

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

July 21, 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 Lillquist

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, Community Development Director Carlson, Planning Manager Henderson, Arts & Economic Development Manager Vandenberg, Housing Program Manager Frey, Senior Electrical Engineer Meyer and approximately 125 members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: 12 members of the public

2. Proclamations

3. Awards and Recognitions

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.A Approve Minutes of July 7, 2025 Regular Meeting
- 5.B Approve Minutes of July 7, 2025 Study Session
- 5.C Acknowledge Minutes of Boards & Commissions
- 5.D Memorandum of Understanding between WinCo Foods, LLC and the City of Ellensburg
- 5.E Award Bid Call 2025-07 Distribution Transformers to ULS Corporate Inc.
- 5.F Amendment to the Upper Kittitas County-Ellensburg Commuter Bus Service Agreement
- 5.G Amendment No. 3 to the Dial A Ride Agreement

5.H Approve July 21, 2025 Voucher Listing

Councilmember Palmer moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 7-0**

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

6.A The Wall that Heals Update

Henry Johnston and Russell Colemore were present to update Council on the status of the Memorial Wall that will be in Ellensburg September 4-7, 2025.

6.B Appoint Pro and Con Committee for Ballot Proposition to Fund Ellensburg Public Transit (Public Comment Opportunity)

Chris Horner, City Attorney, presented information in the staff report. Amy Spitznas withdrew her application.

Jessica Karraker, Logan Cook and Jennifer Patteson who were in the audience, volunteered for the con committee.

Councilmember Palmer moved to appoint members of the pro and con committees to prepare arguments for and against voters' approval of the ballot proposition to fund Ellensburg public transit - Jim Hurson, Robert Mersinger and Jeff Watson for the pro committee and Jessica Karraker, Logan Cook and Jennifer Patteson for the con committee. **Motion Approved 7-0**

6.C Kittitas County Democratic Party Petition to Retain Chapter 9-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission of Ellensburg's Comprehensive Plan (Public Comment Opportunity)

Mayor Elliott introduced information on the item and explained it's relation to item 11.C.

Steve Verhey, Ellensburg resident and Chair of Kittitas County Democratic Party, spoke regarding the petition.

- Adrea Bezdicek-Donogh, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding petitions
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident, spoke regarding the petition survey online
- Juliann Cleman, County resident, spoke regarding the amendment applications submitted
- Teresa Devine, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the petition
- Michelle Adams, County resident, spoke regarding the petition
- Mike Wallace, Ellensburg resident, speaking for himself, spoke against continuing DEI
- Jessica Karraker, County resident, spoke regarding DEI in the comprehensive plan
- Carrie Vickers, County resident, spoke regarding the petition
- Caleb Austin, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding DEI

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- Geraldine O'Mahony, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding why she signed the petition
 - Andy Cleman, County resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding the petition
 - Jennifer Hanigan Deibell, City resident, spoke regarding the amendments
 - Courtney Garzone, City resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Allie Dermond, Ellensburg resident, speaking on her own behalf, spoke regarding the petition
 - Molly Macnamera, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the petition
 - Robert Meana, Kittitas County resident, representing himself, spoke regarding the petition
 - Skylar Bisom Rapp, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the petition
 - Candice Comfort, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding the petition
 - Deb Scott, Ellensburg city resident, spoke regarding signing the petition
 - Tory Jones, Ellensburg resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding 11.C
 - Joylyn Schneider, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding the petition and DEI
 - Javier Cavasos, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding loving one another
 - Cassie Waterson, County resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Amanda Russert, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the DEI commission
 - Pyper Stever, County resident, spoke regarding the DEI commission
 - Marilyn Adams, City resident, spoke regarding DEI

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

- Jessica Karraker, County resident and County Lodging Tax committee member, speaking for herself, spoke regarding the Ellensburg Fieldhouse project not receiving funding
- Angie Lang, Ellensburg resident, speaking for residents of Kittitas County against changes at Craigs Hill, spoke regarding parking at Craigs Hill
- Naomi Peterson, City resident, spoke regarding masks and ICE
- Steve Verhey, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding thanking the Council
- Gina Bloodworth, City resident, spoke regarding masks and ICE officers
- Joan Bennett, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the KVH Levy
- Christopher Hobbs, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the flag salute

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 9.A Proposed Ordinance 4965 (Second Reading)-Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with Ziplly Fiber Pacific, LLC (Public Comment Opportunity)

Chris Horner, City Attorney, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4965, the Zipl Fiber Telecommunications Franchise Agreement. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 9.B Proposed Ordinance 4966 (Second Reading)-Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with Wholesail Networks, LLC (Public Comment Opportunity)
Chris Horner, City attorney, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Goodloe move to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4966, the Wholesail Networks Telecommunications Franchise Agreement. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 9.C Resolution 2025-19 to Reject All Bids for Bid Call 2025-08 Tree Trimming Contract Electrical Utility Distribution System (Public Comment Opportunity)
Paul Meyer, Senior Electrical Engineer, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Councilmember Palmer moved to adopt Resolution 2025-19 rejecting all bids for Bid Call 2025-08, Tree Trimming Contract Electrical Utility Distribution System. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 9.D Resolution 2025-20 to Support Kittitas Public Hospital District No. 1 (KVH) Hospital Proposition-Levy Lid Lift for Health Care Services (Public Comment Opportunity)
Chris Horner, City Attorney, presented information in the staff report.

- Joan Bennett, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the Levy Lid Lift
- Juliann Cleman, County resident, spoke regarding the Levy Lid Lift
- Jason Adler, KVH CFO, speaking as a father, spoke regarding a rural hospital & delivery services
- Lisa James, Ellensburg resident, spoke in support of the Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember Lillquist moved to adopt Resolution 2025-20, supporting Kittitas Public Hospital District No. 1 (KVH) Hospital Proposition-Levy Lid Lift for Health Care Services. **Motion Approved 6-0 (Palmer abstained)**

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

Mayor Elliott announced a short break at 8:58 pm and would reconvene at 9:05 pm.

- 11.A LTAC Downtown Garbage Receptacle Replacement Recommendation (Public Comment Opportunity)
Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Manager, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

- Carrie Vickers, County resident, spoke regarding utilizing high school student classes for repair work
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident spoke regarding different styles of cans
- Mike Wallace, City resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding the price of new garbage cans
- Cassie Watterson, County resident, spoke regarding utilizing students

Councilmember Lillquist move to authorize the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Ellensburg, to purchase new garbage receptacles for downtown Ellensburg, utilize up to \$60,000 from Lodging Tax funds for this purchase, and approve the necessary budget adjustments. **Motion Approved 6-1**
(Thompson voted no)

- 11.B Cold Weather Shelter lease with Grace Church (Public Comment Opportunity)
Lily Frey, Housing Program Manager, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

- Juliann Cleman, County resident, spoke regarding provided services

Councilmember Palmer moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the lease agreement, or in substantially similar form, with Grace Church for the cold weather shelter. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 11.C 2025 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docketing (Public Comment Opportunity)
Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Councilmember Miller moved to docket Proposal 25-01 submitted by the Community Development Department to update the six-year Capital Improvement Plans. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Mayor Elliott opened public comment concerning Proposal 25-02

- Christopher Hobbs, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding his proposal, which was concerning DEI
- Logan Cook, Ellensburg resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding the Braver Angels process
- Steve Verhey, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the amendments
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident, spoke regarding the Braver Angels process and submitted amendments
- Jennifer Hanigan Deibell, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the amendments
- Deb Scott, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding the amendments
- Allie Dermond, Ellensburg city resident, speaking on her own behalf, spoke regarding the amendments

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- Andy Cleman, County resident, spoke regarding notification of applicants who submitted amendments
 - Juliann Cleman, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding submitted amendments to the Comprehensive Plan
 - Tylene Carnell, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Cody Bently, city resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding docketing 25-02
 - Teresa Devine, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding work done by DEI
 - Angela Lang, Ellensburg resident, speaking for herself, spoke regarding the amendment process
 - Phil Backlund, Ellensburg resident and DEI Commission member, speaking for himself, spoke regarding conversations with others
 - Michelle Adams, County resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Josh Aubol, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding DEI in the comprehensive plan
 - Geraldine O'Mahony, Ellensburg resident, speaking on behalf of herself and her two children, spoke regarding the submitted amendments
 - Mike Wallace, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Amber Hoefer, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding not docketing amendments in 25-02
 - Robert Lowry, County resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Courtney Garzone, Ellensburg city resident, spoke regarding not docketing the amendments
 - Amanda Russert, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Jamie Elliott, Ellensburg resident, spoke regarding being kind to one another
 - Cassie Watterson, County resident, spoke regarding racism
 - Adrea Bezdicek-Donogh, County resident, representing herself, spoke regarding DEI in the comprehensive plan
 - Heather MacIssac, County resident, spoke regarding DEI
 - Gordon Kelly, city resident, spoke regarding eliminating DEI

Councilmember Palmer moved to extend the council meeting past 11 pm until city business is finished. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- Candice Comfort, County resident, spoke regarding removing Chapter 9 in the comprehensive plan
- Tory Jones, Ellensburg resident, speaking for himself, spoke against docketing the amendments
- Carrie Vickers, County resident, speaking for herself, spoke in favor docketing the amendments
- Christopher Hobbs, City resident, spoke in favor of docketing the amendments

The City Manager explained Council could consider Mr. Hobbs' amendment, which proposed a new chapter creating a citizen civic engagement commission, separately as Proposal Item 25-03.

- Joylynn Schneider, County resident, spoke regarding DEI inclusion in the comprehensive plan

Councilmember Lillquist moved to docket Proposal 25-02 including the community conversations and common ground workshops.

Thompson moved to amend the motion to include Christopher Hobbs as a moderator to the process. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Vote on main motion. **Motion Approved 5-2 (Beauchamp and Goodloe voted no)**

Christopher Hobbs, Ellensburg resident, presented information concerning his submitted Comprehensive Plan amendment, creating a new chapter for a citizen civic engagement commission.

- Heather MacIssac, county resident, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- William Coleman, Kittitas resident, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- Joylynn Schneider, county resident, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- Mike Wallace, City resident, speaking for himself, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- Jolie Feddema, County resident, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident, spoke in favor of Proposal 25-03
- Tory Jones, Ellensburg resident, speaking for himself, spoke regarding waiting to docket the proposal

Council commented regarding the proposal.

Councilmember Palmer moved to docket Proposal 25-03. **Motion Failed 2-5 (Beauchamp, Goodloe, Lillquist, Elliott and Miller voted no)**

12. Miscellaneous

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

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the report. Additional items she reviewed were Water Street paving, chip seal work starting on July 22nd, Ellensburg Academy and County Commissioner Wachsmith requested volunteers for the America 250 program planning, and Mayor Elliott and Councilmember Thompson will participate. She reminded Council that the August 4, 2025 study session will be held at the Memorial Pool at 6 pm.

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

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- Councilmember Lillquist requested information to whether ICE agents will have to identify themselves
 - Councilmember Palmer reported on Affordable Housing

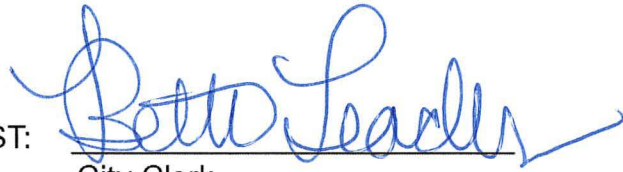
13. Executive Session

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 pm



Mayor



ATTEST:

City Clerk