

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

March 18, 2024

Time of Meeting

7:00 PM

Place of Meeting

**Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Palmer

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call Present: Rich Elliott, Nancy Goodloe, Nancy Lillquist, David Miller, Joshua Thompson

Councilmember Miller moved to approve an excused absence for Councilmember Sarah Beauchamp. **Motion Approved 6-0**

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Weiner, City Clerk Leader, Parks & Recreation Director Case, Public Works & Utilities Director Lyyski, Community Development Director Carlson, Aquatics Director Hctor, Engineering Technician McDonald, Deputy Clerk Davison, EPD Captain Weed and approximately 80 members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: Twelve members of the public

2. Proclamations

- 2.A National Development Disabilities Awareness Month
Rusty Allphin read the proclamation
- 2.B Natural Gas Utility Workers Day
- 2.C Transgender Day of Visibility
Lisa Foreman read the proclamation

3. Awards and Recognitions

4. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Lillquist moved to approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 6-0**

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.A Approve Minutes of March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

- 5.B Approve Minutes of March 4, 2024 Study Session
- 5.C Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions
- 5.D Approve University Way Banner Request from Ellensburg Rodeo for August 27 - September 3, 2024
- 5.E Accept the Resignation of Mary Holmgren from the Library Board
- 5.F Professional Services Agreement between the Ellensburg Downtown Association and the City of Ellensburg
- 5.G Official Newspaper Contract Bid Award
- 5.H Approve March 18, 2024 Voucher Listing

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 6-0**

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

- 6.A Recommendation of Appointment to the Planning Commission (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Michael Buehn was present to introduce himself and spoke about his interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Lillquist moved to approve the appointment of Michael Buehn to the Planning Commission. **Motion Approved 6-0**

7. Citizen Comment on Non-agenda Issues

- RuthAnn Stacey and Marilee Coscarart commented regarding utility rates for churches
- Heinrich Himmler, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding the Ellensburg Police Department; he was removed from the Chambers when he refused to keep his comments limited to City business in violation of the Council Rules of Procedure
- Theresa Plue, county resident, spoke regarding adding a Council Agenda item for a sleep center ad hoc committee
- Marilyn Adams, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding the hillside of Craigs hill
- Landis Hansen, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding Transgender Day of Visibility
- Ben Hansen, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding the sleep center and homelessness
- Cheryl Chance, county resident, commented regarding the Kittitas County Hazardous Mitigation Plan and Craigs Hill

- Jessica Karraker, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding her appreciation of Ellensburg Police Department and City social media presence

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 9.A Proposed Ordinance 4939 (second reading) - Electrical Utility Franchise Agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) (Public Comment Opportunity)
Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4939. **Motion Approved 6-0**

- 9.B Resolution 2024-05 to Support Kittitas County Proposition No. 1 - KITTCOM Emergency Communications and Facilities Sales and Use Tax (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report. She introduced Jerry Pettit, KVFR Commissioner and KITTCOM Board member, who presented information and background of the KITTCOM budgetary needs.

Councilmember Beauchamp joined the meeting remotely at 7:39 pm

Jessica Karraker, Ellensburg resident, commented in opposition regarding the proposed tax, and the lack of a sunset clause and obtaining grants for upgrades.

Councilmembers asked questions.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to adopt Resolution 2024-05. **Motion Approved 5-1-1 (Thompson voted no, Palmer abstained)**

10. Unfinished Business

- 10.A Reed Park Master Plan Adoption (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, introduced the item.
Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director, reviewed a presentation which included background information.
Terry Weiner, City Attorney, reviewed information concerning the Reed Park Deed and interpretations by the County.

The Mayor announced a ten-minute recess at 8:35 pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 pm.

Ryan Lyyski, Public Works & Utilities Director, presented information concerning the water tower.

Dan Carlson, Community Development Director, presented information concerning how a plan becomes a project.

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information concerning the fire lane.

Jim Weed, Ellensburg Police Department Captain, reviewed information concerning police enforcement and traffic activity.

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information concerning hillside sloughing and geotechnical concerns.

Council asked questions of staff.

- Theresa Plue, county resident, spoke regarding geological site reconnaissance
- Penney Whitman, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding a town hall meeting and communication with people parking at the park
- Jeff Whitman, Ellensburg resident, commented regarding the Reed Park plan and issues with the hillside
- Angela Lang, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding public notice and the Reed Park survey
- Jennifer Patteson, county resident, spoke regarding Council decisions for the park and representation of the public
- Karen VanOrman, county resident, spoke regarding language in the Deed
- Charlie Smith, city resident and speaking remotely, spoke regarding the Craigs hill slope and the value of the view
- Robert Lowry, spoke against adopting the Reed Park Master Plan
- Rhonda Griffin, spoke regarding protecting Reed Park
- Rose Massey, Ellensburg resident, read a statement regarding the hillside
- Joshua Steward, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding Craigs Hill
- Bob Kibler, Ellensburg resident, spoke in favor of Reed Park Plan A
- Chuck Lang, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding parking for the Legion
- Linda Warren, Ellensburg resident, spoke about the park plan and what it's providing
- Courtney Garzone, Ellensburg resident, spoke in favor of the Reed Park plan
- Katie, Ellensburg resident, spoke in favor of the Reed Park plan
- Scott Heaverlo, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the park plan and the geotech report
- Lynne McGowin, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the hill stability and upgrades to Craig Avenue
- Reed Wake, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding a sidewalk through Reed Park
- Cheryl Chance, county resident, spoke regarding the park plan budget

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- Nikki Pollock, Ellensburg resident and Parks and Recreation Commission member, speaking for herself, spoke regarding the Reed Park Plan discussion and being in favor of Park Plan A
 - Jeff Whitman, spoke regarding police incident reports
 - Birgit Mitchell, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding dissemination of information regarding the plan
 - Tyrell, Ellensburg resident, spoke in favor of Reed Park Plan A
 - Kelly McDonald, spoke in favor of Reed Park Plan A
 - Angela Lang spoke regarding placement of the sidewalk on the hill
 - Penney Whitman spoke regarding ADA accessibility
 - Theresa Plue continued reading a portion of a report

Councilmember Lillquist moved to adopt the proposed Reed Park Master Plan and proposed phasing plan.

Council commented and asked questions of staff.

Per the Mayor's request, the Clerk administered a roll call vote.

Motion Approved 7-0

11. New Business

Councilmember Palmer moved to continue meeting past 11:00 pm. **Motion Approved 7-0**

11.A Process to Evaluate Alternative Sites for Sleep Center (Public Comment Opportunity)

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the proposed process to evaluate alternative sites for a Sleep Center in Ellensburg to include the Ruby Street site and include a representative from the business community on the Ad Hoc committee.

- Tom Morris, city property owner, spoke regarding including a business owner, how it will affect them and how many people allowed on the committee
- Jessica Karraker, spoke regarding making the Ad Hoc committee a citizen advisory committee
- Justin Bennett, city resident, spoke regarding what people want for the community and public notification
- Birgit Mitchell, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding ADA accessibility
- Jordan Lowe, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding how the public will be notified regarding the process

Council discussed and asked questions of staff.

Motion Approved 7-0

12. Miscellaneous

12.A Manager's Report (No Public Comment)

The City Manager reviewed the report. It was requested that action be taken on four letters of support, provided on the dais, for the Mayor's signature.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the Mayor's signature on the letters of support. **Motion Approved 7-0**

An executive session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) was required. It was anticipated to last ten minutes and no action would be taken.

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

No reports given.

13. Executive Session

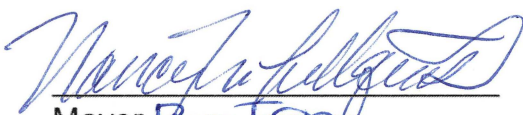
13.A Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency

Council recessed to executive session at 11:17 pm. It was anticipated to last ten minutes and no action would be taken.

Council reconvened at 11:24 pm

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 pm



Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST: 

City Clerk