



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

June 17, 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; Nate Sitton, City Utility Customer.

Also present: Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director; Darren Larsen, Assistant Utilities Director; Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer; Kim Caulkins, Operations Analyst; Buddy Stanavich, Power & Gas Manager; Mike Helgeson, Assistant PW Director; Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer. Derek Mayo, Engineering Services Manager arrived at 4:02 pm

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. Approve minutes - May 20th, 2021 regular meeting minutes

Ed 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

5.A. Letters Acknowledging KITTCOM Representative, Bryan Clark, to Utility Advisory Committee

The Committee acknowledged the letters.

6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

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

7.A. Natural Gas System Plan 2021-2026 Report

Darin Yusi shared an analysis of the Gas System Plan report. Goodloe inquired about looping from Vantage Hwy to Kittitas Hwy and if that was for the proposed development. Darin Yusi explained that recommendation was for 2026 projected future growth and system reliability to those customers. Sitton asked if there is a plan in place to address the 17 single feed branches. Chair Lillquist is interested in the UAC discussing the future of the natural gas system. Chair Lillquist was in support of the Gas System Plan that continues to provide a safe, reliable system, but would like to ask the committee to reevaluate the rebate incentives we currently have for appliances. Gary Gleason was in favor of the system plan because it aligns with current needs of efficient gas use. Sitton posed the question of whose responsibility it is to reach net-zero, the city or its citizens? Chair Lillquist would like to stop incentivizing gas installation over electric and continue to offer good service to existing customers and those that want to sign up for gas service. Nancy Goodloe supported Chair Lillquist's remarks and suggested getting a consultant to evaluate our system and give suggestions on how to cut down on (the City's) carbon footprint. Gleason asked if the City is pursuing converting from natural gas to electric in City owned buildings. The city started giving incentives for gas to avoid Tier 2 market prices and lessen the electric load. We have added a significant number of gas customers without increasing gas purchases. Chair Lillquist asked the committee if they have questions of staff to bring back to help continue the conversation. Goodloe would like to see a comparison of costs between gas and electric. At the next meeting, the committee asks staff to bring back an agenda on where the City is proposing to buy Tier 2 from, the history of securing market power and if there are any alternate sources such as wind, solar, etc. that need to be considered.

Ed Barry moved to approve the 2021-2026 Natural Gas System Plan report as complete. Gleason seconded. All in favor; **motion approved.**

7.B. Water Division Strategic Energy Management Report

Mike Helgeson shared the results of the two-year Strategic Energy Management report results that included ways to optimize the City's water system to run more efficiently. **Information only.**

7.C. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Derek Mayo gave an update on the Bull Road project. Ryan Lyyski informed the Committee that the City is working with FCS consultants on a scope of work for upcoming cost of service analysis (COSA). At the next UAC meeting, staff will share the proposal for rate models for water, sewer, gas and electric. The new aerators were installed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Staff interviewed three consultants for Gateway II design. The Gas department's phone survey is complete and results will be presented to the Committee when available.

8. NEXT MEETING

8.A. July 15th, 2021 at 3:30 pm

The Committee requested a status report from Telecomm at the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Kim Caulkins

Recording Secretary

Drafted: 6/21/2021

Approved: 7/15/2021