

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 16, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Accessibility

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our services, programs, and activities readily accessible.

- Closed Captioning is available to Zoom viewers. To enable closed captioning, you will need to click on the "CC" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then select either "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript."
- Members of the public who do not speak English or who have limited proficiency may request an interpreter if they wish to participate in public meetings.
 - The City will provide reasonable accommodation for members of the public with disabilities.

Please submit requests for language assistance or reasonable accommodation to the HR Director/ADA Coordinator by calling (509) 962-7222 or by email at ADACoordinator@ellensburgwa.gov. Five (5) business days' notice is appreciated.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Wednesday, July 16, 2025
5:15 PM - Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**
- 2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)**
- 3. New Business**
 - 3.A Water/Stormwater Education Presentation
 - 3.B Recommendation to City Council Regarding Proposed Ordinance Relating to Utility Advisory Committee, Environmental Commission, and Public Transit Advisory Committee
- 4. Unfinished Business**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Bicycle Advisory**
- 7. Staff Update/Discussion Items**
- 8. Adjournment**



For more information on the Environmental Commission, contact Community Development Director Dan Carlson at 509-925-8653.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AMENDING SECTIONS 1.50.040, 1.50.080, 1.50.200, 1.60.040, 1.60.120, 1.60.280, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 1.84 OF THE ELLENSBURG CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, the City of Ellensburg (City) seeks to review and evaluate the roles, membership composition, and powers and duties of city boards, committees, and commissions periodically to ensure clarity and adapt to changing community and organizational needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ellensburg wishes to assign advisory and review role for transportation system by broadening the purpose and duties of the Public Transit Advisory Committee to include activities related to public transportation, especially complete streets and transportation system safety and rename as Transportation System Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ellensburg seeks to designate accountability for actions adopted through sustainability and energy plan and other climate or environmental policies to the Environmental Commission and designate advocacy role for sustainability goals, including bicycle and active transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ellensburg seeks to revise membership composition of the Utility Advisory Committee with needs of energy utilities issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 1.50.040 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 17 of Ordinance 4883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.50.040 - Creation—Composition—Compensation.

~~There is created the utility advisory committee consisting of seven members. Two city council members and one representative from Central Washington University shall be members of the committee. Two members shall be customers of one or more of the city utility systems. Two additional members, who shall vote only on issues concerning the telecommunications utility as set forth in [Chapter 9.110](#) ECC, will include one representative from KITTCOM and one representative of the customers of the city's telecommunications utility. Terms shall be for three years. The committee members shall not receive compensation for their service.~~

A. Two city council members;

B. One representative from Central Washington University (CWU) and be designated by CWU administration;

- C. Four members shall be customers of one or more of the city utility systems (natural gas, light, and/or telecommunications);
- D. Terms shall be for three years.
- E. The committee members shall not receive compensation for their service.

(Ord. 4883 § 17, 2022; Ord. 4664 § 1, 2014; Ord. 4405, 2005; Ord. 4292, 2001)

Section 2. Section 1.50.080 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Ordinance 4405, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.50.080 - Purpose.

The utility advisory committee is created for the purpose of providing a mechanism for the city council of Ellensburg to obtain the benefits of recommendations, advice, and opinions on those matters affecting city energy and telecommunication utility policy and operations from a committee which may devote the resources necessary for careful consideration of such matters and which will increase ~~citizen~~ customer participation and input to local government.

(Ord. 4405, 2005; Ord. 4292, 2001)

Section 3. Section 1.50.200 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Ordinance 4405, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.50.200 - Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. To give advisory recommendations to the city council on matters relating to city energy and telecom utility policy and rates, infrastructure planning, and operations and all other matters as the city council may deem appropriate.
- ~~B. To adopt bylaws, rules and regulations consistent with the laws of the state of Washington for conducting the meetings of the utility advisory committee.~~

(Ord. 4405, 2005; Ord. 4292, 2001)

Section 4. Section 1.60.040 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 1 of Ordinance 3713, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.60.040 - Definitions.

Words used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

Commission means the environmental commission.

Environment. The word "environment" and all derivative forms of the word shall include all of the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding or affecting all living organisms and all natural resources and physical assets within the city limits.

Sustainability. The word “sustainability” refers to the practice of using resources responsibly to balance environmental protection, economic development, and social objectives to meet the needs of today without compromising the quality of life for future generations.

(Ord. 3713 § 1, 1990)

Section 5. Section 1.60.120 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 21 of Ordinance 4883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.60.120 - Creation—Membership—Compensation.

~~There is created an environmental commission consisting of seven members. The president of the Ellensburg High School environmental club shall be an ex officio member of the commission. Not less than four members shall be residents of the city of Ellensburg; no more than two of noncity may reside outside of the city's urban growth area. Two members of the commission may be under the age of 18. The commissioners shall not receive compensation for their services.~~

- A. One member of the city council;
- B. One environment/sustainability representative from Central Washington University (CWU) and be designated by CWU administration;
- C. Not less than four members shall be residents of the city of Ellensburg;
- D. No more than one member may reside outside of the City’s urban growth area;
- E. Two members of the commission may be under the age of 18;
- F. The president of the Ellensburg High School environmental club shall be an ex officio member of the commission.
- G. The commissioners shall not receive compensation for their services.

(Ord. 4883 § 21, 2022; Ord. 4569 § 1, 2010; Ord. 4509 § 1, 2008; Ord. 3980 § 1, 1995; Ord. 3723 § 1, 1991; Ord. 3713 § 1, 1990)

Section 6. Section 1.60.160 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 22 of Ordinance 4883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.60.160 - Appointment—Terms.

~~Each member shall be appointed for a five-year term. The president of the Ellensburg High School environmental club shall be an ex officio member of the Ellensburg environmental commission. The ex officio member is not subject to appointment, confirmation, or a set term.~~

(Ord. 4883 § 22, 2022; Ord. 4711 § 2, 2015; Ord. 3980 § 2, 1995; Ord. 3723 § 2, 1991; Ord. 3713 § 1, 1990)

Section 7. Section 1.60.280 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 4 of Ordinance 4711, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.60.280 - Powers and duties.

The commission shall have general powers and duties necessary to fulfill the express or implied purposes of this chapter and, within the framework of these purposes, the environmental commission shall:

- A. Serve in an advisory capacity to the city council, and accept referrals from the city council for study or such action as is directed by the city council, especially concerning designated sustainability elements such as water resources, land use, waste reduction, and urban forestry;
- B. Consider policies, projects, plans, and programs beneficial to the environment of the community and to consider matters affecting the City's water, sanitary sewer and stormwater systems;
- C. Propose policies and programs for consideration by the city council, and when authorized by the council, carry out these projects and programs;
- ~~D. Notify appropriate city departments in advance of meetings at which subjects will be discussed which may be of particular interest to that department, and provide information to staff outlining support of, or opposition to, subjects undergoing environmental review;~~
- ~~E. D. Administer the water quality grant program in accordance with procedures authorized and approved by the city council;~~
- ~~E. E. Advocate for sustainable activities Advise the city council on matters to promote bicycle use within Ellensburg, including bicycle and other active transportation modes.~~

(Ord. 4711 § 4, 2015; Ord. 3713 § 1, 1990)

Section 8. Chapter 1.84 of the Ellensburg City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1.84 - ~~PUBLIC TRANSIT~~ TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1.84.010 – Creation and purpose

1.84.020 – Terms—Composition

1.84.030 - Removal—Vacancy.

1.84.040 - Organization—Meetings—Quorum.

1.84.050 - Powers and duties.

1.84.010 - Creation and purpose.

There is created a ~~public transit~~ transportation system advisory committee consisting of seven members. The purpose of the ~~public transit~~ transportation system advisory committee is to oversee public transit and transportation system services in the city, including safety, infrastructure planning, the quality of services, providing direction for public information and education, developing and making recommendations on system improvements and funding, and reporting to council on those and other elements as directed.

(Ord. 4883 § 29, 2022; Ord. 4806 § 1, 2018; Ord. 4731 § 1, 2016)

1.84.020 - Terms—Composition—Compensation.

~~Members of the public transit advisory committee shall not receive compensation for their service.~~ Each member of the transportation system advisory committee shall be appointed for a three-year term, and member representation is as follows:

- A. One city council member.
- B. A representative from Central Washington University (CWU) who shall represent the general interests of CWU and be designated by CWU administration.
- C. A representative of the Associated Students of Central Washington University (ASCWU) student government to serve a minimum of one year, whose term shall correspond to the terms of office of students elected to serve on the ASCWU student government.
- D. A representative of Ellensburg School District (ESD) who shall represent the general interests of ESD and be designated by ESD administration.
- ~~D.~~ E. Four Three community members.
- F. Members of the transportation system advisory committee shall not receive compensation for their service.

(Ord. 4883 § 30, 2022; Ord. 4806 § 2, 2018; Ord. 4731 § 1, 2016)

1.84.030 - Removal—Vacancy.

Repealed by Ord. 4883.

(Ord. 4731 § 1, 2016)

1.84.040 - Organization—Meetings—Quorum.

Repealed by Ord. 4883.

(Ord. 4806 § 3, 2018; Ord. 4804 § 4, 2018; Ord. 4731 § 1, 2016)

1.84.050 - Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. To advise the city council on matters pertaining to infrastructure planning, the maintenance and operation, and improvements to of public transit and the complete street transportation system within the city.
- B. To develop and implement a community outreach program to educate the public concerning access to public transit and the city’s transportation system and to identify unmet public transit system needs.
- C. To provide advice and recommendations to the city's transit provider, city council, and city staff concerning quality, effectiveness, ~~and efficiency,~~ and safety of the city's public ~~transit~~ transportation system.
- D. To report, at least annually, on the above to city council and on other such matters as they pertain to the city's public transit and transportation system, or on other such other matters as directed by city council, which shall be included as council agenda items.

(Ord. 4731 § 1, 2016)

Section 9. Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion(s) of this ordinance.

Section 10. Corrections. Upon the approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 11. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage, approval and publication.

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of July, 2025.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY

Publish:

I, Beth Leader, City Clerk of said City, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. **** is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance of like number as the same was passed by said Council, and that Ordinance No. **** was published as required by law.

BETH LEADER