



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

May 5, 2025

7:00 PM

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: Sarah Beauchamp, Rich Elliott, Nancy Goodloe, Nancy Lillquist, David Miller, Delano Palmer, Joshua Thompson

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Horner, City Clerk Leader, Arts and Economic Development Manager Vandenberg, Community Development Director Carlson, Planning Manager Henderson, Associate Planner Rud, Parks & Recreation Director Case, IT Director Goeben, Finance Director Pascoe and approximately 65 members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: 12 members of the public

2. Proclamations

- 2.A Jewish American Heritage Month
- 2.B Asian American / Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- 2.C National Public Works Week

3. Awards and Recognitions

- 3.A Historic Preservation Month Award Update
Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information on Historic Preservation Month activities and awards.

4. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 7-0**

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.A Approve Minutes of April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting
- 5.B Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions

5.C Resolution 2025-07 Approving Janelle Isaacson's Street Tree Removal Request at 812 E Capitol Avenue.

5.D Resolution 2025-08 Approving Ryan Potter's Street Tree Removal Request at 1306 N Vista Road.

5.E Approve May 5, 2025 Voucher Listing

Councilmember Lillquist moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 7-0**

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

6.A Board & Commission Appointment - DEI Commission (Public Comment Opportunity)

Mayor Elliott read a statement regarding the DEI Commission and Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Adrea Bezdicek-Donogh, County resident, spoke regarding the appointee condoning belittling done on social media

Mike Wallace, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding Council condoning any harassment

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve reappointment of Theresa Devine to the DEI Commission. **Motion Approved 6-1 (Thompson voted no)**

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

- Daniel Lopez, City resident, representing members of his church, spoke regarding DEI
- Logan Cook, City resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding DEI
- Mike Wallace, Ellensburg resident, representing himself, spoke regarding DEI
- Samantha Hall, Ellensburg resident, speaking for others, spoke regarding DEI
- Rosy Hall, Ellensburg resident, representing herself and others in her church, spoke regarding DEI
- Jessica Hanna, County resident, representing herself, spoke regarding DEI
- Julieann Cleman, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding allowing extra time for a speaker with an interpreter and DEI
- Rosy Solorzino, speaking for herself and her church, spoke regarding DEI
- Michelle Adams, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding DEI
- Adrea Bezdicek-Donogh, County resident, spoke regarding DEI
- Mary Makins, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding DEI
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident, representing herself, spoke regarding the Comprehensive Plan
- Sara Russert, City resident, spoke regarding DEI

- Amanda Russert, Ellensburg resident, representing herself, spoke regarding DEI

Councilmember Lillquist moved to continue public comment for the remaining public signed up after Item 13 or until 10 pm.

Councilmember Thompson moved to amend the motion to remove the 10 pm limit and allow the remaining public to speak. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Vote on the main motion as amended. **Motion Approved 7-0**

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

- 8.A Closed Record Hearing for Rezone Application P24-120, Residential Suburban (R-S) to Commercial Neighborhood (C-N) Zoning, and First Reading of Ordinance 4960. (Limited Public Comment)

Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. Mayor Elliott asked the standard questions regarding appearance of fairness and conflict of interest. There were no appearance of fairness, ex parte contacts or conflicts of interest disclosed by the Mayor or Councilmembers. Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Jim Ritter, representing the Stockyard Development Group, commented regarding the proposal.

With no questions from the public or Council, Mayor Elliott closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve rezone application request P24-120 to rezone parcels 963051 and 716133 to Commercial Neighborhood (C-N) and adopt the Hearing Examiner's Corrected Recommended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision, and to conduct first reading of Ordinance 4960. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 8.B Closed Record Hearing for the Rezone Application P25-006, Heavy Industrial (I-H) to Central Commercial (C-C), and First Reading of Ordinance 4961 (Limited Public Comment)

Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. Mayor Elliott asked the standard questions regarding appearance of fairness and conflict of interest. There were no appearance of fairness, ex parte contacts or conflicts of interest disclosed by the Mayor or Councilmembers. Mark Rud, Associate Planner, presented information in the staff report.

With no questions from the public or Council, Mayor Elliott closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve rezone application request P25-006 to rezone parcel 537833 to Central Commercial (C-C) and adopt the Hearing

Examiner's Recommended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision, and to conduct first reading of Ordinance 4961. **Motion Approved 7-0**

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 9.A Ordinance 4959 (2nd Reading) - Amending Ellensburg City Code Chapter 2.34- Parks & Recreation Rules and Regulations (Public Comment Opportunity)
Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director, presented information in the staff report. Director Case reviewed small calculation errors to pool rates and language to alcohol allowance that were made to the ordinance for second reading.

Councilmember Miller moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4959, amending Chapter 2.34 of the Ellensburg City Code. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 9.B Resolution 2025-09 - Adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy (Public Comment Opportunity)
Jim Goeben, IT Director, presented information in the staff report. He explained an amended policy was included on the dais.

Delore, City resident, spoke regarding AI

Councilmember Goodloe moved to adopt Resolution 2025-09 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy. **Motion Approved 7-0**

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- 11.A Ellensburg Creative District Wayfinding Plan (Public Comment Opportunity)
Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Owen Blauman, Ellensburg resident, asked about the different signs & logos

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve the Ellensburg Creative District Wayfinding Plan as presented and authorize staff to procure and implement the creative district wayfinding signage as outlined in the plan. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 11.B Preliminary First Quarter 2025 Financial Status and Investment Reports (Public Comment Opportunity)
Jerica Pascoe, Finance Director, presented information in the staff report.

Adrea Bezdicek-Donogh, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding budget surplus and Parks & Recreation funding

Councilmember Miller moved to accept the Preliminary First Quarter 2025 Financial Status and Investment Reports as presented. **Motion Approved 7-0**

12. Miscellaneous

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

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the report. Staff requested rescheduling the June 2, 2025 study session to June 16 for a joint study session with the DEI Commission.

Councilmember Lillquist moved to cancel the June 2, 2025 Study Session and have a joint study session with the DEI Commission on June 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Councilmember Thompson moved to amend the meeting start time to 6 pm. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Vote on main motion as amended. **Motion Approved 7-0**

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

- Councilmember Thompson spoke regarding the DEI discussion and everyone showing respect for each other
- Councilmember Palmer spoke regarding interest in the community by citizens and reported on the Affordable Housing Commission
- Councilmember Miller attended the Finance Committee
- Councilmember Beauchamp spoke regarding attending the injunction hearing May 2, 2025 and being kind to each other. She offered to meet with anyone in the community
- Councilmember Goodloe also extended an invitation to meet with citizens. She attended the CWU - Forging the Future event, and Springwood Ranch Dedication Agreement signing
- Councilmember Lillquist attended the State Climate Plan workshop, Environmental Commission recycling event, reported on Bike Month events, and spoke regarding DEI comments

Council recessed at 9:32 pm for a five-minute break before hearing the remaining public comments.

Council reconvened at 9:37 pm

- Stephanie Lounsbury Griffin, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding DEI
- Tish Eaton, County resident, representing herself, spoke regarding DEI
- Steve Wegner, County resident, representing himself, spoke regarding DEI

13. Executive Session

14. Adjournment

Meeting ajourned at 9:45 pm



Mayor



ATTEST:

City Clerk