

COUNCIL AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, November 23, 2020

3 P.M.



In-person attendance at public meetings is currently prohibited per the Washington Governor's Proclamation No. 20-28.12. Ellensburg City Council meetings are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 and available to livestream on Ellensburg Community Television at ectv2.com.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ONLINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

As a result of the threat posed by COVID-19, City is following the mandates from state and county public health officials to take all efforts to prevent the spread of this virus. In compliance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation 20-28.12, and in the interest of the safety and welfare of the public, the community, and our employees and to limit the spread of the virus, ***this City Council meeting will not be open to in-person attendance.*** Council will be attending this meeting remotely via video conference. All City Council meetings are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 and available to livestream on Ellensburg Community Television at www.ectv2.com. You may also attend by phone, only, and listen to the meeting by following the registration instructions under "Remote testimony during the meeting," below. Once you register, you will be sent a meeting invite with a phone number for the meeting.

Testimony will be accepted in the following manner:

- **Written comments submitted in advance of meeting**
Submit written comments by mail to Dustin Davison, Deputy City Clerk, Ellensburg City Hall, 501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg, WA 98926, or via email to: davisond@ci.ellensburg.wa.us. Comments received by 12 p.m. on the meeting date will be compiled, sent to the City Council and entered into the record.
- **Remote comments or attendance during the meeting**
Advance registration is required to testify. Anyone wishing to speak on items under the Agenda must register prior to 3 p.m. the day of the meeting. Register for the meeting at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x28B3D1WSLKuslyKKefOhw. Once registered, you will receive an email with the meeting link and phone number (for those who wish to call into the meeting).

PROCEDURE FOR PARTICIPATION DURING MEETING

1. Join the meeting early, as you may need to download the app in advance to participate. Once you've joined the meeting, your camera and microphone will be muted until you are recognized by the Mayor to speak.
2. Please note that there may be several items on the City Council Agenda that will precede the agenda item you wish to address.
3. The Mayor will identify the agenda item and ask if anyone wishes to speak on the matter.
4. Any interested person may provide comments on any listed agenda items, If you wish to speak, you must:
 - a) Raise your "virtual hand" in the corner of the computer screen or press *9 on your phone. Raising your hand signals the moderator that you wish to speak.
 - b) Wait to be called upon by the Mayor using your name, e-mail, or phone number used to log in to the teleconference.
5. Please state your name, address, and whether you are representing only yourself or others.
6. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES.
7. Speakers are cautioned not to make comments of a personal, impertinent or derogatory nature.
8. Speakers may not identify themselves as candidates for elective public office or make any statements which assist or discuss the campaign of a candidate for elective office, or discuss or campaign for or against a ballot proposition (unless the ballot proposition is being considered as part of the City Council agenda item).

Please note: City Council Rules provide that no action will be taken by the Council at the meeting at which a subject is first introduced during the citizen comment period. You may wish to concisely state your concern and request placement of your matter on a future agenda.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our services, programs, and activities readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Please furnish the ADA Coordinator with your request in sufficient time for the City to provide a reasonable accommodation. A Request for Accommodation form may be obtained on the first floor of City Hall or by calling the City of Ellensburg ADA Coordinator at 962-7222.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
COUNCIL AGENDA
Monday, November 23, 2020
3:00 PM - Special Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. New Business

2.A Consideration of authorizing the Mayor's signature on a letter to Governor Inslee regarding new statewide COVID-19 restrictions.

[Letter re November Statewide Restrictions](#)

3. Adjournment

[Governor Inslee
Re: COVID 19 November Statewide Restrictions

Governor Inslee:

On this past Sunday, November 15th, state-wide restrictions were announced to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Washington state. The current surge was anticipated. Counties and communities throughout the state have been preparing for an increase in Covid-19 rates throughout the late summer and fall. It is clear that as rates increase, actions must be taken to protect the health of our people.

Kittitas County has been doing so. In addition to COVID testing, Kittitas County Health Department (KCPHD) and Central Washington University (CWU) have used consistent and effective contact tracing methods to manage the pandemic. The incidence of infection is contained within households. Even as CWU and schools re-opened, there is no evidence of community spread. Critically, the local hospital continues to have capacity to address a possible surge with approximately 20% of licensed beds occupied by patients; 0% of licensed beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.

School Districts in the County opened in a measured way. This approach has enabled families to choose a return to the classroom or remote learning. This was accomplished through unprecedented county-wide school district collaborations with the KCPHD. CWU has collaborated with KCPHD from the start of the pandemic. Campus administrators took and continue to take aggressive steps to manage potential spread requiring students to complete a COVID attestation and diligently working to message students. All has been accomplished in close consultation with the County's Health Officer. These efforts have worked, to date. We, as a community remain committed to continuing efforts to contain community spread as cases of COVID-19 increase.

It is important to recognize the many current successes and partnerships established throughout the County. This County has come together in unprecedented ways to manage the pandemic. The health care field, educational institutions, the business community, local electeds, and citizens have worked hard to comply with best practices to ensure that people and communities are safe. We do not want to lose what we have gained. In this County, a local approach is simply more effective at containing the disease. Local discretion and direction enables us to engage our citizens in meaningful actions to reduce the spread.

The state's COVID 19 November Statewide Restrictions lack recognition of our approach and successes. The blanket state-wide approach undermines the ability for us to craft and support local actions to keep people working, in school, and healthy and safe. Significant public funds have been invested to fight this virus with a professionally developed media campaign titled *Spread Kindness, Not COVID-19* aimed at encouraging community members to mask, wash hands, and maintain social distancing. A component of that same campaign builds and maintains community members' relationships with our local small businesses. The campaign is supported by our county and city elected officials, Central Washington University, school districts, area downtown associations and Chamber of Commerce. Without local control, our message and campaign will not be received positively; the restrictions may, in fact, negatively impact our ability to contain and manage the disease.

Our goal is the same as yours - to reduce COVID 19 rates within Kittitas County, the State of Washington, and beyond. To be clear, we understand, support, and promote the actions individuals and businesses must take to ensure the health and safety of us all. We believe that Kittitas County continues to demonstrate the ability to work in a positive way throughout the County to address the pandemic. The Cities' and County's elected officials ask that this County be given the opportunity to continue the collaborative work and positive steps that have been initiated. Kittitas County has the desire and ability to craft and control local responses to ensure the health and safety of people within the County. Please support us to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please reach out if any further information or clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

Kittitas County Board of Commissioners

Cory Wright	Laura Osiadacz	Brett Wachsmith
City of Ellensburg	City of Cle Elum	City of Roslyn
Bruce Tabb, Mayor	Jay McGowan, Mayor	Brent Hals, Mayor
City of South Cle Elum	City of Kittitas	CWU/KVFR/KVH Who else?
Jim DeVere, Mayor	John Camarata, Mayor	