

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A Approve minutes - February 18th, 2021 regular meeting minutes
[UAC Minutes 2-18-21.pdf](#)

4. 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. 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.

6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.A [Telecommunications Utility Update](#)
[City Fiber March 2021 Update \(3-11-21\).pptx](#)

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

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

8.A Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates
[UAC March 2021 Public Works & Utilities Issues Update.docx](#)

9. NEXT MEETING

9.A April 15th, 2021 at 3:30 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

February 18, 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

Nate Sitton, City Utility Customer, term expires May 31, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Nancy Lillquist, Chair; Ed Barry, Vice Chair; Nancy Goodloe, City Council; Gary Gleason, CWU; Jim Goeben, Telecomm; Bob Johnson, Telecomm; Nate Sitton, City Utility Customer.

Also present: Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director; Mike Helgeson, Assistant Public Works Director; Kim Caulkins, Operations Analyst; Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer; Buddy Stanavich, Power & Gas Manager; Darren Larsen, Assistant Utilities Director; Bradley Campbell, Electrical Engineer; Paul Meyer, Sr. Electrical Engineer; Ben Faubion, IT & Telecomm Manager; Margaret Reich, CenterFuse.

3. ELECT CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Barry moved to elect Nancy Lillquist as chair and himself as vice chair of the Utility Advisory Committee. Goodloe seconded. All in favor; **motion approved**.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.A. Approve minutes - January 21st, 2021 regular meeting minutes

Chair Lillquist moved to amend the minutes to correct her vote from "abstained" to "no" under item 8.C. Natural Gas Rebates. Barry moved to approve the minutes as amended. Lillquist 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.

5.A. 2020 Cured in Place Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project Acceptance

5.B. Agreement with Natural Selection Farms for Biosolids Reuse.

Barry moved to approve the consent agenda. Gleason seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

7. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.A. CenterFuse Broadband Feasibility Study

Margaret Reich presented findings and solutions from the Broadband Feasibility Study (Study) recently completed by CenterFuse. Margaret reported the CenterFuse Board has approved the Study and previously shared the findings with City Council and is now identifying the next strategies. The committee asked several questions regarding the Study and CenterFuse's goals moving forward. There were questions and discussion around the City's policy and priorities and how this may collaborate with or possibly change them. Margaret stated that the study is available by request. Chair Lillquist requested this topic be put on the next UAC Meeting Agenda to continue the discussion with staff.

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

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

9.A. Dolarway Substation Improvements

Paul Meyer shared an overview of the substation site proposed improvements and budgeted cost estimates as well as the 2021/2022 timeline. The project will consist of removing the old city-owned substation transformer located in the BPA yard and installing a new substation transformer in the city-owned Dolarway Substation yard.

9.B. HB 1084 Revised Letter

Darin Yusi shared the final draft of the response letter to House Bill 1084.

9.C. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Ryan Lyyski gave an update on the Bull Road Project.

Ryan Lyyski gave an update on the sewer and water utilities. He also mentioned the 2022 Sewer budget contains funds for new roof at the plant. Staff has been dealing with leaks and the HVAC system (which happens to sit on roof) may be in need of replacement. The UAC may be approached about possible replacement of HVAC and roof in the 2021 budget.

Ryan Lyyski gave an update on the stormwater utility. He also mentioned that the City's consultant is working closely with Kittitas County Flood District/FEMA and the Flood District's consultant to do everything possible to be able to certify the existing and new levees being built on the Reecer Creek floodplain project. The County is interested in remapping the FEMA floodplain through this stretch of the creek. Ryan did caution the committee that it is possible that the levees might not be able to be FEMA certified due to FEMA standards that are out of the City's control.

Darren Larsen gave an update on the electric and gas utilities.

10. NEXT MEETING

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Kim Caulkins
Recording Secretary
Drafted: 2/19/2021
Approved:



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 18, 2021

Agenda Subject: Telecommunications Utility Update

Submitted by: Ben Faubion Information Technology

Recommended Action or Motion: Staff is providing an informational update to the UAC.

Background/Summary: Telecommunications Update

Previous Council Action: N/A

Analysis: Staff will present the attached PowerPoint to UAC during the meeting.

Financial Impact: N/A - informational update

Attachments:
[City Fiber March 2021 Update \(3-11-21\).pptx](#)



City Fiber: Past, Present and Future

City of Ellensburg – Utility Advisory Committee Meeting
March 18, 2021

History of Fiber in Ellensburg

- Late 1990's: Falcon Cable (now Charter/Spectrum) installs I-Net fiber to connect City, County and State partners, but fiber is owned by Charter
- 1999 City began operating and managing transport network connecting partners utilizing the I-Net Charter Fiber.
- Mid-2000's: City Public Works begin to install fiber to City's traffic signals
- 2013: Charter informs City during cable franchise negotiations it will no longer provide I-Net access for free; estimated monthly cost to City for half the network and no redundancy, is approximately \$10,000; Council decides to authorize construction of City fiber network to replace and supplement I-Net
- 2014-15: City builds out its own dark fiber network (Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) to replace I-Net
- 2014
 - Council Directed Staff to better serve the community and provide Internet service
 - Council Authorized Telecom Utility to serve businesses and residents ([press release](#))

Present City Fiber

The Telecommunications Utility is a Municipal ISP established in 2014. The City's broadband fiber optics network provides services to 47 public agency sites and 17 businesses with over 30 miles of fiber in the City and UGA. The City provides highly reliable, redundant, and secure fiber services to connect and interconnect Kittitas County, Central Washington University, Ellensburg School District, Kittitas County PUD, Kittitas County Fire District, Kittitas Valley Hospital, Kittitas County's emergency dispatch Center (KITTCOM), Centerfuse, Fish & Wildlife, and local businesses.

Present City Fiber

- 2016-present: Expansion of City fiber system continues:
 - Providing Fiber Transport service to the following institutional partners
 - CWU (Transport)
 - Connecting all off-campus locations
 - KITTCOM (Transport & Dark Fiber)
 - Connections to other anchor institutions for collaboration
 - Connectivity to public safety institutions
 - Ellensburg School District K20 (Dark Fiber)
 - Connections to all schools
 - Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (Transport)
 - Kittitas Valley Hospital (Transport)
 - Kittitas County (Transport & Dark Fiber)
 - Connecting City Traffic Signals with City Fiber and Traffic Signal Fiber

Present City Fiber - Continued

- Telecom Utility Provided Services to the City
 - Internet 10 Gigabit High Availability, Reliable, & Redundant
 - Gigabit Internet to all City Buildings
 - Fiber gigabit switched network to Traffic Signals & Cameras
 - City Wi-Fi and Community Wi-Fi at all City facilities
 - Public Internet Labs at Library, Adult Activity Center, and Youth Center
 - Connecting Utilities - Water, Sewer, Electric, and Gas
 - TV Broadcasting for ECTV, CWU, and connection to Charter

Present City Fiber - Continued

- Telecommunications Hut on Dolarway and Craig's Hill
 - Hosting and Interconnection
 - Partnering with NoaNet to gain access to statewide Fiber
 - Transport, Internet, and Interconnects
 - Provide Interconnect with and between local ISPs
 - (Zipty Fiber, Whole Sail, NoaNet, Zayo, and Consolidated)
- Providing internet service to the following institutional partners
 - CWU (High Availability and Redundant)
 - Direct Internet Access 10Gig
 - K-20 Educational Network
 - KITTCOM
 - E-911 Circuit Last mile redundant circuits
 - High Availability Internet
 - Ellensburg School District K-20 Educational Network
 - Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue
 - Kittitas Valley Hospital

Present City Fiber - Continued

- “On and Off Ramps” to the Worlds Fastest Fiber
 - Facilitate and provide access to (NoaNet, Ziply, and Consolidated)
- Outside of Grant funding everyone pays to connect
- Installed fiber to all locations at the Airport Incubator
- Downtown grant-funded connections (Success!)
 - 20 connections made
 - 40 connections potentially with remaining grant funds

Present City Fiber

- 2020 Financial Status
 - Preliminary Budget Report
 - Total Revenue \$296,005
 - Total Expenditures \$233,204
 - Cash Balance \$247,114 (100k Incumbered)

Fiber Future

- Funding challenges
 - Limited revenue stream or bonding capacity
 - Could expand public/public and public/private partnerships
 - Comprehensive Plan (currently states)
 - The Capital Improvement Plan for the telecommunications utility is anticipated to be primarily funded through a combination of revenue generated through rates, grants, and revenue bonds. Typically the telecommunications utility has been successful at receiving grants for telecommunications utility capital improvements that focus on economic development.

Fiber Future

- PPP opportunities
 - Public - Public Partnerships
 - NoaNet Interlocal Agreement
 - Washington State Department of Enterprise Contracting
 - Public - Private Partnerships
 - Ziplly Fiber & subsidiary Whole Sail Networks - (Currently host and lease fiber)
 - Central Connect – 10 Gig Internet (In progress)
 - Consolidated Communications (Providing Interconnections)

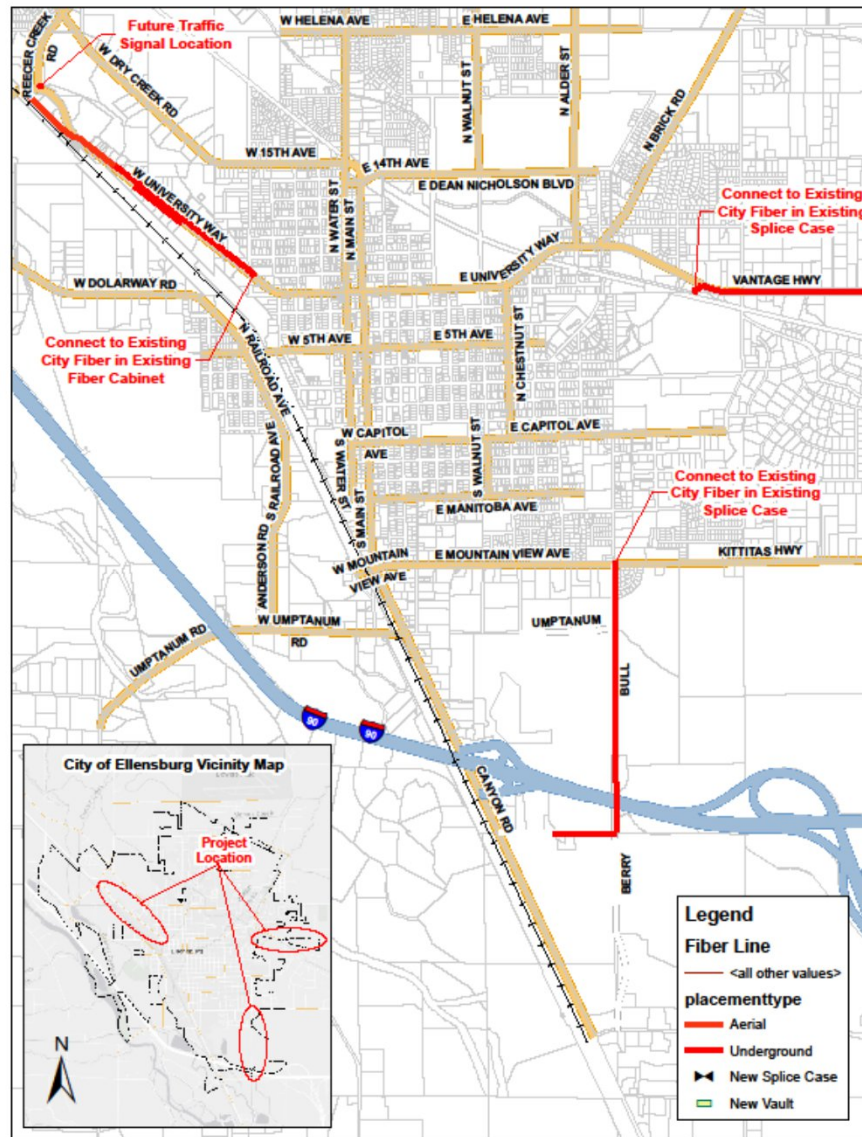
Fiber Future Policy

- Potential Policy changes:
 - Dig once
 - Streamline Make ready
 - Encourage Standards for placement of conduit and/or fiber in new developments
 - Standardize Pole Attachment Rates for Placement of Aerial Fiber
 - Open source - Lease conduit
 - Include conduit as part of public works projects and new developments
 - Set up Funding Mechanisms or Set-asides to place conduit

Fiber Future Projects

- Grant Funded
 - Gateway 1 & 2
 - Bull Road Extension
 - Signal Fiber Connections
- Capital Improvements
 - Water Transfer Station
 - Water Wells
- Construction and Service Projects
 - Waste Transfer Station
 - Twin City Foods
 - School District
 - County Public Health District
 - Central Wireless ISP

If Awarded Grant Projects



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

Consent Items

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

All Utilities

Bull Road utility project began on Monday, March 15th.

Sewer

- Crews responded to a broken sewer Main on 2nd Ave between Sampson and Anderson caused by an adjacent broken water main. The water pressure broke the sewer and filled the line and manhole with several cubic yards of rock and debris. The lines were jetted, cleaned, and inspected with a camera to insure it was still in good condition.
- Crews worked in conjunction with a contractor to install a new section of sewer main underneath Wilson Creek. No customers were affected.

Water

- Water pumped for February 2021 was 67,811,305 compared to February 2020 which was 74,322,000.
- Crews responded to a main break caused by a Semi colliding with a fire hydrant at the Pilot on Dolarway Rd. The Hydrant was repaired and relocated in the hope that another occurrence can be avoided. The Pilot truck stop was without water for a short time.
- Crews responded to a main break on 2nd Ave between Sampson and Anderson. The break was near Wilson Creek and was not easily visible above ground. A low tower level alarm alerted the crews and the leak was found during a subsequent patrol. Crews worked in conjunction with a contractor to run a new water main under Wilson Creek. Several customers were without water service for a few hours.

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 nearing 100% and will likely go out to bid late April, 2021.
- Gateway II, staff will prepare to select a consultant to begin designing the project after the annual report and management plan are submitted sometime in April 2021.
- 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.
- Temporary Journeyman Lineman position has been filled, Brent Ivey will start March 22, 2021.
- Crews are focusing on maintenance work as customer driven jobs are currently slow.
- The Power & Gas Manager participated in the February WPAG meeting remotely.
- City management and the IBEW Union have requested mediation to assist with reaching agreement on the terms of the collective bargaining agreement 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 April UAC meeting.
- The Gas Technician position was posted in-house on March 4th and closed on March 11th. Applicant interviews and testing will take place in March.
- Crews continue with construction and maintenance projects and are completing required Operator Qualification written and hands-on testing.
- Today is Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day. March 18 commemorates the date of the New London, Texas school explosion in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.