



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

March 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; Kim Caulkins, Operations Analyst; Buddy Stanavich, Power & Gas Manager; Darren Larsen, Assistant Utilities Director; Ben Faubion, IT & Telecomm Manager; William Longmire, GIS Coordinator; Terry Weiner, City Attorney; Margaret Reich, CenterFuse.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. Approve minutes - February 18th, 2021 regular meeting minutes

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

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

6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.A. Telecommunications Utility Update

The committee asked several questions about the City's current fiber service to customers. Ben Faubion shared the history of the Telecom Utility and provided a status update on the Pilot project. He also shared information about the public and private partnerships with other ISPs that are now in place and being developed to provide Open Access to serve Internet and fiber services to the community using the City's fiber infrastructure. He shared working with and collaborating with other public works projects to maximize grant funds and support Dig Once. He also mentioned that the City would be willing to work with CenterFuse on a Broadband Action Team. During COVID, Telecom worked with the state and schools on getting internet to students who did not have access and achieved the 20-installation goal for the Pilot in downtown without any additional staffing or resources and now needs direction on next steps as proposed by a strategic plan update. The Telecom Utility in collaboration with Public Works applied for .09 grant funds for fiber extensions in Gateway 1, Gateway 2, and Bull Road Extension. Developers are asking for fiber service in these development areas. Bob Johnson suggested a subgroup does a study session to discuss the scope of work for a strategic plan and present to Utility Advisory Committee.

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

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

8.A. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Ryan Lyyski mentioned the Bull Road project started Monday, March 15th, a Collection Serviceperson position was filled in sewer department, there was a water main break between 2nd & Sampson, the draft stormwater management plan was submitted to state and the Gateway project should be out to bid by end of April.

Darren Larsen reported there is still a lineman position open, but the temporary lineman position has been filled. City management & IBEW union have requested mediation to assist with reaching terms on the 2021-2023 bargaining agreement. There were 5 in-house applications for the gas-tech position and March 18th was natural gas utility workers day.

9. NEXT MEETING

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Kim Caulkins
Recording Secretary
Drafted: 3/19/2021
Approved: 4/15/2021