



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

April 15, 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; Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer; Mike Helgeson, Assistant PW Director; Derek Mayo, Engineering Manager; Ben Faubion, IT & Telecomm Manager; Margaret Reich, CenterFuse; Andrew Lyons, HopeSource; Bryan Clark, Kittcom.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. Approve minutes - March 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 April Update

Ben Faubion presented a telecom update. After an extensive discussion around the City's strategic plan, it was decided that telecomm will hold another study session to create a draft report to be reviewed by the UAC before going to council.

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

7.A. February sale of natural gas

Barry moved the committee make a favorable recommendation to City Council for proceeds to be returned to gas utility customers by dedicating half of the proceeds into stabilizing rates to prevent potential rate increases and half into a reserve to finance future capital Gas projects. Gleason seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

7.B. Spurling Court Solar Agreement with HopeSource

Goodloe moved the committee make a favorable recommendation allowing the City manager to sign the Implementation Agreement in the amount of \$30,000 between the City of Ellensburg and HopeSource for a Renewable Energy System on Low-Income Housing and authorize signing the Match Commitment Letter. Forward a favorable recommendation to City Council authorizing a carry forward of the previously adopted 2019/20 biennium budget for this \$30,000 project to the 2021/22 budget. Barry seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

8.A. Past Due Utility Accounts

Staff shared charts and graphs of past due utility accounts. Andrew Lyons mentioned HopeSource is currently setting up a program to disburse additional federal dollars received for low income utility customers.

8.B. March Groundwater Elevations

Mike Helgeson shared historic graphs of static water levels on City wells.

8.C. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Darren Larsen commented the Gas division will be replacing the rectifier anode at Walnut Street in 2021, instead of the projected 2023/2024 budget cycle. Mike Helgeson shared the water department finished their annual leak detection survey with less leaks found this year than last year.

9. NEXT MEETING

9.A. May 20th, 2021 at 3:30 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Kim Caulkins

Recording Secretary
Drafted: 4/19/2021
Approved: 5/20/2021