



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Utility Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting

September 16, 2021

Time of Meeting

3:30 PM

Place of Meeting

Council Conference & remotely via GoTo Meeting

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, 2024

Gary Gleason, CWU, term expires May 31, 2022

Bryan Clark, 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; Bryan Clark, KITTCOM.

Also present: Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director; Darren Larsen, Assistant Utilities Director; Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer; Kim Bowie, Operations Analyst; Buddy Stanavich, Power & Gas Manager; Nicole Klauss, Public Information Officer. Ben Faubion, IT & Telecomm Manager; Jennifer Jovanovich, IT Desktop Analyst; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Jon Morrow, Stormwater Manager; Chris Walker, Noanet; Meghan Anderson; Judy Hinrichs; Dick Karkner; David Dunbar; Meg Ludlum; approximately 6 other virtual attendees.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. Approve minutes - August 19th, 2021 regular meeting minutes

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

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

5.A. Public comment not submitted in time, received via email concerning item 7.B Provide Comment on Two Comprehensive Plan Submissions of the August 19th meeting.

5.B. Meghan Anderson email 9-8-21

Nancy Lillquist explained the money from the February sale of natural gas needs to stay within the gas utility.

Judy Henrich's spoke about climate change and referenced Bellingham's climate action plan.

Meg Ludlum suggested gas incentives be taken away, electric appliances have become more efficient.

6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITY ITEMS

6.A. City of Ellensburg Broadband Plan - Verbal Status Update.

Chris Walker with NoaNet updated the Committee on the development of a comprehensive plan towards broadband for the community.

6.B. Telecommunications Issues and Updates

Ben Faubion gave an update on telecommunications.

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

7.A. Provide Comment on Two Comprehensive Plan Submissions - Continuation of Discussion

Discussion: Nancy Lillquist stated the purpose of the discussion is to outline a scope of study to provide to future consultants. Nancy Goodloe suggested to look broadly on how to build sustainability, resilience, as well as assistance & cost of transitions. Gary Gleason advised to look at reliable energy 24 hours a day and use others as supplementary that can support a whole community. Lillquist recommended to look at alternative power purchase options or generating our (the City's) own energy supply. Ed Barry suggested whatever is decided needs to be a combination of all options. Nate Sitton asked if we aligned with state standards. Nancy Lillquist suggested an evaluation on different options as far as receiving fuel choices and tradeoffs i.e. affordable vs reliable or enviro impact vs affordability. In summary, staff clarified that the Committee is seeking a hybrid energy resource evaluation with a look back on how the City's energy policies are meeting state goals and future options with costs & feasibility.

Dick Karkner recommended the Committee speak to WSU Energy Extension and possibly use as a consultant to analyze energy needs.

Dave Dunbar spoke about the Climate Commitment Act.

Meghan Anderson suggested the scope should include following the 2021 State Energy Strategy put out by the Department of Commerce. She presented alternatives to natural gas appliance incentives.

It was requested that staff bring back an agenda to discuss natural gas rebates.

Staff read comments that were submitted via chat.

Nancy Lillquist mentioned the Department of Commerce is developing guidance for cities and counties to address climate change issues. They will talk about mitigation and resilience and prepare model climate change elements for comprehensive plans, but won't be available until 2023.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8.A. Public Works & Utilities Issues and Updates

Staff shared updates for water, sewer, gas, electric and storm water.

8.B. UAC Email Addresses

New City email addresses have been created for UAC members.

9. NEXT MEETING

9.A. October 21st, 2021 at 3:30 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Kim Bowie
Recording Secretary
Drafted: 9/20/2021
Approved: 10/21/21