managed, but the entire roof is likely in need of replacement. Replacement is currently in the 2022 budget. There have been discussions about moving this into 2021.
- The submittals were accepted for the aerator procurement project. The new aerators will be shipped in the near future and Sewer crews will install upon delivery.
- Staff conducted interviews for the new collection serviceperson position included in 2021 budget.

Water

- Water pumped for January 2021 was 63,238,504 compared to January 2020 which was 82,218,000.
- Water crews completed and shipped four water samples that were due February 2021. These samples are required annually by the Washington State Department of Health. (2-Total Trihalomethane, 2- Halo-Acetic Acid)
- Water crews responded to an after hours leak call at 813 E 1st.
- Water crews replaced a 2 inch valve that was leaking at University way and Cascade St. One residence and one business were affected for 2 hours.
- Water Crews repaired a leaking 6 inch valve at 3rd avenue and Wenas St. No customers were affected.

Storm

- Staff is currently working on the Stormwater Management Plan update and the annual report, both will need Council approval and be submitted to Ecology by March 31, 2021.
- Gateway, I design is at 90% and is on track to go out to bid late spring 2021.
- Gateway II agreement with Ecology is now fully executed and staff will prepare to select a consultant to begin designing the project after the annual report and management plan are submitted.
- Bridge levee re-design is underway and alongside this effort is the certification work both by Aspect Engineering. Both are being worked on simultaneously so a re-design can meet FEMA standards. Hope is to go out to bid late summer at this point.

Electric

- A Journeyman Lineman position is still vacant and being advertised.
- Staff is currently working on contracts for 2021 transformer repair.
- Crews are focusing on maintenance work as customer driven jobs have slowed down.
- The Power & Gas Manager participated in the January WPAG meeting remotely.
- City management and the IBEW Union are currently in contract negotiations for 2021-2023.

Gas

- The Natural Gas System Plan deliverables are currently in review and we should have a final system plan to report on at the March UAC meeting.
- We will be advertising for a Gas Technician soon to fill the vacancy in the Gas Division.
- Crews continue with construction and maintenance projects and are completing required Operator Qualification written and hands-on testing.
- Annual reports have been submitted to the UTC and PHMSA.