

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

December 1, 2025



Ellensburg City Council welcomes and encourages public participation in their public meetings. Meetings are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 and available to livestream on Ellensburg Community Television at ectv2.com or on YouTube at ECTV Ellensburg. Members of the public may attend City Council meetings either in person in the City Council Chambers, 501 N Anderson Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926 or by registering to attend remotely via video conference.

To attend the city council meeting virtually register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jpvEHeMOSmCKM1QMiurGaw

The 6 p.m. Study Session will take place in the City Council Chambers, 501 N Anderson Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926. No public comment will be accepted. The meeting is available to livestream on YouTube at ECTV Ellensburg.

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.

COUNCIL MEETING

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All City Council meetings are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Channel 191 and available to livestream on Ellensburg Community Television at www.ectv2.com or on YouTube at [ECTV Ellensburg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1). You may also attend by phone, only, and listen to the meeting by following the registration instructions under “Procedure for Remote Participation During Meeting” below. Once you register, you will be sent a meeting invitation with a phone number for the meeting.

Public comment on Non-Agenda Issues (Item No. 7) is limited to a combined total of thirty (30) minutes unless Council votes to extend the time. Testimony or comments will be accepted in the following manner:

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

- **Written comments submitted in advance of meeting**
Submit written comments by mail to Beth Leader, City Clerk, Ellensburg City Hall, 501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg, WA 98926, or via email to: cityclerk@ellensburgwa.gov. Comments received by 5 p.m. on the meeting date will be compiled, sent to the City Council and entered into the record.
- **Comments for public hearings**
Written comments must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on the meeting date. Comments can either be mailed to Beth Leader, City Clerk, Ellensburg City Hall, 501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg, WA 98926, or sent via email to: cityclerk@ellensburgwa.gov. Comments received by 5 p.m. on the meeting date will be compiled, sent to the City Council and entered into the record.

PROCEDURE FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION DURING MEETING

1. ***Advance registration is required to provide public comment or hearing testimony via remote meeting attendance. Once registered, you will receive an email with the meeting link and phone number (for those who wish to call into the meeting).***
 - a) Anyone wishing to provide public comment on ***Non-Agenda Issues*** (Item No. 7 on the Agenda) must: 1. Register via the Zoom link by no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting; and 2. Provide a description in the Zoom registration form of the topic upon which they wish to speak with sufficient detail to allow the Mayor to determine whether it pertains to City business or a matter over which Council has control.
 - b) Anyone wishing to speak on ***all other Agenda items*** where it specifically states “Public Comment Opportunity” must register prior to 7 p.m. the day of the meeting.
2. **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.
3. Please note that there may be several items on the City Council Agenda that will precede the agenda item you wish to address.
4. **The Mayor will identify the agenda item** and ask if anyone wishes to speak on the matter.
5. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you must:
 - a) **Wait to be called upon by the Mayor** using your name, e-mail, or phone number used to log in to the teleconference.
 - b) **Raise your “virtual hand”** in the corner of Zoom application on the computer screen or press *9 on your phone. Raising your hand signals the moderator that you wish to speak.
6. **Please state your name, whether you live in the City of Ellensburg, Kittitas County or elsewhere, and whether you are representing only yourself or others.**

PROCEDURE FOR IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION (COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

- ◆ When recognized, approach the microphone provided on the right side of the room.
- ◆ Please state your name, whether you live in the City of Ellensburg, Kittitas County or elsewhere, and whether you are representing only yourself or others.
- ◆ Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES.
- ◆ Submit any written comments to the City Clerk.
- ◆ Speakers are cautioned not to make comments of a personal, impertinent or derogatory nature.
- ◆ 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).

PUBLIC COMMENT RULES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

1. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES.
2. Speakers are cautioned not to engage in conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Council meeting.
3. 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).
4. Speakers providing comments on Item 7, Non-Agenda Issues, may only address the Council on matters which concern the City's business or over which the Council has control, and must announce the topic upon which they wish to speak before making their comments.

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 (Item 7 on the Agenda). Council may consider an item at a future meeting, thus you may wish to concisely state your concern and request placement of your matter on a future agenda. Staff will follow up with speakers as necessary.

CONSENT AGENDA

Members of the audience may request items be removed from the consent agenda by asking for recognition and making the request during Agenda Approval. Items will not be removed from the consent agenda unless your request is confirmed by a councilmember.

AGENDA ITEMS

If you wish to have an item placed on a Council agenda, a written request should be delivered to the City Manager's Office prior to noon on the Monday preceding the Council meeting. Assistance will be provided in preparing a request if you wish to contact the City Clerk at (509) 925-8614.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Council accepts testimony or comments in person or via remote testimony on a particular subject schedule for Public Hearing. Council will consider all testimony, respond to any questions, and take action after the public hearing is closed. Testimony or comments will be accepted in the following manner:

1. When recognized,
 - If attending in the Council Chambers, approach the microphone provided on the right side of the room.
 - If attending remotely, raise your "virtual hand" in the corner of Zoom application on the computer screen or press *9 on your phone.
2. Please state your name, address, and whether you are representing only yourself or others.
3. Please limit your comments to 5 MINUTES.
4. Submit written comments to the City Clerk.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Monday, December 1, 2025
6:00 PM – Study Session
7:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

Study Session

A Water System Overview and Update

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

1.A Oath of Office for Councilmember Palmer

2. Proclamations (No Public Comment)

3. Awards and Recognitions

4. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

5. Consent Agenda (No Public Comment)

Items listed below have been distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a Councilmember or at the request of a member of the public with concurrence of a Councilmember. Requests to remove items should be made under Item 4 Approval of Agenda.

5.A Approve Minutes of November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting 6

5.B Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions 11

5.C Project Acceptance Bid Call 2024-19 Seattle Ave Utility Extension – 400' East of Willow St to Magnolia St Project 20

5.D DEI Commission Resignation - Serena Turney 27

5.E Approve December 1, 2025 Voucher Listing 28

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

6.A Arts Commission Appointments - Jensen Lopez & Therese Young 29

6.B Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission Communication with Council — Proposing an Alternative Interim Version of Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9 36

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

8.A	Public Hearing to Consider 2025 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments and First Reading of Ordinance 4977 (Public Comment Opportunity)	66
9.	Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions	
9.A	Second Reading of Ordinance 4976 - 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget (Public Comment Opportunity)	120
10.	Unfinished Business	
11.	New Business	
11.A	2026 City of Ellensburg Legislative Priorities (Public Comment Opportunity)	134
12.	Miscellaneous	
12.A	Manager's Report (No Public Comment)	146
12.B	Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)	
13.	Executive Session	
13.A	CLOSED SESSION - RCW 42.30.140(4)(B) The OPMA does not apply to that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.	
14.	Adjournment	



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

November 17, 2025

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 Mayor Elliott

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Councilmembers absent (excused): Sarah Beauchamp, Nancy Lillquist

Councilmember Miller moved to approve an excused absence for Councilmember Beauchamp. **Motion Approved 5-0**

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Horner, City Clerk Leader, EPD Captain Weed, Parks & Recreation Director Case, Community Development Director Carlson, Finance Director Pascoe, Assistant Finance Director Bassett, Associate Planner Rud, Planning Manager Henderson, Housing Program Manager Frey, Arts & Economic Development Manager Vandenberg, Civil Engineer Maskal, HR Director Young, Energy Resource Manager Baker and approximately 20 members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: Three members of the public

2. Proclamations

3. Awards and Recognitions

- 3.A Heart of Downtown Award for Unity Park
Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director, presented information to Council regarding the Unity Park project. He acknowledged project manager, Grant Maskal, who's management contributed to the success of the project.

Mayor Elliott acknowledged the passing of DEI Commission member, Tylene Carnell.

4. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 5-0**

5. Consent Agenda

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- 5.A Approve Minutes of November 3, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - 5.B Approve Minutes of November 3, 2025 Study Session
 - 5.C Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions
 - 5.D Consultant Agreement – Vantage Highway Shared Use Pathway Design
 - 5.E Project Acceptance - Bid Call 2024-16 Tree Trimming Contract Utility Electrical Distribution System
 - 5.F Authorization to Reinstitute a National Mutual Aid Agreement for the Natural Gas Utility
 - 5.G Second Contract Amendment – Bid Call No. 2024-03, 2024 City Property Groundskeeping
 - 5.H Professional Services Agreement – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
 - 5.I Approve November 17, 2025 Voucher Listing

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 5-0**

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

- 6.A Flock Network Update (Public Comment Opportunity)
Jim Weed, EPD Operations Captain, reviewed information in a presentation. Council asked questions of staff.
- 6.B Ellensburg Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment Confirmation of Michael Montgomery (CWU) (Public Comment Opportunity)

Councilmember Goodloe moved to confirm the appointment of CWU representative, Michael Montgomery, to the Ellensburg Transportation Advisory Committee. **Motion Approved 5-0**

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

Public Comment was heard from the following citizen:
Pat Kelleher, Ellensburg resident

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

- 8.A (Public Hearing) Mid-Biennial Review and First Reading of Ordinance 4976 - 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget (Public Comment Opportunity)
Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. Keith Bassett, Assistant Finance Director, presented information in the staff report.

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

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve first reading of Ordinance 4976 amending the 2025/2026 Biennial Budget. **Motion Approved 5-0**

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 9.A Ordinance 4974 (Second Reading) - 2026 Property Tax Levy (Public Comment Opportunity)
Jerica Pascoe, Finance Director, presented information in the staff report.
Council asked questions of staff.

Public comment on the topic was heard from the following citizen:
Pat Kelleher, Ellensburg resident

Councilmember Goodloe moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4974 establishing the Ad Valorem Property Tax Levy for 2026. **Motion Approved 4-1 (Thompson voted no)**

- 9.B Ordinance 4975 (Second Reading) - Proposed 2025 Title 15 Land Development Code Amendments (Public Comment Opportunity)
Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4975, amending Ellensburg City Code Title 15, Land Development Code. **Motion Approved 5-0**

- 9.C Resolution 2025-31 to Approve Fiscal Year 2025 Bad Debt Write-Offs (Public Comment Opportunity)
Jerica Pascoe, Finance Director, presented information in the staff report.
Council asked questions of staff.

Councilmember Palmer moved to adopt Resolution 2025-31 writing off uncollectible delinquent accounts totaling \$58,517.43. **Motion Approved 5-0**

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- 11.A Ellensburg Poet Laureate 2026-2028 (Public Comment Opportunity)
Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager and Alex Eyre, Arts Commission Chair, presented information to Council. Commissioner Eyre introduced Sarita Dasgupta, who commented on her nomination.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve the Arts Commission recommendation of Sarita Dasgupta as the Ellensburg Poet Laureate for the 2026-2028 term and the Poet Laureate contract as presented. **Motion Approved 5-0**

- 11.B Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County for Prosecution Services (Public Comment Opportunity)
Chris Horner, City Attorney, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve the City Manager's signature on an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County for Prosecution Services (as attached, or in substantially similar form). **Motion Approved 5-0**

11.C Arts Commission 2026 Project Grants and Spending Plan (Public Comment Opportunity)

Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Director, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve the Arts Commission grant recommendations and authorize the 2026 grant funding awards in the amount of \$22,000.00 for the 2026 Ellensburg Arts Commission Project Grants and approve the 2026 Arts Commission Spending Plan as presented in staff report. **Motion Approved 5-0**

11.D Council Funded Grant Program – 2026 Grant Awards (Public Comment Opportunity)

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

Councilmember Miller moved to authorize the 2026 grant funding awards in the amount of \$22,225.94 for the Community Grants, Parks Partnership, Historic Preservation Grants and \$10,000 for Water Quality Grants. **Motion Approved 5-0**

11.E Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between Kittitas County and the Cities of Ellensburg, Roslyn, and Cle Elum for the Consolidated Lodging Tax Grant Process (Public Comment Opportunity)

Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City of Ellensburg, the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement Between Kittitas County and the Cities of Ellensburg, Roslyn, and Cle Elum for a Consolidated Lodging Tax Grant Process, as attached or in substantially similar form; and approve necessary budget adjustments. **Motion Approved 5-0**

11.F Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) 2026-2029 (Public Comment Opportunity)

Nichole Baker, Energy Resources Manager, presented information in the staff report. Ted Light with Lighthouse Energy Consulting and Angela Long with Rockcross Consulting (present remotely) reviewed information in a presentation. Council asked questions.

Councilmember Palmer moved to adopt the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) 2026-2029 for submission to Commerce in December 2025. **Motion Approved 5-0**

12. Miscellaneous

12.A Manager's Report (No Public Comment)
The City Manager reviewed the report.

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

- Councilmember Goodloe attended the Reecer Creek Levee ribbon cutting, DEI Commission and Planning Commission meetings
- Councilmember Miller attended a seminar concerning Washington land use planning for wildfires, Ellensburg Transportation Advisory Committee, Arts Commission and Planning Commission meetings
- Councilmember Palmer attended the Kittitas County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting
- Councilmember Thompson commented on the Downtown Trick or Treat event and congratulated councilmembers on their re-election
- Mayor Elliott won't be available for the Disability Resources meeting and will be lobbying in February for 911 in Olympia

13. Executive Session

13.A 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 9:01 pm per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and was anticipated to last approximately 20 minutes. No action would be taken.

At 9:21, Mayor Elliott announced the executive session would be extended an additional five minutes. Council reconvened at 9:25 pm

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Affordable Housing Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

October 1, 2025

Time of Meeting

4:30 PM

Place of Meeting

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Bedsaul called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Present: Sarah Bedsaul, Courtney Garzone, Dan Witkowski, Delano Palmer

Absent: Kim Funston, John Perrie

Others present:

Manastash Architecture, Planning and Development: Skylar Bisom-Rapp, Molly McNamara, Marc Brown, Jordan Lowe

TM Construction: Henry Thomas, Troy Morris

HomeSight: Uche Okezie, Moussa Samb

Dan Carlson - Community Development Director, Lily Frey - Housing Program Manager, Sarah Syverson

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Palmer motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A September 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the September 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

4. New Business

4.A Consider First and Pine proposal revision

Skylar Bisom-Rapp presented the revised team for the First and Pine project, an explanation of project delays and financing challenges over the past several months, the simplified proposed townhome model now proposed, and the market opportunity represented by the project as revised.

Commissioner Bedsaul motioned to recommend approval of the revised First and Pine proposal as presented by Manastash Architect Planning & Development and move forward to the City of Ellensburg City Council. Motion passed 4-0.

- 4.B Review and feedback on Kittitas County five-year homeless housing plan
This item was not discussed due to lack of quorum.

5. Unfinished Business

6. Public Comment

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

8. Commission Representative Update

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m. due to loss of quorum.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Meeting Date of Meeting
Start Time of Meeting
Place of Meeting

Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Oct. 16, 2025
4:09 PM
EDA Office, 109 E. 3rd Street, Ste. 1

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Chair Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Snedeker,
Commissioner Wenz
Absent: Council member, David Miller
Welcome guest: Heidi Wixson

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Oct. 16, 2025, Arts Commission meeting agenda as presented.
By Commissioner Dougherty
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker
In Favor: All in favor
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 18, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes with
correction to Commissioner Snedeker's name.
By: Commissioner Dougherty
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A 2025 Arts Commission Budget Update
Staff gave brief verbal overview of 2025 Arts Commission budget and
2025 Project Grant reimbursement status.

Action Item: Staff will send out reminders to all remaining 2025 Project Grant awardees that
have not yet submitted reimbursement reports, to remind them of the EOY deadline. Staff will
continue to send out reminders through the fourth quarter.

5. Subcommittee Business

5.A

1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex: No report as of now
2. First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Alex: Matt gave an update on the First Thursday, CWU/Creative District progress. October Art Walk had a great turn out.
3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex; Jeff talked about the art map in Seattle near the Seattle Rep. Map has the QR Code. Explore this idea for the ArtsWa Capital Grant. Jeff will send over the photos. Jerry discussed the idea of a walking public art/state art tour on campus. Guest, Heidi Wixson suggested a location close to campus, like the nexus intersection of Wildcat Way and University Way.
4. Awards & Distinctions: Jeff/Alex/Staff:
The date of Nov. 12, 2025, was selected for the Arts Treasure and Arts Advocate awards ceremony at starting at 5:00 pm at the INK with the actual ceremony at 5:30.

Action Items:

Staff will:

- Alert all nominees and create promotional SM material.
- Invite past award recipients, Art Walk venues, commissioners, and reach out to partners for promotion.
- Contact Wild Jo for the creation of the Arts Treasure placard
- Create certificates

Alex will:

- Contact the Ink and secure venue
- Work with staff on arranging light beverage/ hors d'oeuvres

Jeff/Alex updated on Poet Laureate selection
Staff gave update on contract revisions.

Motion: Commissioner Dougherty moved that we accept the recommendation regarding the Poet Laureate for 2026-2028 and present recommendation to City Council for approval.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Wenz

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries

5. Ellensburg Creative District: Staff/Jeff/Alex: No update at this time.

6. New Business No new business to report at this time.

7. Unfinished Business:

7.A New Arts Commissioner Applications: Two applicants have applied for the open positions on the Arts Commission. Both have met the meeting attendance requirement. Commission has instructed staff to schedule interviews for both applicants and the interview subcommittee will be Alex, Jerry, and staff.

Action Item: Staff schedule interviews

7.B 2026 Project Grant Application and Recommendation
Commissioners reviewed and discussed the applications-\$25,000 available for award.

Motion: Commissioner Dougherty moved to approve the selected ten 2026 Project Grant applications for a total \$22,000 and present recommendations to City Council for approval, with a strongly worded letter to EDE regarding the necessity of honoring required timelines in the process.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries

Action Item(s):

- Staff will go through application/budget and list expenses as part of contract and reimbursement to support their expenses.
- Staff will create report for council meeting with commission recommendations.
- Staff will work with legal and risk manager to finalize contracts that include specific budget items as noted. Nuwave: Art materials and supplies \$500/\$400/\$100.00 (go through budget on application)
- Staff will prep the 2026 Project Grant:
 - Tracking spreadsheet
 - Round one paperwork, including vendor form and W-9 for new awardees)
 - Grant onboarding for new recipients

8. Citizen Comment:

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items:

10. Commission Representative Update:

11. Adjournment Time: 6:00



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Landmarks & Design Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

September 16, 2025

Time of Meeting

5:45 PM

Place of Meeting

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Redmon called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Present: Fred Redmon, Vicki Sannuto, Julia Stringfellow, Scott Carlson, Marty Blackson, Teresa Chanes

Absent: Jeff Watson (excused)

Others Present: Chace Pedersen- Associate Planner; Kathy Boots- Planning Technician

Commissioner Blackson motioned to approve the absence of Jeff Watson. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Chanes motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

No minutes available.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. Citizen Comment

None.

6. Staff Update/Discussion Items

Pedersen gave information on the Hal Holmes open house for the Comprehensive Plan amendment.

6.A Historic Preservation Chapter Subcommittee Discussion

The subcommittee met last week and the discussion was recapped for the Commission members. Staff reviewed the current Chapter 8 goals, policies, and programs in the Comprehensive Plan. Pedersen stated that in 2022 the Ellensburg City Council adopted a land acknowledgment. This approved land acknowledgment may be added to Chapter 8 or the beginning of the Comprehensive Plan or referred back to where the land acknowledgment statement resides. This suggestion will be given to the consultant. Other

suggestions were to add a purpose statement to the overview of the Comprehensive Plan prepared possibly by Sadie Theyer that includes indigenous people, history, and facts from Ellensburg's early history.

7. New Business

- 7.A Historic Preservation Comp Plan Chapter - Discussion/Decision
Commissioner Blackson motioned that the Landmarks & Design Commission recommend adoption of the land acknowledgment approved by the City Council in Resolution 2022-08 into the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan. Blackson amended the motion to include in Chapter 8 of the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan that a detailed history of Ellensburg be added. Discussion ensued. Amended motion passed 6-0. The original motion passed 6-0.

8. Commission Representative Update

On September 30, 2025, there will be a special meeting set for the Landmarks & Design Commission to review the Historic Preservation grants received for the 2026 award period. Staff are working on getting applicants to give a presentation during the September 30, 2025, meeting.

Staff clarified that no work can be started in 2025 for the grantees of the 2026 grant.

Commissioner Sannuto stated that the new windows installed in the Fitterer's building look great.

Pedersen will be presenting a Historic Preservation section at the Ellensburg Academy.

Commissioner Carlson would like to revisit streateries being allowed and the material used.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Landmarks & Design Commission, Special Meeting

Date of Meeting

September 30, 2025

Time of Meeting

5:45 PM

Place of Meeting

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Blackson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Present: Fred Redmon, Scott Carlson, Marty Blackson, Vicki Sannuto, Julia Stringfellow

Absent: Teresa Chanes (excused), Jeff Watson

Others Present: Stacey Henderson-Planning Manager; Connor Hayes-Kittitas County Historical Museum; Jill Scheffer-Ellensburg Dance Ensemble Treasurer; Dorothy Stanley

Commissioner Redmon motioned to excuse the absence of Commissioner Chanes. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Stringfellow motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A August 19, 2025 LDC Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stringfellow motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 19, 2025. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

4.A Review of 2026 City of Ellensburg Historic Preservation Grant Applications
Staff member Chace Pedersen reported that two grant applications were received and the total amount to award is \$22,225.95. Pedersen stated that he sought an addendum budget from each of the applicants because the amount requested was below the award available.

Jill Scheffer from the Ellensburg Dance Ensemble gave a presentation regarding their grant application. Several fire life & safety building changes were presented. These changes would increase safety and allow the building to be utilized by larger groups.

Connor Hayes from the Kittitas County Historical Museum gave a presentation regarding their application. Research on the past local architect, Edla Muir, who

built several local buildings. Plans stored at UCSB college in California would be scanned along with a license to own copies of the image that would be utilized with the award money and used in an exhibit. Dorothy Stanley expressed support for the project.

Commissioner Carlson motioned to award the Ellensburg Historic Preservation Grant to Richard Huie in the amount of \$10,670.00 and the Kittitas County Historical Museum in the amount of \$8,000.00. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. Citizen Comment

None.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

Fred Redmon, Teresa Chanes, and Chace Pedersen went to the PLACES conference.

The 2046 Comprehensive Plan open house was a success.

8. Commission Representative Update

Commissioner Sannuto clarified who the City Council Liaison is for the Commission. Josh Thompson is the City Council Liaison assigned to Landmarks & Design Commission.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

September 10, 2025

Time of Meeting

2:00 PM

Place of Meeting

Council Conference Room 501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

1.A Roll Call Present: Arlo Evasick, Carmen Wiggins, Gemma Fortier, Lacie Dawson, Steve Townsend, Chair, Sarah Beauchamp
Absent: None

Guests: Matt Anderson, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

2. Approval of Agenda

2.A Motion: Move to approve the September 10, 2025, LTAC meeting agenda as presented.

By: Carmen Wiggins

Seconded by: Lacie Dawson

All in Favor:

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion carries

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of August 6, 2025, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Move to approve August 6, 2025, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

By: Carmen Wiggins

Seconded: Arlo Evasick

All in Favor: All in Favor

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carries

4. Previous Business

4.A Kittitas County Rodeo Grandstands Project: Update

4.B Downtown Trash Can Update

5. New Business

5.A Consolidated Lodging Tax Grant Scoring Procedures—by Matt Anderson Applications close on Sept. 19th and CLTAC Clerk will send application submissions to LTAC committees by September 26, 2025. Matt Anderson shared a tutorial packet with the LTAC committee and gave a workshop to the committee members on reviewing and scoring applications.

Action Item: Staff will scan the packet and send out electronically to the team.

By Oct. 31st the collective score is due to the County LTAC Clerk, individual scores must be prior to that.

Next meeting date: October 22nd from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm at City Hall in the Council Conference Room.

This will be the long meeting to discuss the applications. Committee members must have their individual scoring completed prior to the meeting on October 22nd.

6. Budget Update

6.A Staff reviewed current LTAC revenue and expense report.

7. Citizen Comment: Committee meeting

7.A Committee member, Gemma Fortier announced her resignation from LTAC effective October 1, 2025, she is relocating to Leavenworth for a new position.

8. Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce: Marketing/Tourism Report

8.A Presentation of Kittitas County 10-Year Tourism Strategic Plan
This item was tabled until either the November or December LTAC meeting.

8.B Monthly Ellensburg Tourism Report from Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
No monthly update for September.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelle Vandenberg

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2025**

DATE OF MEETING: October 9, 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nikki Pollock, Frana Milan, Ron Parga, Charlie Smith, Devin Shea
OTHERS PRESENT: Council Liaison Thompson (remote), Cindy Mendoza, MIG, Elly Schaefer, MIG, Parks & Recreation Director Case, 2 members from the public
LOCATION: Meeting was held in the Council Chambers and Virtually

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

MEETING MINUTES – Minutes from the September 10, 2025, meeting was approved.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – A community member asked about the status of the West Ellensburg Park playground project.

NEW BUSINESS – Request to Place Portable Disc Golf Baskets at Rotary Park & Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park (IRRP) – Jeremy Lang, Ellensburg resident, requested permission to place portable disc golf baskets at Rotary Park and Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park from approximately November 1, 2025 to mid-March 2026. Mr. Lang commented that accessing the baskets at the permanent disc golf course at IRRP during the winter months can be difficult due to the access road into IRRP being closed seasonally. The placement of baskets at Rotary Park and adding some additional baskets at IRRP closer to where the pedestrian pathway under Interstate 90 is located, will provide better access. Locations of the baskets will be done in coordination with park staff.

A motion was made and seconded to support the placement of the baskets, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS – UPDATE ON PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING PLAN – Cindy Mendoza, MIG Consulting and Elly Schraeder, MIG Consulting

Ms. Mendoza and Ms. Schraeder gave the Commission an update on the park plan process.

The presentation included the following:

- Update on the planning process & needs assessment
- Demographic information
- Community Outreach results
- Trends & Market Findings
- Parks, Facilities, and Trails
- Maintenance and Operations
- Key needs based off needs assessment findings
- Next steps

STAFF REPORTS

Staff reported the following: 1. The Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which is put on by the Adult Activity Center (AAC) and Central Washington University, with the help of many community partners, is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26th from 3pm-6pm at the Kittitas Valley Events Center Armory building. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for community members to assist with the event, anyone interested in volunteering can contact Aaron Riojas, Temporary Adult Activity Center Coordinator, at 509-962-7242. 2. Within the next 30 days, the HVAC and flat roof replacement at Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center will be completed. 3. Two Eagle Scout projects are being completed in city park facilities, one project added two new interpretive signs at McElroy Park, the second project is the refurbishing of the fire/bbq pits at the Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park lower parking area. 4. The RFQ for the fieldhouse project at Rotary Park goes out October 10th and close November 14th. 5. City staff is looking at the feasibility of creating a county wide Public Facilities District which would create a new revenue source for the development and operations of large indoor recreation facilities. 6. Staff is waiting on building supplies to start replacing one of the pedestrian bridges at IRRP. When the supplies arrive staff will complete the repairs. 7. Staff will bring playground options to the next November commission meeting. 8. Staff is reducing the irrigation schedule at all city parks facilities as a result of the water shortage.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Planning Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

October 23, 2025

Time of Meeting

5:45 PM

Place of Meeting

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Harrell called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Present: Michael Buehn, Ed Harrell, Geraldine O'Mahony, George Bottcher, Sathy Rajendran; Skylar Bisom-Rapp, Joe Sheeran

Absent:

Others Present: Stacey Henderson-Planning Manager; Kathy Boots-Planning Technician; David Miller-City Council Liaison; Amber Hoefer; one member of the public.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sheeran motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A September 11, 2025 Planning Commission Minutes

Commissioner O'Mahony motioned to approve the minutes from September 11, 2025. Motion passed 7-0.

3.B October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Harrell noted the October 9, 2025, meeting minutes mention Delano Palmer, who is not part of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Buehn motioned to approve the October 9, 2025, Planning Commission minutes with the redaction of Commissioner Palmer. Motion passed 7-0.

4. New Business

4.A Comprehensive Plan Amendment 25-02.001-.308 Study Session

Stacey Henderson updated the Commission on recent updates. The City Council had a study session on October 20, 2025, and was presented with an analysis from the workshops. The community conversations were reviewed. Amber Hoefer gave some background on the DEI Commission and recommendations to the City Council. The City Council discussed options and would like staff to rewrite the chapter in 2026 as part of the periodic update. Staff and DEI Commission members would work together to rewrite the chapter. Staff was directed to slightly revise the current chapter to be compliant with federal law and funding. The slightly revised chapter will be used until the

chapter is rewritten. The Commission will review the draft of the chapter at the November meeting. Planning Commission actions regarding the Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal were reviewed.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

The next meeting is November 13, 2025.

8. Commission Representative Update

No update

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Meeting Date: December 1, 2025
City of Ellensburg
City Council Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Project Acceptance Bid Call 2024-19 Seattle Ave Utility Extension – 400’ East of Willow St to Magnolia St Project
Submitted by: Grant Maskal, Construction Project Manager
Department: Public Works

Suggested Motion/Action:
Accept Bid Call 2024-19 as complete.

Background/Summary:

The construction of the Seattle Ave Utility Extension – 400’ East of Willow St to Magnolia St Project was completed in June of 2025. This project allowed for the installation of system redundancy for Water and Electrical systems in the City between Willow and Magnolia on Seattle Ave. This project also allowed for Natural Gas system redundancies between Willow and Locust on Seattle Ave. These system redundancy improvements assist nearby neighborhoods in the event of outages. Staff has recently received the necessary project closeout paperwork from the contractor and Council is now being requested to accept the project as complete.

Previous Council Action:

During the August 19th, 2024 Regular Council Meeting – Council awarded the above mentioned project to Pro Grade Enterprises Inc. Council also granted the City to purchase a utility easement from Robert and Jane Scheffelmaier at the September 5th, 2023 meeting. City staff negotiated the purchase of the easement for a value of \$1.

Analysis:

The Original Contract amount bid for the project was \$551,826.46. Total amount paid was \$496,824.70

Financial Impact:

This project was funded through the 2024/2025 biennial budget from the individual utilities that participated in this project. Gas, Water and Light divisions each contributed to this project.

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None

To whom it may concern,

I am unfortunately moving out of Kittitas county, and will no longer be able to be a part of the DEI commission for the city of Ellensburg. It is with a heavy heart that I submit this letter, and wish the commission the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Serena Turney

VOUCHER APPROVAL

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE MATERIALS HAVE BEEN FURNISHED, THE SERVICES RENDERED OR THE LABOR PERFORMED AS DESCRIBED, OR THAT ANY ADVANCE PAYMENT IS DUE AND PAYABLE PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT OR IS AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION FOR FULL OR PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF A CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION, AND THAT THE CLAIM IS A JUST, DUE AND UNPAID OBLIGATION AGAINST THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, AND THAT I AM AUTHORIZED TO AUTHENTICATE AND CERTIFY TO SAID CLAIM.


 Digitally signed by Jerica Pascoe
 Date: 2025.11.20 10:54:52 -08'00'
Jerica Pascoe

 AUDITING OFFICER DATE

CLAIMS VOUCHERS AUDITED AND CERTIFIED BY THE AUDITING OFFICER HAVE BEEN RECORDED ON THE ATTACHED LISTING, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL AS OF THIS **1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025**. THE COUNCIL, BY A VOTE, HAS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT THE VOUCHERS INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE LIST AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Claims Fund				Total Amounts	
Check #'s	172296	TO	172417	\$	630,436.23
EFT #'s	7707	TO	7728	\$	1,535,536.58
Treasure Cash				Total Amounts	
EFT #'S	1476	TO	1484	\$	100,773.63
Check #'s	34486	TO	34491	\$	1,536.99
Payroll Fund				Total Amounts	
Check #'s	96524	TO	96532	\$	7,475.91
Direct Deposits	89015	TO	89261	\$	557,952.70

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK

	Residency Requirement	Members within City Limits	Members outside City Limits	CWU-Appointed	ESD-Appointed	Ex Officio (EHS-Appointed)	Utility Customers	Alternates	Total Members	Current Vacancies	Applicant Name
Affordable Housing Commission	Y	5	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	0	
Arts Commission	N	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	3	Jensen Lopez & Therese Young
Civil Service Commission	Y	3	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	0	
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission	Y	7	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	4	
Ellensburg Transportation Advisory Committee	N	6	1	2	1	N/A	N/A	1	7	1 (alternate)	
Environmental Commission	Y	5	1	1	1		N/A	N/A	7	2 (EHS & CWU appointments)	
Landmarks & Design Commission	Y	6	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	0	
LEOFF Board	Y	3	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	1	
Library Board	Y	7	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	0	
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee	N	3	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	2	
Parks & Recreation Commission	Y	6	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	0	
Planning Commission	Y	7	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	0	
Utility Advisory Committee	N	5	0	1	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	7	2 (Utility customers)	

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Gretchen Delaford <delafordg@ellensburgwa.gov>
Subject: [Ext] Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment



Application for Appointment

Application for Appointment

For volunteering to serve on a Board or Commission

Boards & Commissions	Arts Commission
Have you attended a meeting for the board or commission you are applying to?	No
Name of Applicant:	(Jensen) Vincent Michael Lopez
Address	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address (If Different)	Field not completed.
City	Ellensburg
State	WA
Zip	98926
Email Address	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Do you live within the city limits? Yes

ECC 1.12.120 Residency qualification. Except where a commission, board or committee specifically requires city residency as a condition of appointment, members of all other commissions, boards and committees shall maintain residency within the Kittitas County limits. "Residency," as used herein, means residing within the city or county limits, as applicable, both at the time of appointment and for at least 270 days within each calendar year for the duration of the member's term, but shall not include any period for which a member is absent due to military service.

Occupation Status and Background:

I have dedicated over 25 years to a professional career as a Contemporary Ballet Dancer, Choreographer and teacher. My performance history includes performances with Donald Byrd of Spectrum Dance Theater & Whim W'Him in Seattle WA as well as Wideman/Davis Dance, A national touring dance company.

In addition to performance,, I have pursued opportunities to advance cultural exchange and arts education. I completed a residency at the American School of Dhaka in Bangladesh, where I developed and led dance programming. During this time I also facilitated community residences, teaching dance to underprivileged youth across the city. These international experiences reinforced my commitment to the role of the arts as a vehicle for education, accessibility, lacrosse cultural dialogue.

Currently, I continue my artistic practice as a Photographer & cinematographer. My work remains rooted in the principles of movement, composition, and storytelling, allowing me to extend my artistic voice into new mediums while continuing to engage audiences throughout eh visual art.

Organization Affiliations:

Spectrum Dance Theater
Wideman/Davis Dance
Whim W'Him

Why are you seeking appointment?

I am seeking to serve on the City Arts Council to bring my perspective as a lifelong artist and cultural worker to the service of my community. I understand the arts as both a professional practice and a tool for connection. I want to help ensure that artists across disciplines have opportunities to

thrive and the arts remain an accessible and vital part of our city.

Will you be able to attend meetings regularly if appointed? Yes

If your first choice, as listed above, is not available, which other boards or commissions would you be interested in serving on?

Boards & Commissions Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Boards & Commissions Landmarks and Design Commission

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:10 PM
To: Gretchen Delaford <delafordg@ellensburgwa.gov>
Subject: [Ext] Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment



Application for Appointment

Application for Appointment

For volunteering to serve on a Board or Commission

Boards & Commissions	Arts Commission
Have you attended a meeting for the board or commission you are applying to?	No
Name of Applicant:	Therese Young
Address	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address (If Different)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Ellensburg
State	WA
Zip	98926
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Do you live within the city limits? Yes

ECC 1.12.120 Residency qualification. Except where a commission, board or committee specifically requires city residency as a condition of appointment, members of all other commissions, boards and committees shall maintain residency within the Kittitas County limits. "Residency," as used herein, means residing within the city or county limits, as applicable, both at the time of appointment and for at least 270 days within each calendar year for the duration of the member's term, but shall not include any period for which a member is absent due to military service.

Occupation Status and Background: Retired
CWU Tenured Dance Professor 24 years

Organization Affiliations: In transition from University related organizations to community based affiliations.

Why are you seeking appointment? I have time and knowledge to share.

Will you be able to attend meetings regularly if appointed? Yes

If your first choice, as listed above, is not available, which other boards or commissions would you be interested in serving on?

Boards & Commissions *Field not completed.*

Boards & Commissions *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



DATE: November 13, 2025
TO: City Council
From: Ellensburg Arts Commission
Subject: Recommendation of Appointments

The Ellensburg Arts Commission subcommittee consisting of Jeffrey Snedeker, Alex Eyre, and staff member, Kelle Vandenberg conducted a series of interviews for the appointment of two new commissioner appointments.

New Appointment Recommendation:

Jensen Vincent Michael Lopez, recommended by Chair, Alex Eyre, is a professional contemporary and ballet dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Jensen's active involvement in the arts community is well respected. Based on the subcommittee interview, and their contribution to the arts in Ellensburg, we recommend appointing Jensen Lopez to the Arts Commission effective through May 31, 2029.

New Appointment Recommendation:

Therese Young, former Arts Treasure Award Winner and CWU Tenured Dance Professor, Therese has spent the last 24 years teaching dance in the community and building arts programming. Based on her contributions to the arts in Ellensburg, and subcommittee interview, we recommend appointing Therese Young to the Arts Commission effective through May 31, 2027

Submitted by:
Kelle Vandenberg
Arts & Economic Development Manager
Staff Liaison, Ellensburg Arts Commission

To: Ellensburg City Council
From: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission
Date: November 24, 2025
Subject: DEI Commission Recommendation – Chapter 9 Alternate Draft

Ellensburg City Councilmembers,

The Ellensburg Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission is submitting this letter to share input and our recommendation regarding the revised version of Chapter 9. After reviewing the draft prepared by City staff (referred to here as “Draft A”) and comparing it to the direction provided by Council, the outcomes of the Common Ground workshops, feedback from the Planning Commission, and what was communicated to the public throughout this process. Our Commission has significant concerns about Draft A and its alignment with community priorities. In response, we are offering an alternate version (“Draft B”) that restores and refines concepts we believe are essential and missing from Draft A. Draft B reflects the concerns raised during the Planning Commission’s public hearing, including questions about how recent federal guidance should be interpreted at the local level, while working to preserve the community’s shared priorities.

Concerns with Draft A (City draft presented to the Planning Commission)

Draft A removes nearly all references to the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion—ideas that residents across a wide range of perspectives identified as fundamental to belonging and access in Ellensburg. These concepts were eliminated without replacement, restructuring, or explanation. During the Common Ground workshops, participants repeatedly stated that they supported the goals of the original chapter and wanted to maintain its focus on belonging, access, and equitable engagement. Their concerns centered largely on terminology, not on the substance of the chapter. Those shared values do not appear in Draft A.

In its current form, Draft A removes many of the action-oriented policies and measurable commitments that translate those community values into practice, even though workshop participants articulated a clear desire for measurable outcomes and transparent data. The original chapter provided a clear policy structure: identifying barriers, supporting residents who face them, and outlining steps the City could take to improve access and inclusion. The revised draft shifts to broad “community engagement” language that is not measurable, not grounded in the workshop outcomes, and not reflective of what City staff presented to Council on October 20, the DEI Commission on October 17, or the Planning Commission on October 23. City staff had also previously suggested titles such as “Equity and Community Engagement” or “Equity, Accessibility, and Engagement,” but none of this language appears in the Draft A.

Several Councilmembers also stated, prior to voting on this option, that they did not want the original intent of Chapter 9 to be lost. Many Councilmembers acknowledged the value of much of the existing content and directed that revisions be made by incorporating community feedback, rather than removing the chapter’s purpose or starting over. However, Draft A does not reflect that guidance.

Context on Draft B (Alternate draft prepared by the DEI Commission)

For these reasons, the DEI Commission has developed an alternative revision of Chapter 9 (“Draft B”) that retains the chapter’s core purpose while incorporating Common Ground feedback, clarifying terminology, strengthening policy language, and removing elements that could raise legal questions. Draft B significantly reduces risk compared to the original chapter while still maintaining the chapter’s intent: to help the City identify barriers, foster belonging, and ensure that all residents can meaningfully participate in civic life.

We also want to note that the City Attorney clarified that the concerns raised regarding federal laws or legal compliance were not based on specific violations or binding requirements. Rather, these were presented as policy considerations for Council when assessing potential levels of risk. This is a matter of Council’s decision to determine levels of risk rather than legal compliance. No federal law requires removing references to diversity, equity, or inclusion from a comprehensive plan. Regardless, Draft B addresses many of the policy concerns raised during those conversations while preserving the chapter’s purpose and reflecting the expectations expressed by the community throughout this process.

In the absence of any stated rationale or consistent framework explaining the term and section removals in Draft A, the Commission evaluated the sections and produced a comparable revision while maintaining the intent of the chapter.

To share a few contextual examples, Draft B removes language like “systemic issues” and “systemic inequalities” that were retained in Draft A, and replaces them with terminology that acknowledges particular social barriers (see Table 1 - Terminology Analysis Across Drafts). Additionally, while Draft A retained mention of the Yakama Nation, but removed content related to other non-majority groups, as well as demographic information grounded in census data, Draft B restores this section. Factual information about Ellensburg’s demographic makeup is well within the bounds of federal guidance and provides necessary context for understanding the experiences of residents who face additional barriers. Throughout the draft, we also acknowledge the broad diversity of Ellensburg and note the varying challenges residents encounter (for example, that Ellensburg is “home to residents with a wide range of life experiences, identities, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances,” and that “not everyone moves through our community with the same level of ease or access, and some residents encounter challenges that others may never see”). This acknowledgement to broad diversity does so without naming individual identities or groups that may experience barriers. These revisions restore the Chapter’s original focus on identifying social restrictions or concerns, acknowledging the inherent diversity of Ellensburg, and expressing the need for the city to develop more inclusive frameworks.

Table 1 - Terminology Analysis Across Drafts

Terminology	Draft A		Draft B	
	In current draft	Removed	In current draft	Removed
<i>Diversity/Diverse</i>	4	42	4	42
<i>Inclusive/Inclusion</i>	2	38	4	35
<i>Equity/Equitable</i>	0	40	2	36
<i>Systemic/Systematically</i>	2	3	0	5

*Note: Counts include occurrences in section titles and footers/page headers. Draft B retains the name of the DEI Commission, which includes all three terms and is reflected in that version’s “In Current Draft” total.

Table 1 demonstrates the high number of removed terms (36–42 occurrences across categories) and illustrates how extensive the changes are in the Chapter. While Draft B removes the specific terms at a similar rate to reflect concerns raised about potential legal risk, it restores the chapter’s intent through replacement language. By contrast, Draft A eliminates the vast majority of the language connected to identifying barriers, understanding community experiences, and outlining actionable steps, but does so without adding new content to preserve the chapter’s purpose. The fact that so many instances are removed without revision models the scale of erasure in Draft A.

DEI Commission Recommendation

For these reasons, we respectfully recommend that Council consider the DEI Commission’s Draft B of Chapter 9 as the basis for moving forward. Draft B reflects community input, honors the Common Ground process, reduces legal risk, and maintains the integrity and accountability that a comprehensive plan chapter is meant to provide. Unlike Draft A, which removed nearly all elements tied to belonging, access, and reducing barriers, Draft B reflects a compromise. It keeps the underlying framework that both the community and Council identified as important while adjusting language to address staff concerns. It ensures that the Chapter’s foundation at present speaks to identifiable issues, barriers, and needs, rather than a non-measurable and undefined focus on engagement, which would change the inherent meaning of the Chapter. It provides a balanced, cautious foundation now and leaves room for more targeted revisions during the scheduled 2026 periodic update when clearer federal guidance will be available. Draft B has been reviewed by the Ellensburg City Attorney who shared there are different “risk profiles” for each draft; however, there are not any legal issues within the revised draft as this is a policy decision to be determined by City Council.

We appreciate your consideration and remain eager to work collaboratively with Council and staff to finalize a chapter that genuinely serves the Ellensburg community.

Sincerely,

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission



CHAPTER 9 ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, & BELONGING

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER

- Background information and context related to local history, current events, and plans for the future, addressing the City's efforts to ensure residents can participate fully and access opportunities without unnecessary barriers.
- Policies that seek to make City resources more accessible to all.
- Policies that direct the City's efforts towards encouraging welcoming and inclusive environments within the Community.
- Policies intended to foster a community environment, where people from all backgrounds experience a sense of belonging.

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains goals, policies, and programs that define how the City of Ellensburg can play a role in fostering an environment of understanding, access, and belonging within the community. It recognizes that not all community members experience the city in the same way, and that some face barriers that make it harder to access information, services, or opportunities. The intent of this chapter is to identify ways the City can understand and reduce those barriers, strengthen community connections, and support a sense of belonging for everyone who lives here.

This document is a starting point for the City. There are likely many issues not yet articulated that can be addressed later as they are identified. This chapter is a living document; it is intended to be revisited and revised periodically. The focus is on listening, improving access, and ensuring that people of all backgrounds and identities can engage meaningfully in Ellensburg community life, regardless of background and experiences.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Ellensburg is committed to creating a community with a lived and built environment that improves lives, supports all people, and provides residents with opportunities to flourish. Creating a community where people can thrive requires paying attention to the lived experiences of those who may encounter obstacles—whether physical, social, economic, or cultural—that impact their ability to navigate daily life or engage with local government. Doing so can help create a thriving local economy, retain our residents and attract new ones, and foster an environment where individuals can achieve their full potential.

In recent years, national and local conversations have highlighted the importance of understanding how different groups in our community experience Ellensburg. In 2020, many residents shared that certain challenges or barriers affect their ability to access opportunities, feel safe, or feel like they belong. These conversations highlighted the need for the city to be intentional about listening to residents, understanding where barriers exist, and working toward solutions that foster participation, fairness, and a sense of belonging for all who live here. The goal of this chapter is to identify ways the City can recognize and address these barriers, and strengthen community connection by consistently listening to residents, responding to concerns, and supporting practices that help all people feel welcomed and included in Ellensburg’s civic, social, and economic life.

Why this matters in Ellensburg

Ellensburg is home to residents with a wide range of life experiences, identities, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances. Not everyone moves through our community with the same level of ease or access, and some residents encounter challenges that others may never see. When the City understands these differences and plans with them in mind, it helps ensure that public services, facilities, and community spaces are welcoming, functional, and safe for everyone.

Paying attention to where people may face barriers, whether physical, social, economic, cultural, linguistic, or informational, allows the City to identify gaps early and respond in ways that strengthen trust and connection. When residents feel seen, valued, and able to participate fully in community life, the whole city benefits. This approach supports a healthy civic environment, fosters stronger neighborhoods, and contributes to a resilient local economy.

The purpose of this chapter is to guide the City in proactively recognizing where barriers may exist, listening to community experiences, and continually improving how we engage with and serve the public. By building a community where all residents can participate and feel a sense of belonging, Ellensburg positions itself to grow in a way that is inclusive, collaborative, and forward-looking.



Fostering a sense of belonging

Creating a community where everyone feels they belong requires us to pay attention to the experiences of residents who may not always feel fully seen or heard. When we make space for voices that have been, or continue to be, overlooked, we build trust, strengthen connection, and help ensure that the future we shape reflects the needs and hopes of all who live here. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of current policies or ways of engaging residents. The City seeks to promote new ways of sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. In doing so, the City of Ellensburg can support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

To support all residents, the City will continue to work on goals and policies that actively recruit participation and involvement from all residents within the community, foster a sense of belonging, and engage those who experience barriers to social and cultural participation. These methods can include listening tours, surveys, discussion groups, and use of a variety of media and print publications designed to be accessible to all residents. Creating and supporting goals and policies that meet the community members where they are will help to remove the barriers that make accessing or engaging with basic community services challenging. Increasing accessibility to important resources and opportunities that best meet residents varying needs helps all residents succeed.

Recognizing the Past - Looking to the Future

An important step in building a forward-thinking vision within the community is to first learn about our local history, listen to residents' perceptions now, and consider how new goals and policies will positively affect the City of Ellensburg's plans for the future. The City cannot adequately support our community and elevate all people, regardless of their backgrounds, identities, or experiences, without first building a base of contextual knowledge, understanding, and trust.

Past

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a multicultural community composed of a broad range of people and families, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared. Acknowledging and learning local history within the community, the positive and the negative, can help increase awareness and empathy toward others and strengthen our community as a whole. Understanding local history can help create a more inclusive environment for all, where residents feel welcome and equally represented.

Kittitas Valley has always been, and continues to be, sacred to Native people. Traditionally, the Pshwanapum lived in the Kittitas Valley as a sub-band of the larger political and extended family networks of the Yakama tribes and bands. The Pshwanapum members were also referred to as the K'titas ("Kittitas") band, and they moved seasonally throughout the valley and nearby mountains to harvest roots, salmon, berries, game, and medicines. Several other tribal nations including Kiala, Tatxanixsha, Yumi'sh, and Che-lo-han, would hunt and trade in this area as well. Many descendants of these tribes continue to live throughout the 1855 Treaty.

Territory of the Yakamas, practicing, honoring, and teaching the heritage and ancestry of the area. (*Information sourced from Daily Record News article from Aronica Family October 12, 2020, and Kittitas Valley Historical Museum*)

In addition to the many contributions from those commonly identified as the founders of modern Ellensburg, the histories and experiences of those often overlooked within Ellensburg for their contributions and background continues to be uncovered within documentation and oral records, and there is still much more to be discovered. Residents from Black, Chinese, Jewish, Hispanic, and Japanese communities moved to Ellensburg as early as the mid-19th Century for reasons including migrant labor, such as work on the railroad or at local businesses. Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town," and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many Black individuals played on local baseball teams as well. There is also evidence at times of divisive behavior and negative language towards these communities during this time, as found in newspaper advertisements regarding restaurants and hotels that employed individuals.

Present

Despite Ellensburg's vibrant multicultural and diverse makeup, individuals from historically underrepresented communities and backgrounds still report that they feel invisible, experience targeted and discriminatory comments and unwelcoming behavior. While members of some communities within Ellensburg have reported experiencing negative or targeted incidents, they also believe that Ellensburg can be more engaging, welcoming, and supportive, and that the welcoming nature of our community can rise to a deeper level of acceptance and affirmation, and can draw on the talents, skills, and experiences of all who live here.

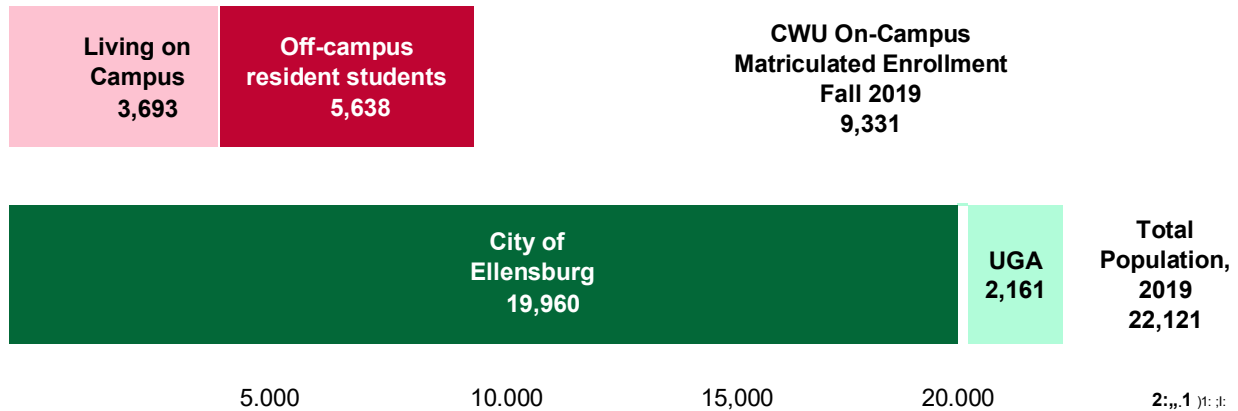
Ellensburg is often a welcoming community where people come together in times of need, where neighbors look out for one another. However, fully supporting and accepting identities, cultures, and backgrounds of those who experience unwelcoming behaviors or additional barriers, can be improved. Strengthening our ability to include and support people of all backgrounds remains an ongoing priority. Similar to what many towns and cities around the country are currently experiencing and working on, the City of Ellensburg recognizes it needs to be more responsive and prepared when handling issues related including all residents, present and future. This chapter lays the groundwork for this to happen, as the City continues towards a future of growth and expansion.

Future

Our dynamic community landscape has continued to develop, particularly in the last ten years, growing in size and in the composition of residents. Statistics from the City of Ellensburg's 2021 Housing Action Plan, show that in 2020, the estimated population of the City, with its urban growth area, (UGA) was 22,879 people, demonstrating a growth rate of roughly 1.9% annually since 2015. Of the 22,879 people, roughly 9,331 constitute CWU enrollment, 3,693 of which were on-campus living, and 5,638 representing off campus resident students, as depicted in *Figure 26*.

¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and/or questioning

Figure 26. CWU Student Population and Total Population, 2018



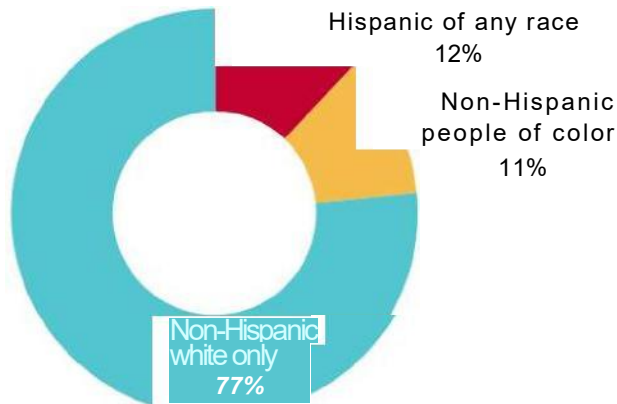
Students living on campus represents the housing occupancy for Fall 2019. Programmed capacity is 3,918 and the full built capacity is 4,249.

Sources: Central Washington University — Ellensburg Campus, Fall 2019; Washington OFM, 2021; BERK, 2021

As the City continues to support the needs of the various communities that live here, it is important to recognize that the statistics reflected in this chapter from the 2021 Housing Action Plan, do not reflect all of the varied demographics of our community. It is still valuable to look at current information that is available as we work towards obtaining more detailed statistics. It is anticipated that by 2040, 20% of the County population will be in the age bracket over age 65, and 19% in the age bracket of 45 to 64. At the same time, proportional decreases are expected for school-aged youth (5 to 19).

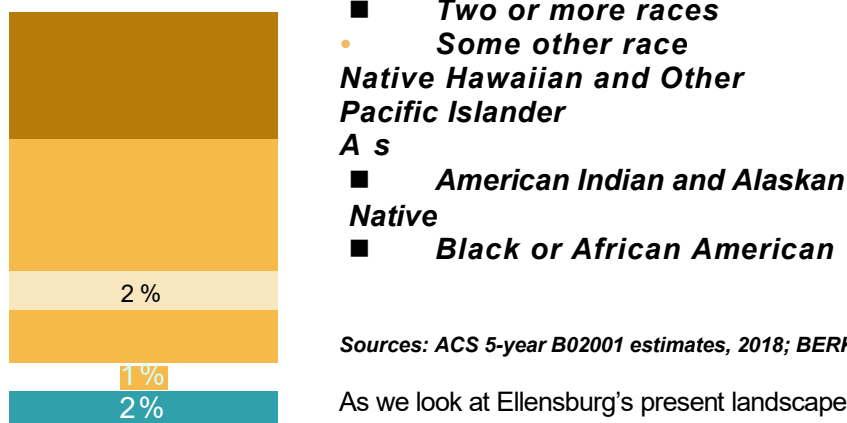
The Census also captures the ethnic background of respondents. As shown in *Figure 27* below, the Ellensburg community in 2018 was majority White and non-Hispanic (77%) but is growing to be more multicultural. From 2010 to 2018, Ellensburg's Hispanic population increased from 7% to 12% overall, and non-Hispanic non-white residents increased from 8% to 11%. *Figure 28* *Figure 27* provides a further breakdown of the Non-White Alone demographics.

Figure 27. Ellensburg Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2028



Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

Figure 28. Ellensburg Population by Racial Identity for Non-White Alone Residents, 2028



Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

As we look at Ellensburg’s present landscape, it’s important to recognize how changes in Ellensburg’s population have been influenced by many factors, including the role of our local university, and these shifts continue to shape the character of the community. The University’s emphasis on attracting students, faculty, and staff, and those from underrepresented backgrounds and identities, continues to impact the demographics of Ellensburg. The changing nature of the labor force has also brought a wider array of people and backgrounds in the community. People from many countries have settled in Ellensburg over the years, and there is no reason to think that these influential factors are going to be less impactful in the future.

As Ellensburg continues to grow, there is the potential for those whose identities are not within the majority to feel excluded, unless the community has a plan for improving its relationships with all residents. The City of Ellensburg has developed this chapter in a sincere effort to create safe, welcoming, and understanding community-- one where all residents know they belong and are welcome.

GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

These goals, policies, and programs contain steps that the City of Ellensburg will take to create an accessible, welcoming, equitable, and safe community.

Goal -1: Increase accessibility to City Services, Projects, Programs, and Events.

Policy A Support policies and programs that increase accessibility to City services for all, guided by an awareness of varied community needs and potential barriers.

Program 1 Provide increased access to government documents in multiple languages and easily accessible assistance for those who may need additional support.

Program 2 Identify areas of City government where greater physical accessibility and accommodations are needed to increase access to all members of the public.

Policy B Promote and encourage community engagement and outreach to all.

Program 1 Actively encourage participation from the public for community projects, events, and recreational activities, through a wide variety of media and information distribution methods.

Program 2 Provide City staff and elected officials with tools and regular training to understand and lead actions that deepen their understanding of community needs and to lead efforts that reduce barriers to participation.

Program 3 Establish an ongoing review process of the costs for City-sponsored recreation and leisure activities to ensure that all members of the public have access to these services.

Program 4 Support civic education programs that actively engage of community members from many backgrounds, and encourage diverse representation among local leadership, organizations, and agencies.

Goal -2: Foster Understanding, Cultural Awareness, and Belonging within the Community.

Policy A Encourage cultural sharing.

Program 1 Regularly support events and celebrations that highlight the variety of cultural traditions within the community.

Program 2 Encourage the creation of spaces where cultural foods and traditions can be shared among all members of the community, as well as the creation of public spaces that are accommodating and accessible to all.

- Program 3** Encourage increased communication and collaboration between the City government, Central Washington University, businesses, and education and social service sectors, through shared events, projects, and outreach, to help residents feel more comfortable visiting campus, and non-resident students feel more comfortable within the community.
- Policy B** **Encourage local leadership to address ongoing issues that create barriers for participation.**
- Program 1** Encourage City leadership to demonstrate support of groups that experience additional social barriers or a sense of exclusion through a variety of proclamations, and publicly speak to local actions that affect the diverse members of the community.
- Program 2** Support the development of a framework to identify and address areas where individuals experience barriers within our local institutions.
- Program 3** Collaborate with local organizations to help local businesses support a broad spectrum of community members from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Goal -3: Increase accessibility to local services and community resources for all residents.**
- Policy A** **Ensure that high quality service programs are available, accessible, and utilized by all in order to support resident's basic needs.**
- Program 1** Partner with local health and social services to identify strategies for making their services accessible by all means of transportation.
- Program 2** Advocate for low income, residential care facilities, and other housing for aging people to be located close to services and amenities.
- Program 3** Encourage and support programs that seek to provide residents with access to health care providers with varied expertise and backgrounds who can respond to varying cultural and medical needs.
- Policy B** **Encourage healthy activity and lifestyle by making recreational resources and opportunities accessible and welcoming to all residents.**
- Program 1** Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.
- Program 2** Encourage communication between local businesses, organizations, and schools, to coordinate food pantries and local food distribution.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Work with DEI Commission to begin regular review of current City policies and procedures to better engage those who face barriers or have been less represented within the City's planning .
2. Provide opportunities for staff and elected officials to engage and learn more about ways to reduce barriers and make Ellensburg more welcoming.
3. Increase use of community engagement to help with local outreach.
4. Review fees and costs for city sponsored recreational and leisure activities.
5. Develop a framework of accountability.
6. Develop a work plan for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.

POLICY CONNECTIONS

The **Housing** chapter includes policies and land use designations that support the development of many types of housing to ensure that people who live and work in Ellensburg have adequate housing choices.

The **Transportation** chapter includes policies related to providing a variety of transportation networks that is available for all community members.

The **Capital Facilities and Utilities** chapter includes policies that focus on providing public facilities and utilities that are accessible and affordable to all community members, including access to the library, reasonably priced utilities, and access to data and technology. This chapter also provides goals centered around providing excellent public safety services.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes policies that focus on providing citywide programs and services that meet all community and group needs, in addition to preserving historical areas and features, while also developing high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.

The **Economic Development** chapter includes policies related to growing and sustaining local businesses, while creating opportunities for new businesses that can provide goods and services that meet the needs of the local and regional community.



CHAPTER 9 DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, & BELONGING

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER

- Background information and context related to local history, current events, and plans for the future, addressing the City's efforts to ensure residents can participate fully and access opportunities without unnecessary barriers. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the City of Ellensburg.
- Policies that seek to make City resources more accessible to all.
- Policies that direct the City's efforts towards encouraging welcoming and inclusive environments within the Community.
- Policies intended to support a culturally inclusive community foster a community environment, where people from all people backgrounds

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains goals, policies, and programs that define how the City of Ellensburg can play a role in fostering an environment of understanding, equity access, and belonging within the community. It recognizes that not all community members experience the city in the same way, and that some face barriers that make it harder to access information, services, or opportunities. The intent of this chapter is to identify ways the City can understand and reduce those barriers, strengthen community connections, and support a sense of belonging for everyone who lives here. The following is the City of Ellensburg's initial action plan aimed at systematically addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a way that can effect sustainable change to benefit all residents.

This document is a starting point for the City. There are likely many issues not yet articulated that can be addressed later as they are identified. This chapter is a living document; it is intended to be revisited and revised periodically. The focus is on listening, improving access, and ensuring that people of all backgrounds and identities can engage meaningfully in Ellensburg community

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life, regardless of background and experiences.

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~~This is an initial framework, within which the City will continue to listen to residents, encourage collaboration and communication, and elevate marginalized voices.~~

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BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Ellensburg is committed to creating a community with a lived and built environment that improves lives, supports all people, and provides residents with opportunities to flourish. Creating a community where people can thrive requires paying attention to the lived experiences of those who may encounter obstacles, whether physical, social, economic, or cultural, that impact their ability to navigate daily life or engage with local government. It is important for the Ellensburg community to be inclusive, to celebrate diversity, and to provide equitable opportunities to all. Doing so can help create a thriving local economy, retain our residents and attract new ones, and foster an environment in which individuals can achieve their full potential.

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In recent years, national and local conversations have highlighted the importance of understanding how different groups in our community experience Ellensburg. In 2020, many residents shared that certain challenges or barriers affect their ability to access opportunities, feel safe, or feel like they belong. Similar to many cities around the country, the national conversations that occurred in 2020 around race, social justice, and equity, sparked a discussion within our local community. These conversations highlighted the need for the city to build intentional about listening to residents, understanding where barriers exist, and working toward solutions that foster participation, fairness, and a sense of belonging for all who live here. a greater awareness of the impacts and challenges that marginalized communities are faced with on a daily basis. The goal of this chapter is to address ways in which the City can alleviate some of these systemic barriers, and foster a sense of belonging amongst all residents, by consistently listening to the ideas, experiences, and concerns of all who live here. identify ways the City can recognize and address these barriers, and strengthen community connection by consistently listening to residents, responding to concerns, and supporting practices that help all people feel welcomed and included in Ellensburg's civic, social, and economic life.

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Why this matters in Ellensburg

Ellensburg is home to residents with a wide range of life experiences, identities, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances. Not everyone moves through our community with the same level of ease or access, and some residents encounter challenges that others may never see. When the City understands these differences and plans with them in mind, it helps ensure that public services, facilities, and community spaces are welcoming, functional, and safe for everyone.

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Paying attention to where people may face barriers, whether physical, social, economic, cultural, linguistic, or informational, allows the City to identify gaps early and respond in ways that strengthen trust and connection. When residents feel seen, valued, and able to participate fully in community life, the whole city benefits. This approach supports a healthy civic environment, fosters stronger neighborhoods, and contributes to a resilient local economy.

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The purpose of this chapter is to guide the City in proactively recognizing where barriers may exist, listening to community experiences, and continually improving how we engage with and serve the

public. By building a community where all residents can participate and feel a sense of belonging, Ellensburg positions itself to grow in a way that is inclusive, collaborative, and forward-looking.

Through the lens of DEI

What does this all mean? Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion related educational opportunities, social-gathering opportunities, and supporting access to community resources, can create a sense of belonging within the community for all residents.

Diversity

Diversity is the presence of differences that may include, but are not limited to, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, socioeconomic status, language, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, or political perspective. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of human differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of local policies. Embracing diversity means sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. The City can help support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

Equity

Equity alleviates barriers to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist, and that as a result, we don't all start from the same place. Creating and supporting goals and policies that meet the community members where they are, will help to remove systemic barriers that make accessing basic community services challenging. Increasing accessibility to important resources and opportunities that best meet residents varying needs helps all residents succeed.

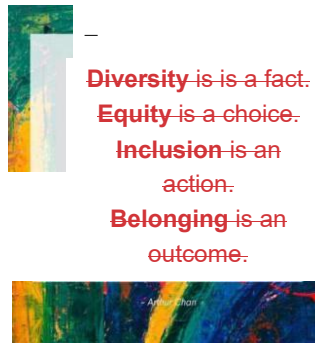
CITY OF ELLENSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHAPTER 9 ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, & BELONGING
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION PAGE 158

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Inclusion

Inclusion is when all residents experience a sense of belonging and know they are both welcome in our community and encouraged to participate. Working on goals and policies that actively recruit participation and involvement from all residents within the community, fosters a sense of belonging and elevates traditionally marginalized voices. These methods can include listening tours, surveys, discussion groups, and use of a variety of media and print publications designed to be accessible to all residents.

Fostering a sense of belonging

Creating a community where everyone feels they belong requires us to pay attention to the experiences of residents who may not always feel fully seen or heard. When we make space for voices that have historically been, or continue to be, overlooked, we build trust, strengthen connection, and help ensure that the future we shape reflects the needs and hopes of all who live here. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of current policies or ways of engaging residents. The City seeks to promote new ways of sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. In doing so, the City of Ellensburg can support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

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An important step in building a forward-thinking vision within the community is to first learn about our local history, listen to residents' perceptions now, and consider how new goals and policies will positively affect the City of Ellensburg's plans for the future. The City cannot adequately support our community and elevate marginalized voices all people, regardless of their backgrounds, identities, or experiences, without first building a base of contextual knowledge, understanding, and trust.

Past

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a diverse-multicultural community composed of a broad range of people and families, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared.

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[CITY OF ELLENSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHAPTER 9 DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION PAGE 159](#)

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In addition to the many contributions from those commonly identified as the founders of modern Ellensburg, the histories and experiences of marginalized communities and people of color those often overlooked within Ellensburg for their contributions and background continues to be uncovered within documentation and oral records, within Ellensburg continue to be uncovered from written and oral records, and there is still much more to be discovered. Historically, members including, but not limited to, Residents from Black, Chinese, Jewish, Hispanic, and Japanese communities have moved to Ellensburg as early as the mid-19th Century, for various reasons for reasons including, such as migrant labor, work on the railroad, and work in local businesses such as work on the railroad or at local businesses. Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town," and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many Black individuals played on local baseball teams as well. There is also evidence at times of divisive behavior and negative language towards people of color these communities during this time, as found in newspaper advertisements regarding restaurants and hotels that employed Chinese individuals.

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Present

Currently, people of color, members of the LGBTQ+, and disability communities, among many others, Despite Ellensburg's vibrant multicultural and diverse makeup, individuals from historically underrepresented communities and backgrounds still report that they feel invisible, experience slurs and targeted and discriminatory comments and unwelcoming behavior, nonverbal glares, and are subjected behaviors that feel unwelcoming in Ellensburg. While members of some of marginalized communities within Ellensburg have reported experiencing frequent, negative or targeted incidents, they also believe that Ellensburg can be more engaging, welcoming, and inclusive supportive, and that the welcoming nature of our community can rise to a deeper level of acceptance and affirmation, utilizing and can draw on the talents, skills, and experiences of all who live here.

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Ellensburg can be as often a welcoming community that where people comes together in times of need, where strangers reach out and neighbors help each other look out for one another. However, fully supporting and accepting identities, cultures, and backgrounds of those who experience unwelcoming behaviors or additional barriers, people of color, ethnic and religious minorities, and members of the LGBTQ, disability communities, over 65 communities, and others, can be improved. Strengthening our ability to include and support people of all backgrounds remains an ongoing priority. Similar to what many towns and cities around the country are currently experiencing and working on, the City of Ellensburg recognizes it needs to be more responsive and prepared when handling issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion including all residents, present and future. This chapter lays the groundwork for this to happen, as the City continues towards a future of growth and expansion.

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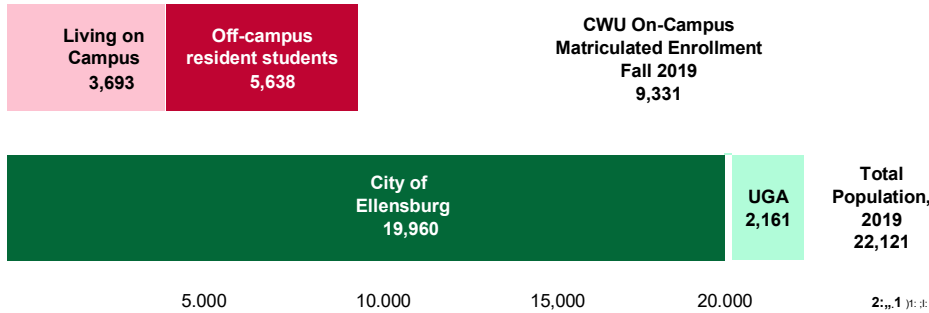
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As the City continues to support the needs of the diverse various communities that live here, it is important to recognize that the statistics reflected in this chapter from the 2021 Housing Action Plan, do not reflect all of the diverse varied demographics of our community. Keeping that in mind, it is still valuable to look at current information that is available, as we work towards obtaining more detailed statistics in the future. By 2040 it is anticipated that by 2040, 20% of the County population will be in the age bracket over age 65, and 19% in the age bracket of 45 to 64. At the same time, proportional decreases are expected for school-aged youth (5 to 19).

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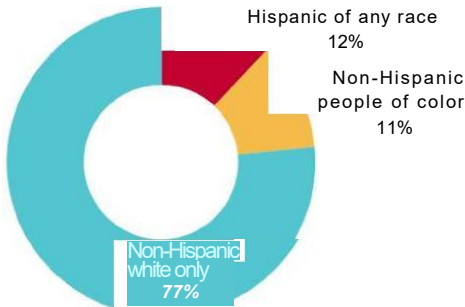
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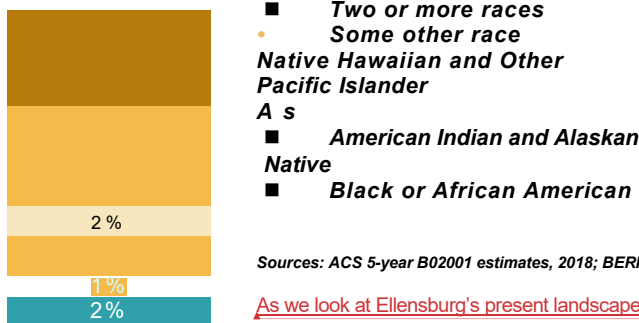
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Figure 27. Ellensburg Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2028



Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

Figure 28. Ellensburg Population by Racial Identity for Non-White Alone Residents, 2028



Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

As we look at Ellensburg's present landscape, it's important to recognize how changes in Ellensburg's population have been influenced by many factors, including the role of our local university, and these shifts continue to shape the

character of the community. The University's emphasis on attracting students from minority and underserved communities, as well as diverse faculty and staff, diverse students, faculty, and staff, and those from underrepresented backgrounds and identities, continues to impact the demographics of Ellensburg. The changing nature of the labor force has also brought a wider array of people and backgrounds created greater diversity in the community. People from many countries have settled in Ellensburg over the years, and there is no reason to think that these influential factors are going to be less impactful in the future.

As Ellensburg continues to grow, there is the potential for marginalized groups those whose identities are not within the majority to feel excluded, unless the community has a plan for improving cultural-its relationships with all residents. The City of Ellensburg has developed this chapter in a sincere effort to create an equitable, just, and safe community safe, welcoming, and understanding community— one where all residents know they belong and are welcome.

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GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

These DEI goals, policies, and programs contain steps that the City of Ellensburg will take to create an inclusive, accessible, welcoming, equitable, and safe community.

Goal DEI-1: Increase accessibility to City Services, Projects, Programs, and Events.

Policy A Support policies and programs that increase accessibility to City services for all, guided by an awareness of varied community needs and potential barriers, utilizing the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Program 1 Provide increased access to government documents in multiple languages and easily accessible assistance for those who may need additional support.

Program 2 Identify areas of City government where greater physical accessibility and accommodations are needed to increase access to all members of the public.

Policy B Promote and encourage community engagement and outreach to all.

Program 1 Actively encourage participation from the public for community projects, events, and recreational activities, through a wide variety of media and information distribution methods.

Program 2 Provide City staff and elected officials with tools and regular training to understand and lead actions that deepen their understanding of community needs and to lead efforts that reduce barriers to participation, are inclusive and equitable.

Program 3 Establish an ongoing review process of the costs for City-sponsored recreation and leisure activities to ensure that all members of the public have access to these services.

Program 4 Support civic education programs that actively engage of -community members from many backgrounds diverse groups of the community, and encourage diverse representation among local leadership, organizations, and agencies.

Goal DEI-2: Foster Racial Understanding, Equity Inclusive Excellence Cultural Awareness, Multiculturalism, and Belonging within the Community.

Policy A Encourage cultural sharing.

Program 1 Regularly support events and celebrations that highlight the variety of cultural traditions within the community.

Program 2 Encourage the creation of spaces where cultural foods and traditions can be shared among all members of the community, as well as the creation of public spaces that are accommodating and accessible to all.

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Program 3 Encourage increased communication and collaboration between the City government, Central Washington University, businesses, and education and social service sectors, through shared events, projects, and outreach, to help residents feel more comfortable visiting campus, and non-resident students feel more comfortable within the community.

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Policy B Encourage local leadership to address **systemic-ongoing** issues that create barriers for participation.

Program 1 Encourage City leadership to demonstrate support of **marginalized** groups that **experience additional social barriers or a sense of exclusion** through a variety of proclamations, and publicly speak to local actions that affect the diverse members of the community.

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Program 2 Support the development of a framework to identify and address **systemic inequalities** areas where individuals experience barriers within our local institutions.

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Program 3 Collaborate with local organizations to help local businesses support **diverse a broad spectrum of community** members **from different backgrounds and cultures of the community**.

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Goal DEI-3: Increase accessibility to local services and community resources for all residents.

Policy A Ensure that high quality service programs are available, accessible, and utilized by all **in order**, to support resident's basic needs.

Program 1 Partner with local health and social services to identify strategies for making their services accessible by all means of transportation.

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Program 2 Advocate for low income, residential care facilities, and other housing for aging **persons** people to be located close to services and amenities.

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Program 3 Encourage and support programs that seek to provide residents with access to **diverse** health care providers **with varied expertise and backgrounds** who can respond to varying cultural and medical needs.

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Policy B Encourage healthy activity and lifestyle by making recreational resources and opportunities accessible and welcoming to all residents.

Program 1 Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.

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Program 2 Encourage communication between local businesses, organizations, and schools, to coordinate food pantries and local food distribution.

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ACTION ITEMS

1. Work with DEI Commission to begin regular review of current City policies and ~~procedures~~ [procedures to better engage those who face barriers or have been less represented within the City's planning using the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.](#)
2. ~~Begin work towards regular Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for City staff and elected officials.~~ [Provide opportunities for staff and elected officials to engage and learn more about ways to reduce barriers and make Ellensburg more welcoming.](#)
3. Increase use of community engagement ~~and social media tools~~ to help with local outreach.
4. Review fees and costs for city sponsored recreational and leisure activities.
5. Develop a framework of accountability.
6. Develop a work plan for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.

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POLICY CONNECTIONS

The **Housing** chapter includes policies and land use designations that support the development of many types of housing to ensure that people who live and work in Ellensburg have adequate housing choices.

The **Transportation** chapter includes policies related to providing a variety of transportation networks that is available for all community members.

The **Capital Facilities and Utilities** chapter includes policies that focus on providing public facilities and utilities that are accessible and affordable to all community members, including access to the library, reasonably priced utilities, and access to data and technology. This chapter also provides goals centered around providing excellent public safety services.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes policies that focus on providing citywide programs and services that meet all community and group needs, in addition to preserving historical areas and features, while also developing high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.

The **Economic Development** chapter includes policies related to growing and sustaining local businesses, while creating opportunities for new businesses that can provide goods and services that meet the needs of the local and regional community.

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Meeting Date: December 1, 2025
City of Ellensburg
City Council Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Public Hearing to Consider 2025 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments and First Reading of Ordinance 4977 (Public Comment Opportunity)

Submitted by: Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager

Department: Community Development

Suggested Motion/Action:

Move to approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendments for Docket Items 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308 as submitted by staff and recommended by the Planning Commission, and conduct first reading of Ordinance 4977.

Background/Summary:

Per the requirements of ECC 15.250.090, a public hearing to consider docketed amendments shall be scheduled with Council, following a public hearing with the planning commission. The comprehensive plan adoption process is a Type V review process, which also includes SEPA review, 60-day Commerce review, and Council hearings. Docketed items must be adopted by December 31 of the same calendar year when submitted, or Council may choose to move these items to the subsequent year to continue review.

On July 21, 2025, staff presented two annual comprehensive plan amendment requests to Council for possible docketing and adoption in the 2025 calendar year. At the meeting, staff recommended council docket both 25-01 (Annual CIP update) and 25-02.001-.308 (Addressing the requests regarding Chapter 9 DEI). Staff's recommendation to docket 25-02.001-.308 included a request to gather additional information and possible direction from the public, by way of three planned community outreach events. Staff was to bring the results and information from these events back to Council for further direction and next steps. Documents from the docketing packet are available for review on the City website under current planning projects: <https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/623/Public-NoticesCurrent-Projects>.

July 21, 2025 Docketing Council Packet Documents include:

- Staff Report
- Docket Proposals Summary
- Annual 6-year CIP Update
- All Applications and summary spreadsheet received requesting to remove Chapter 9 DEI and Policies.

On October 20, 2025, staff presented the results of the public outreach regarding 25-02.001-.308, which included two Community Conversations and a Braver Angels Common Ground Workshop. Staff presented common themes, observational analysis, and six possible next steps in addressing the Chapter 9 request, and requested guidance from Council based on the new information. Council discussed the need to update the chapter in the near term to address possible legal concerns raised by the public and to ensure compliance with federal requirements, as well as realistic timelines. Council ultimately selected to rewrite the chapter during the 2026 periodic update process, with the intention to incorporate content of the existing chapter, with new themes, needs, and agreements that resulted from the Common Ground workshop. Documents from this packet are available for review on the City website under current planning projects: <https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/623/Public-NoticesCurrent-Projects>.

October 20, 2025 Council Update Packet Documents include:

- Staff Report
- Final Common Ground Workshop Pre-Read Document
- Final Points of Agreement from Common Ground Workshop
- Equity Accessibility, and Community Engagement Draft
- City of Burien Example

On November 13, 2025, a public hearing was held with the Planning Commission to consider the two docketed amendments. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of 25-01, the 6-year capital improvement plans (CIP) (Exhibit 1); and a majority recommended approval of 25-01.001-.308 the staff-proposed amendment of Chapter 9 (Exhibit 2). The Planning Commission's motion to recommend approval of the draft as presented for 25-02.001-.308 included an advisory comment to Council that the recommended approval in no way indicates a stance or preference by the commission, and the 2026 rewrite process is to utilize the existing chapter as a starting point, not the revised version as edited.

Two public comments were received in advance of the Planning Commission public hearing, and were provided to the planning commission by staff for review ahead of, and at the meeting. One comment was submitted by a member of the public (Exhibit 2.1), and one comment was received by the DEI Commission (Exhibit 2.2).

Previous Council Action:

At the July 21, 2025 Council meeting, the motion was approved 5-2 to docket item 25-02.001-.308 as proposed. The motion gave staff direction to move forward with conducting the two community conversations and common ground workshop, and to bring additional information and possible next steps back to Council.

At the October 20, 2025 Council meeting, the motion was approved 5-2 to move forward with item 25-02.001-.308. The motion gave staff direction to rewrite Chapter 9 during the 2026 periodic update process.

Analysis:

NOTICING:

Commerce 60-Day Notice: The required 60-day notice of intent to adopt Comprehensive Plan amendments was submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on October 29, 2025 (Exhibit 3). An acknowledgement letter from the Department of Commerce was received on the same day. The 60-day review period will be complete on December 28, 2025.

SEPA: SEPA Noticing was published in the Daily Record and sent to agencies on November 4, 2025. The public comment period is scheduled to end November 26, 2025, no public comment was received.

Public Hearing: This public hearing with Council was advertised in the Daily Record on November 22, 2025 (Exhibit 4).

Applicant Notice: All applicants of 2025 Code Amendments have been notified of public comment and engagement opportunities, per the contact information listed in the original applications.

The first mailed correspondence was sent on August 28, 2025, to all 309 applicants if addresses or emails were provided with the application. This first notice notified the applicants of the community conversations, common ground workshop, and other tentative deadlines and milestones throughout the process.

The second mailed correspondence was mailed to all the same addresses on November 4, 2025. This notice confirmed for applicants the date, time, and participation information of the SEPA comment period (including the SEPA notice on a separate page), Planning Commission Public Hearing on November 13, 2025, Council Public Hearing set for December 1, 2025, with second reading on December 15, 2025.

DOCKET PROPOSALS:

The following two proposals were docketed by City Council for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan:

Docket Proposal 25-01.

This docketing request is a proposal to provide an annual update to the 6-Year Capital Improvement Plans. The amendments will address the upcoming budget year. The proponents for this amendment include the following City of Ellensburg departments: Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works and Utilities.

See Exhibit 1- **Amendment 25-01** for the actual updates to the 6-year Capital Improvement Plans from each city department with a capital facilities budget:

- Electric
- Information Technology
- Natural Gas
- Parks and Recreation
- Sewer System
- Stormwater
- Telecommunications

- Transportation
- Wastewater Treatment
- Water System

Various elements of the Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) have been gathered from other plans previously adopted by the City. The attached Capital Improvement Plan table pertaining to water improvements was pulled from the 2014 Water System Plan, and the wastewater treatment plant and sewer projects were pulled from the Wastewater Treatment Facility Engineering Report adopted by the City in 2015. The Transportation Improvement Plan was approved by the City Council on June 2025. Many of the Parks and Recreation elements were included in the Parks and Recreation Plan that was adopted by the City in March 2016. All CIPs will be revisited during the periodic update.

Staff recommends approval of Amendment 25-01 as contained in Exhibit 1, to remain compliant with State GMA requirements.

Docket Proposal 25-02.001-.308

Per the guidance provided by Council at the October 20, 2025 meeting, staff will develop an engagement plan for continued guidance in refining Chapter 9 as part of the periodic update in 2026. The rewrite will incorporate existing chapter elements with new wording, goals and policies resulting from outreach. Rewriting the chapter in 2026 is not a part of the amendment approval for 2025, as there is no new text to adopt. This has already been approved per Council guidance, and will happen next year.

The comprehensive plan amendment for consideration at this time, is Exhibit 2- 25-02.001-.308, the proposed revised Chapter 9, as presented to the Planning Commission. This revision addresses concerns regarding remaining in compliance with federal law and maintaining federal funding until a new version of the chapter is adopted. Staff and the Planning Commission have recommended approval of this proposed draft, which will remain in place until the rewrite is adopted in 2026.

The documents provided on the City Planning- "Current Project" website page, are available for review, and encompass the intended record pertaining to this item for the Public Hearings and public comment opportunities. Documents available for review in addition to those provided in this packet can be found here: <https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/623/Public-NoticesCurrent-Projects>.

Staff recommends approval of Amendment 25-02.001-.308 as contained in Exhibit 2, and as recommended by the Planning Commission.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

After a recommendation from staff and the planning commission, and after holding a public hearing, the City Council shall make one of the following decisions:

- a. Approval in accordance with the findings and recommendations submitted by the planning commission;
- b. Approval with modifications;

- c. Refer all or part of the plan text or map amendment proposal back to the planning commission;
- d. Refer all or part of the plan text or map amendment proposal to the following year's annual amendment process; or
- e. Disapprove.

If the City Council's decision is to refer the amendment request back to the Planning Commission, the Council must specify which matters it wishes reconsidered by the Planning Commission. The final form and content of the comprehensive plan is determined by the City Council; and

After reviewing the Comprehensive Plan amendments and code process requirements, staff recommends that Council approve both proposed docket amendments 25-01- CIP Updates (Exhibit 1) and 25-02.001-.308 Chapter 9 revision (Exhibit 2) as presented.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

- 1. Exhibit 1 2025 Capital Improvement Plans
- 2. Exhibit 2 25-02_Chapter 9 Revision
- 3. Exhibit 2.1 Public Comment
- 4. Exhibit 2.2 DEI Commission Comment
- 5. Exhibit 3 Commerce Notice
- 6. Exhibit 4 PH Notice to CC 2025
- 7. Ordinance 4977
- 8. Exhibit A 2025 Capital Improvement Plans
- 9. Exhibit B Chapter 9 Revision

APPENDIX A: 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

These 6-year Capital Improvement Plans are hereby incorporated by reference into the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan as an Appendix to the Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter. The Capital Improvement Plans will be reviewed and updated annually.

Table 23. Electric Utility Capital Improvement Plan

Electric CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2041
Capitol Projects							
Berry to Bull Rd Tie			\$ 200,000				
Canyon Rd I90 Crossing Reconductor (D2-1)			\$ 500,000				
Bowers Rd to Reecer Creek Extension (HE-2)					\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
Feeder 15 Airport Rd to Bender (HE-1)					\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	
Mountain View Reconductor (D2-2)		\$ 750,000					
Sanders to Alder Tie (HE-3)				\$ 80,000			
Sanders to Brick Rd (HE-4)				\$ 175,000			
Anderson/Umptanum Rd Tie	\$ 150,000						
PSE Customer Annexations - Vantage Hwy	\$ 150,000						
Gateway II		\$ 250,000					
AMI Conversion	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,350,000					
SR97 / Highway 10 Loop	\$ 300,000						
Street Lighting Laminated / Fiberglass Pole Replacement/ Misc. Lighting Upgrades	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Seattle (Willow To Vista View Plat) Extension							
Rotary Park Solar Expansion and EV Install	\$ 650,000						
Radio Road Conversion					\$ 180,000		
Substation Improvements							
Sub Land Purchase							
D1 Dolarway Substation Improvement	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 500,000					
Grand total	\$ 5,800,000	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 305,000	\$ 630,000	\$ 450,000	

Table 24. Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan

Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan						
2026-2031						
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000			
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000			
Esri Enterprise Agreement	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	\$ 140,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Virtual Machine (VM) Host Server	\$ 50,000					
Total	\$ 771,000	\$ 731,000	\$ 845,000	\$ 195,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,992,000					

Table 25. Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan

Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan						
2026-2031						
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Telecom Strategic Plan						
Plan Updates (every 3 years)		\$20,000			\$20,000	
System Improvements						
Hardware Refreshment	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Outdoor Plant Improvements	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
Telecom Connections	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Telecom Infrastructure	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Line Extensions						
Commercial Customers	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total	\$153,000	\$173,000	\$228,000	\$153,000	\$173,000	\$153,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,033,000					

Table 26. Natural Gas Utility Capital Improvement Plan

Natural Gas CIP

Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Gas System Planning & Programs						
System Plan Update (every 6 years)	\$120,000					
DIMP Program	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
PSMS Program	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Public Awareness Program	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
System Improvements						
No 6 Road / Vantage Hwy Loop		\$600,000				
Misc System Integrity Looping	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Vantage Highway (Gateway II)		\$350,000				
SR97 / Highway 10 Loop	\$500,000					
Pipe Boring under Roads and Creeks	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Misc System Improvements	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$160,000
Sustainability Improvements						
Emission Mitigation Equipment		\$40,000				
Leak Detection Equipment Upgrades				\$60,000	\$80,000	
Tap/Regulator Station Upgrades						
System Telemetry Upgrades	\$20,000		\$20,000		\$25,000	
Tap Station Land Acquisition	\$120,000					
Kittitas Tap Station Site Improvements		\$450,000				
Seattle Gate Station Site Improvements			\$20,000			
Cathodic Protection System Improvements						
Anode Bed Replacements		\$180,000				
Steel System Analysis/Work		\$60,000				
High Pressure Main CP Enhancements			\$80,000			
Cathodic Protection (CP) System Study						\$80,000
Cathodic Protection Close Interval Survey						\$25,000
Meter/ERT Upgrades/Improvements						
Meter Proving/Refurbish	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
Meter/ERT Change-Outs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
AMI Conversion		\$800,000				
Developments						
Misc System Developments	\$150,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$220,000
	\$1,420,000	\$3,150,000	\$800,000	\$745,000	\$825,000	\$790,000

Grand total

\$7,730,000

Table 27. Sewer Capital Improvement Plan

Sewer CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Cured In Place Rehab	\$400,000		\$400,000		\$400,000		\$2,000,000
Concrete & Clay Pipe Replacement							\$4,050,000
Cora Street Pump Removal/ Wenas St. Main Extension				\$ 3,000,000			
	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 6,050,000
Grand Total	\$10,250,000						

Table 28. Storm Water Capital Improvement Plan

Storm Water CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Effectiveness Monitoring	\$ 74,073	\$ 92,039	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Street Tree Inventory and Assessment	\$80,000	\$0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Stormwater Project (Varies)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000
University Avenue Gateway II Project (Vista Rd. to E. CL)		\$ 4,900,000					
	\$ 229,073	\$ 5,067,039	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000
Grand Total	\$ 5,596,112						

Table 29. Wastewater Treatment Facility Capital Improvement Plan

Waste Water Treatment Facility CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Additional Aerator in each basin	\$ 1,000,000						
RAS Building Improvements	\$ 800,000						
Boiler Building		\$ 40,000					
New Aeration System			\$ 500,000		\$ 40,000,000		
New Clarifier	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,000,000					
Rebuild Clarifiers			\$ 1,700,000				
	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 10,040,000	\$ 2,200,000	\$ -	\$40,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Grand total	\$ 56,040,000						

Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plan

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF ELLENSBURG 6-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2026 TO 2031 (INCLUDES CURRENT WORK REMAINING IN 2025)		PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 6/16/2025 ADOPTION DATE: 6/16/2025 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12								
REVENUE BY YEAR (thousands)		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	TOTALS	
ARTERIAL STREET		199	133	111	45	345	45	119	2,243	
REGIONAL STBG		315	1,995	0	0	2,500	0	750	2,627	
SALES TAX RESERVE		100	0	925	100	675	1,055	500	4,743	
FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL & PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE GRANTS		0	0	202	1,370	4,330	1,550	250	5,202	
WSDOT SAFETY PROGRAM		0	0	1,800	2,550	4,690	0	0	6,050	
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT BOARD (TIB) - Grant Programs		0	943	2,872	850	0	6,975	2,800	11,953	
DISTRESSED COUNTY SALES/USE TAX		0	144	0	0	135	609	0	887	
1/4 CENT REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX		0	0	812	152	750	361	147	2,597	
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAMS		0	0	0	0	0	475	0	828	
DOE FISCAL YEAR WATER QUALITY GRANT		465	0	4,285	0	0	0	0	4,250	
COUNTY LODGING TAX GRANT		0	0	0	0	0	0	67	67	
LOCAL LODGING TAX FUNDS		0	0	0	0	0	0	66	66	
TRANSIT		813	679	1,601	991	126	126	126	915	
OTHER AGENCY OR CITY DEPARTMENT		3,500	100	3,275	6,448	500	4,900	309	5,613	
LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID) / DEFERRALS		0	0	2,000	0	4,005	695	8,200	17,740	
TRAFFIC IMPACT FEES		0	606	1,804	1,325	250	990	480	5,748	
NOT FUNDED		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL REVENUE		5,392	4,600	19,687	13,831	18,306	17,781	13,814	71,529	
EXPENDITURES BY YEAR (thousands)		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Future	TOTALS
1 S/P Bridge Inspections		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	35
2 S/P Engineering Transfer		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	105
3 S/P Signal Optimization		10	10	25	25	25	25	25	0	175
4 P Alley Reconstruction (Semi-Annual)		0	0	90	0	0	0	100	0	350
5 S/P Transit Stop Upgrades (Shelter & Amenities, ADA Upgrades, Lighting, Art Glass)		282	116	116	116	116	116	116	0	526
6 S/P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)		0	135	135	10	10	10	10	0	1,540
7 S Mountain View Ave and Bull Rd/Willow St Intersection Enhancements		75	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,251
8 S/P Helena Ave Imp (Water St to 3,200' west, Cora Connection, portion in KC jurisdiction)		450	650	6,540	0	0	0	0	0	170
9 S Water St. Overlay (Main St. to Bender Rd)		3,576	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360
10 S University Way Bridge Repair over BNSF		100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,017
11 S/P University Way Gateway II - Vista Rd to east City Limits		515	100	5,125	0	0	0	0	0	200
12 S Vanlage Highway Shared Use Pathway		325	1,993	0	0	0	0	0	0	825
13 S 3rd Ave. Paverstone Pathway and Historic Lighting		39	826	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,900
14 P Capitol Ave Sidewalk Replacement - Main St. to Sampson St.		0	0	0	110	0	120	130	0	6,150
15 P Canyon Rd Overlay - Berry Rd to Mountain View Ave		0	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	340
16 P Alder St Sidewalk - One Side - 3rd Ave to Craig Ave		0	0	80	0	100	0	0	0	1,416
17 P 1st Ave Sidewalk Improvements - Ruby St. to Sampson St. - North Side		0	0	234	0	0	0	0	0	3,041
18 P Anderson Rd and Umptanum Rd Intersection Enhancements		0	0	1,252	0	0	0	0	0	280
19 P Add Transit Signal Priority		0	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	180
20 P Mountain View Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Widening		0	0	2,920	0	0	0	0	0	234
21 P Ruby St Corridor Improvements - Manitoba to University Way		0	0	1,100	5,940	0	0	0	0	804
22 P University Way Overlay - Cle Elum St to east City Limits		0	0	0	2,215	0	0	0	0	2,215
23 P Wildcat Way and 18th Intersection Enhancements		0	0	0	756	0	0	0	0	755
24 P University Way and Water Street Intersection Enhancements and Widening		0	0	0	3,270	0	0	0	0	1,252
25 P Bender Rd / Sanders Rd Corridor Improvements (Whiskey Creek to Alder St)		0	0	0	1,370	8,020	0	0	0	3,270
26 P Walnut St and 18th Bike Lane - Dean Nicholson to Alder St		0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	2,920
27 P Anderson Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Umptanum to 5th Ave		0	0	0	0	4,300	0	0	0	150
28 P Umptanum Shared Use Pathway - Wilson Cr to IRRP		0	0	0	0	2,100	0	0	0	1,550
29 P Industrial Way Improvements - LID		0	0	0	0	1,280	0	0	0	4,300
30 P Palouse to Cascades Reconnect Trail - Sanders to Bowers to Helena Ave/PTC		0	0	0	0	2185	7,805	0	0	2,100
31 P Canyon Rd and Umptanum Rd Intersection Enhancements and Widening		0	0	0	0	0	3,390	0	0	2,040
32 P Capitol Ave. Sidewalk Improvements - Willow St. to Oak St.		0	0	0	0	0	1,525	0	0	1,280
33 P Airport Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Dean Nicholson to N. City Limits		0	0	0	0	0	1,170	0	0	3,390
34 P City to Canyon Trail - Umptanum Rd to Tjossem Rd		0	0	0	0	0	3,600	0	0	810
35 P Large Scale Wayfinding Implementation Project		0	0	0	0	0	0	133	0	1,525
36 P 14th Ave & Wildcat Way Corridor Ped/Bike Impr. - Water St to University Way		0	0	0	0	0	0	480	0	1,170
37 P Mountain View Overlay - Canyon to Willow		0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	3,600
38 P Helena Ave Extension - PTC Trail to Dry Cr Rd		0	0	0	0	0	0	4,100	0	890
39 P Cora Street Ext - PTC Trail to Bender Rd (portion in KC jurisdiction)		0	0	0	0	0	0	7,200	0	133
40 P Chestnut St and Walnut St Bike and Ped Improvements									263	480
41 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)									300	1,500
42 P Downtown Transit Bus Hub Improvements									1,000	4,100
43 P Alternative Fuel (Electric/Hydrogen/Propane) Transit Bus Infrastructure Support									3,500	7,200
44 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)									250	263
45 P 8th Ave LID (University Way to Maple St)									1,061	1,061
46 P Trail Connection - 5th Ave to University Way (near CWU)									250	250
47 P 5th and Ruby Intersection Enhancements and Widening									741	741
48 P 3rd Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements									890	7,310
49 P Anderson/Umptanum/Railroad Ave. Road Widening/Overlay									7,310	740
50 P Helena Ave and Walnut St Intersection Enhancements and Widening									740	4,200
51 P Circle the City Trail - Enterprise Way to Faust Rd									4,200	1,450
52 P Main St Sidewalk Improvements - University Way to 14th Ave									1,450	936
53 P Helena Ave and Water St Intersection Enhancements and Widening									936	1,332
54 P Manitoba Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Realignment									1,332	1,558

Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plans Continued.

55	P	University Way and Alder St Intersection Enhancements and Widening								1,558	2,750
56	P	Currier Creek Pathway - Univ. Way to Reece Cr Rd to Currier Cr to PTC								2,760	3,338
57	P	University Way and Main St Intersection Enhancements and Widening								3,338	966
58	P	Water St and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements								966	1,008
59	P	Airport Rd and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements								1,008	672
60	P	Capitol Ave and Chestnut St Intersection Enhancements								672	540
61	P	Canyon Rd Sidewalk - I90 to Berry Rd to Existing Sidewalk on Berry Rd								540	665
62	P	Sanders Rd and Alder St Intersection Enhancements								665	524
63	P	Capitol Ave and Willow St Intersection Enhancements								524	432
64	P	15th Ave and Cora St Intersection Enhancements								432	720
65	P	18th Ave and Alder St Intersection Enhancements								720	
											102,985
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			5,392	4,600	19,687	13,832	18,306	17,781	13,814	37,396	
ARTERIAL STREET FUND BEGINNING BALANCE (01/01/2025)			400	321	308	317	392	167	242		
EST. GAS TAX REVENUE & SCHEDULED SALES TAX TRANSFER			120	120	120	120	120	120	120		
ARTERIAL STREET FUND ENDING BALANCE			321	308	317	392	167	242	243		

*Current year projects shown for accounting purposes.

**TIP plans calls for road widening/impr. projects to be funded from Sales Tax Reserve, to replace the Federal STP funding which is now shown for potential asphalt overlay funding. (Average annual need to overlay the arterial street system on a 15 year cycle is in excess of \$1,380,500 per year.)

Table 31. Water Capital Improvement Plan

Water CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Reservoir Property Acquisition	\$ 750,000						
Craig's Hill Reservoir Seismic Study and Retrofit	\$ 50,000		\$ 180,000				
Pfenning Loop					\$ 274,000		
Airport Well 3 and 1824 Zone Connector						\$ 160,000	
Annual Water Main Replacement Program	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,000,000
Seattle Ave. Main Extension	\$ 323,000						
24-inch Main Inspection	\$ 25,000						
24-inch Valve Rehabilitate	\$ 40,000						
New 1860 Pressure Zone				\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,840,000		
New 4.0 MG 1824 Zone Reservoir				\$ 4,745,000	\$ 4,745,000		
Reservoir Corrosion Control Program	\$ 230,000						
Permanent On-Site Well Backup Generators	\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 1,200,000
Recoat Reservoirs			\$ 825,000				\$ 825,000
AMI Conversion			\$ 500,000				
Pressure Reducing Valve							\$ 81,000
New Well(s)	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,500,000				
Water System Plan Update							\$ 300,000
Rotary Park Irrigation	\$ 750,000						
Oversizing Fund	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 520
Pipe Replacement Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,320,000
Meter Testing	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 455,000
Pump and Motor Inspection/Repair	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 416,000
	\$ 3,298,000	\$ 3,530,000	\$ 6,095,000	\$ 7,785,000	\$ 7,959,000	\$ 710,000	\$ 7,597,520
Grand Total	\$ 36,974,520						



CHAPTER 9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER

- ~~Background information and context related to local history, current events, and plans for the future, addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the City of Ellensburg.~~
- Policies that seek to make City resources more accessible to all.
- Policies that direct the City's efforts towards encouraging welcoming and inclusive environments within the Community.
- Policies intended to support a culturally ~~inclusive~~ welcoming community, where all people experience a sense of belonging.

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains goals, policies, and programs that define how the City of Ellensburg can play a role in fostering an environment of understanding, and support engagement equity, and belonging within the community. ~~The following is the City of Ellensburg's initial action plan aimed at systematically addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a way that can effect sustainable change to benefit all residents.~~

This document is a starting point for the City. There are likely many issues not yet articulated that can be addressed later as they are identified. This chapter is a living document; it is intended to be revisited and revised periodically. This is an initial framework, within which the City will continue to listen to residents, encourage collaboration and communication, and support opportunities for meaningful engagement. ~~elevate marginalized voices.~~

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Ellensburg is committed to creating a community with a lived and built environment that improves lives, supports all people, and provides residents with opportunities to flourish. It is important for the Ellensburg community to be inclusive, to celebrate diversity, and to provide equitable opportunities to all. Doing so can help create a thriving local economy, and an environment in which individuals achieve their full potential.

Similar to many cities around the country, the national conversations that occurred in 2020 around race, social justice, and equity, sparked a discussion within our local community. These conversations highlighted the need to build a greater awareness of the impacts and challenges that marginalized communities are faced with on a daily basis. The goal of this chapter is to address ways in which the City can alleviate some of these systemic possible barriers, and foster a sense of belonging amongst all residents, by consistently listening to the ideas, experiences, and concerns of all who live here.

Through the lens of DEI

What does this all mean? Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion related educational opportunities, social gathering opportunities, and supporting access to community resources, can create a sense of belonging within the community for all residents.

Diversity

Diversity is the presence of differences that may include, but are not limited to, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, socioeconomic status, language, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, or political perspective. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of human differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of local policies. Embracing diversity means sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. The City can help support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

Equity

Equity alleviates barriers to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist, and that as a result, we don't all start from the same place. Creating and supporting goals and policies that meet the community members where they are, will help to remove systemic barriers that make accessing basic community services challenging. Increasing accessibility to important resources and opportunities that best meet residents varying needs helps all residents succeed.



Inclusion

~~Inclusion is when all residents experience a sense of belonging and know they are both welcome in our community and encouraged to participate. Working on goals and policies that actively recruit participation and involvement from all residents within the community, fosters a sense of belonging and elevates traditionally marginalized voices. These methods can include listening tours, surveys, discussion groups, and use of a variety of media and print publications designed to be accessible to all residents.~~

Fostering a sense of belonging

~~In order to support all residents, the City will promote inclusion, listening, and diverse approaches to engagement through this lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Engaging and including marginalized groups replaces barriers with bridges and builds trust that strengthens the overall fabric of our community.~~

**Recognizing the Past - Looking to the Future**

An important step in building a forward-thinking vision within the community is to first learn about our local history, listen to residents' perceptions now, and consider how new goals and policies will positively affect the City of Ellensburg's plans for the future. ~~The City cannot adequately support our community and elevate marginalized voices without first building~~ will build a base of contextual knowledge, understanding, and trust.

Past

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a diverse community, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared. Acknowledging and learning local history within the community, the positive and the negative, can help increase awareness and empathy toward others and strengthen our community as a whole. Understanding local history can help create a more inclusive environment for all, where residents feel welcome and equally represented.

Kittitas Valley has always been, and continues to be, sacred to Native people. Traditionally, the Pshwanapum lived in the Kittitas Valley as a sub-band of the larger political and extended family networks of the Yakama tribes and bands. The Pshwanapum members were also referred to as the K'titas ("Kittitas") band, and they moved seasonally throughout the valley and nearby mountains to harvest roots, salmon, berries, game, and medicines. Several other tribal nations including Kiala, Tatxanixsha, Yumi'sh, and Che-lo-han, would hunt and trade in this area as well. Many descendants of these tribes continue to live throughout the 1855 Treaty

Territory of the Yakamas, practicing, honoring, and teaching the heritage and ancestry of the area. (*Information sourced from Daily Record News article from Aronica Family October 12, 2020, and Kittitas Valley Historical Museum*)

~~Histories and experiences of marginalized communities and people of color within Ellensburg continue to be uncovered from written and oral records, and there is still much more to be discovered. Historically, members including, but not limited to, Black, Chinese, Jewish, Hispanic, and Japanese communities have moved to Ellensburg as early as the mid-19th Century, for various reasons, such as migrant labor, work on the railroad, and work in local businesses. Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town", and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many black individuals played on local baseball teams as well. There is also evidence at times of divisive behavior and negative language towards people of color, as found in newspaper advertisements regarding restaurants and hotels that employed Chinese individuals.~~

Present

~~Currently, people of color, members of the LGBTQ⁺, and disability communities, among many others, still report that they feel invisible, experience slurs and discriminatory comments, nonverbal glares, and behaviors that feel unwelcoming in Ellensburg. While members of some of marginalized communities have reported frequent, targeted incidents, they also believe that Ellensburg can be more inclusive, and that the welcoming nature of our community can rise to a deeper level of acceptance and affirmation, utilizing the talents, skills, and experiences of all who live here.~~

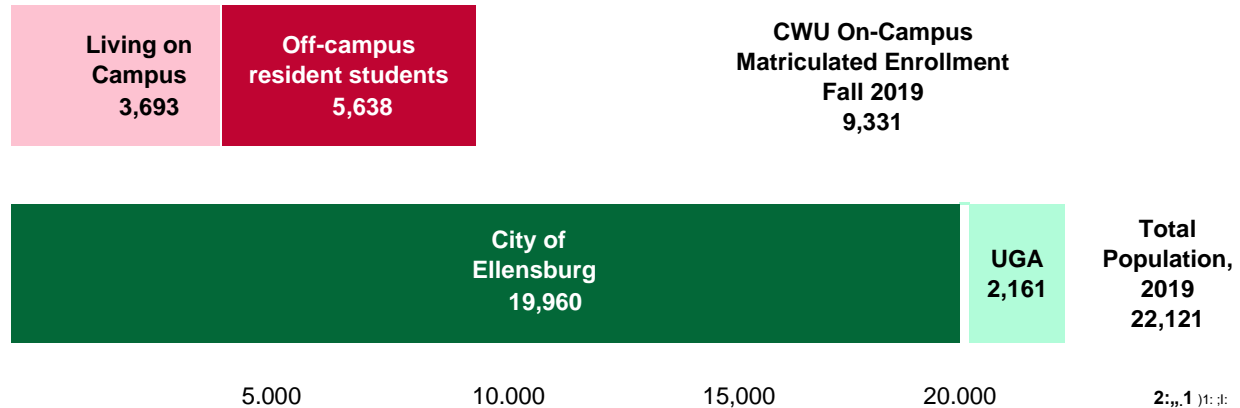
Ellensburg can be a welcoming community that comes together in times of need, where strangers reach out and neighbors help each other. ~~However, fully supporting and accepting people of color, ethnic and religious minorities, and members of the LGBTQ, disability communities, over 65 communities, and others, can be improved. Similar to what many towns and cities around the country are currently experiencing and working on,~~ The City of Ellensburg recognizes it needs to be more responsive and prepared when handling issues related to accessibility and community engagement. ~~diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~ This chapter lays the groundwork for this to happen, as the City continues towards a future of growth and expansion.

Future

Our dynamic community landscape has continued to develop, particularly in the last ten years, growing in size and in the diversity of residents. Statistics from the City of Ellensburg's 2021 Housing Action Plan, show that in 2020, the estimated population of the City, with its urban growth area, (UGA) was 22,879 people, demonstrating a growth rate of roughly 1.9% annually since 2015. Of the 22,879 people, roughly 9,331 constitute CWU enrollment, 3,693 of which were on-campus living, and 5,638 representing off campus resident students, as depicted

in Figure 26.

Figure 26. CWU Student Population and Total Population, 2018



Students living on campus represents the housing occupancy for Fall 2019. Programmed capacity is 3,918 and the full built capacity is 4,249.

Sources: Central Washington University — Ellensburg Campus, Fall 2019; Washington OFM, 2021; BERK, 2021

As the City continues to support the needs of the diverse communities that live here, it is important to recognize that the statistics reflected in this chapter from the 2021 Housing Action Plan, do not reflect all demographics of our community. Keeping that in mind, it is still valuable to look at current information that is available, as we work towards obtaining more detailed statistics in the future. By 2040 it is anticipated that 20% of the County population will be in the age bracket over age 65, and 19% in the age bracket of 45 to 64. At the same time, proportional decreases are expected for school-aged youth (5 to 19).

~~The Census also captures racial identity and Hispanic ethnic identity for respondents. As shown in Figure 27 below, the Ellensburg community in 2018 was majority White and non-Hispanic (77%) but is growing more ethnically and racially diverse. From 2010 to 2018, Ellensburg's Hispanic population increased from 7% to 12% overall, and non-Hispanic people of color increased from 8% to 11%. Figure 28 Figure 27 provides a further breakdown of the Non-White Alone demographics.~~

Figure 27. Ellensburg Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2028

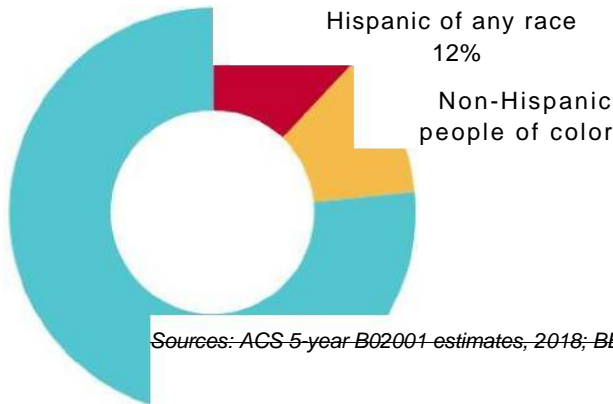


Figure 28. Ellensburg Population by Racial Identity for Non-White Alone Residents, 2028

• ~~Two or more races~~

• ~~Some other race~~



• ~~Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander~~

• ~~American Indian and Alaskan Native~~

• ~~Black or African American~~

The University's emphasis on attracting students from minority and underserved communities, as well as diverse faculty and staff, continues to impact the demographics of Ellensburg. The changing nature of the labor force has also created greater diversity in the community. People from many countries have settled in Ellensburg over the years, and there is no reason to think that these influential factors are going to be less impactful in the future.

As Ellensburg continues to grow, there is the potential for marginalized groups to feel excluded unless the community has a plan for improving cultural relationships. The City of Ellensburg has developed this chapter in a sincere effort to create a n-equitable, just welcoming, and safe community - one where all residents know they belong and are welcome.

GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

These DEI goals, policies, and programs contain steps that the City of Ellensburg will take to create an accessible inclusive, welcoming, equitable, and safe community.

Goal DEI-1: Increase accessibility to City Services, Projects, Programs, and Events.

Policy A Support policies and programs that increase accessibility to City services for all, ~~utilizing the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~

Program 1 Provide increased access to government documents in multiple languages and easily accessible assistance for those who may need additional support.

Program 2 Identify areas of City government where greater physical accessibility and accommodations are needed to increase access to all members of the public.

Policy B Promote and encourage community engagement and outreach to all.

Program 1 Actively encourage participation from the public for community projects, events, and recreational activities, through a wide variety of media and information distribution methods.

~~*Program 2* Provide City staff and elected officials with tools and regular training to understand and lead actions that are inclusive and equitable.~~

~~*Program 3* Establish an ongoing review process of the costs for City-sponsored recreation and leisure activities to ensure that all members of the public have access to these services.~~

~~*Program 4* Support civic education programs that actively engage diverse groups of the community, and encourage diverse representation participation among local leadership, organizations, and agencies.~~

Goal DEI-2: ~~Foster Racial Understanding, Equity,~~ Encourage Engagement and Belonging within the Community.

Policy A Encourage cultural sharing.

Program 1 Regularly support events and celebrations that highlight the variety of cultural traditions within the community.

Program 2 Encourage the creation of spaces where cultural foods and traditions can be shared among all members of the community, as well as the creation of public spaces that are accommodating and accessible to all.

- Program 3** Encourage increased communication and collaboration between the City government, Central Washington University, businesses, and education and social service sectors, through shared events, projects, and outreach, to help various community groups engage. ~~residents feel more comfortable visiting campus, and non-resident students feel more comfortable within the~~
- Policy B** Encourage local leadership to address systemic issues that create barriers for participation.
- Program 1** Encourage City leadership to demonstrate support of all community marginalized groups through a variety of proclamations, ~~and publicly speak to local actions that affect the diverse members of the community.~~
- Program 2** Support the development of a framework to identify and address systemic inequalities within our local institutions.
- Program 3** Collaborate with local organizations to help local businesses support all groups in need throughout ~~diverse members of the~~ community.
- Goal DEI-3: Increase accessibility to local services and community resources for all residents.**
- Policy A** Ensure that high quality service programs are available, accessible, and utilized by all, to support resident's basic needs.
- Program 1** Partner with local health and social services to identify strategies for making their services accessible by all means of transportation.
- Program 2** Advocate for low income, residential care facilities, and other housing for aging persons to be located close to services and amenities.
- Program 3** Encourage and support programs that seek to provide residents with access to diverse health care providers who can respond to varying cultural and medical needs.
- Policy B** Encourage healthy activity and lifestyle by making recreational resources and opportunities accessible and welcoming to all residents.
- Program 1** Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.
- Program 2** Encourage communication between local businesses, organizations, and schools, to coordinate food pantries and local food distribution.

ACTION ITEMS

1. ~~Work with DEI Commission to begin regular review of current City policies and procedures using the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.~~
 2. ~~Begin work towards regular Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for City staff and elected officials.~~
 3. 1. Increase use of community engagement and social media tools to help with local outreach.
 4. 2. Review fees and costs for city sponsored recreational and leisure activities.
 5. 3. Develop a framework of accountability.
 6. ~~Develop a work plan for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.~~
-

POLICY CONNECTIONS

The **Housing** chapter includes policies and land use designations that support the development of many types of housing to ensure that people who live and work in Ellensburg have adequate housing choices.

The **Transportation** chapter includes policies related to providing a variety of transportation networks that is available for all community members.

The **Capital Facilities and Utilities** chapter includes policies that focus on providing public facilities and utilities that are accessible and affordable to all community members, including access to the library, reasonably priced utilities, and access to data and technology. This chapter also provides goals centered around providing excellent public safety services.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes policies that focus on providing citywide programs and services that meet all community and group needs, ~~in addition to preserving historical areas and features, while also developing high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.~~

The **Economic Development** chapter includes policies related to growing and sustaining local businesses, while creating opportunities for new businesses that can provide goods and services that meet the needs of the local and regional community.

Stacey Henderson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:41 PM
To: Stacey Henderson; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey
Subject: [Ext] Comments on Proposed Changes to Chapter 9 of COmprehensive Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL: The email below is from an external source. Please exercise caution before opening attachments, clicking links, fulfilling requests, or following guidance.

I appreciate the time and effort of City Staff to rewrite Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan to be neutrally inclusive of all residents without infringing on the civil rights of any resident. A lot has been said in the past 6 months about how divisive DEI has been in our community. These changes are a step forward in the right direction. Hopefully, our community will come together to continue building a welcoming community for all. I hope that after all comments are received, the language as proposed stays essentially the same as presented in the Nov 13 Planning Commission Agenda Packet.

I do have 3 minor points to raise on the marked-up proposed changes to Chapter 9.

Page 8 (157) of mark up: Goal 2, Policy B “Encourage local leadership to address systemic issues that create barriers for participation.” The term “systemic issues” needs to be defined. This language is very close to “systemic racism”, which is a DEI construct.

Program 2 “Support the development of a framework to identify and address systemic inequalities within our local institutions”. The term “systemic inequalities” needs to be defined. This language is very close to “systemic racism”, which is a DEI construct.

Goal 3, Program 1 “Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.” Do these “safe spaces” include safe restroom and locker room spaces for women who have been traumatized by males? Does an ADA accommodation for for women who have panic attacks overrule the WAC on self-identifying transsexuals? I personally have not used the swimming pool in recent years because I do NOT feel safe at all, and I do not wish to have a panic attack in public. Don't I have a right to use my community pool without fear?

Thank you again for your consideration,
Beryl Kelley
1391 Reecer Creek Rd
Ellensburg

Exhibit 2.2- DEI Commission Comment

To: Ellensburg Planning Commission

From: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission

Date: November 12, 2025

Subject: DEI Commission Recommendation – Chapter 9 Draft Revisions

Dear Planning Commission Members,

The Ellensburg Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission has had the opportunity to review the most recent draft of Chapter 9 and would like to provide the following feedback and recommendation. We recognize the extensive time and effort City staff have dedicated to revising this document; however, after reviewing the current draft, our Commission has significant concerns about the scope of the revisions, their alignment with the original intent of the chapter and the content voted on by Council, the lack of incorporation of the Common Ground workshop outcomes, and the amount of deleted content without the addition of new language to replace it. Our Commission discussed and voted to submit this recommendation at our meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

The revised Chapter 9 draft removes nearly all references to diversity, equity, and inclusion (concepts that community members across perspectives identified as central to Ellensburg's values). During the facilitated workshops, participants emphasized that Chapter 9 should remain focused on belonging, accessibility, and equitable engagement. These priorities are not reflected in the current version, which suggests that the outcomes of those workshops, and agreed-upon sentiments were not meaningfully incorporated. The revised draft omits many of the action-oriented policies and measurable commitments that translate community values into practice, even though the Common Ground workshop revealed a strong desire for measurable outcomes and clear data. The original chapter outlined a clear purpose: addressing barriers, elevating marginalized voices, and advancing equity, all of which are measurable elements stemming from research-based areas, such as demographic growth and retention, and the benefit of a diversity of community-growth, identity-based initiatives. In contrast, the new draft relies on broad "community engagement" language, which weakens the policy framework and reduces the chapter's ability to guide meaningful action, and is itself not measurable.

Further, this version reads as inconsistent with what was presented by city staff to City Council (October 20, 2025), to the DEI Commission (October 17, 2025), and to the Planning Commission (October 23, 2025). For example, city staff previously referenced potential titles such as "Equity and Community Engagement" or "Equity, Accessibility, and Engagement;" however, that language does not appear in the current draft. Prior to their vote, multiple City Council members stated that they did not want the original intent of Chapter 9 to be lost. Several noted that the existing chapter contains valuable content for Ellensburg's future growth, and directed that the feedback from the Common Ground process be integrated through revisions, not through a full rewrite or the removal of large portions of the chapter. The current draft does not reflect that guidance.

We request that the Planning Commission not approve the current draft and instead vote to continue revisions in collaboration with the DEI Commission and City staff. This would allow for a more balanced rewrite that maintains the chapter's original intent, honors the input given in the Common Ground process, and incorporates the role of the DEI Commission as subject-matter advisors who were explicitly named in the previous draft. City staff have indicated support for our participation in this process, including consultation with the City Attorney as we provide input on a revised draft, and we are eager to contribute constructively to that effort.

Our shared goal is a Comprehensive Plan that reflects Ellensburg's commitment to equitable engagement, accessibility, and belonging for all residents now and in the future. We look forward to working together to restore and strengthen this important chapter.

Sincerely,

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission



Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment / Notice of Adoption (Cover Sheet)

Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, the following jurisdiction provides the following required state agency notice.

Jurisdiction Name:	City of Ellensburg
Amendment Type: Select Type of Amendment listed. (Select One Only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Plan Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Development Regulation Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Combined Comprehensive and Development Regulation Amendments <input type="checkbox"/> Countywide Planning Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Areas Ordinance Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline Master Program
Select Submittal Type: Select the Type of Submittal listed. (Select One Only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60-Day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Request of Expedited Review / Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment (Only for use with Development Regulation Amendments) <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Submittal for existing Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Final Adoption of Amendment

<p>Add Association</p> <p><i>If this amendment is related to additional submittals, please let us know here. IDs are included in your acknowledgment letter.</i></p> <p><i>Example 2022-S-....</i></p>	<p>No association- yearly update request.</p>
<p>Description</p> <p>Enter a brief description of the amendment.</p> <p>Begin your description with Proposed or Adopted, based on the type of Amendment you are submitting.</p> <p>Examples: “Proposed comprehensive plan amendment for the GMA periodic update.” or “Adopted Ordinance 123, adoption amendment to the sign code.”</p> <p>(Maximum 400 characters)</p>	<p>Proposed comprehensive plan amendments for the 2025 annual comprehensive plan update process. 25-01 includes the proposed yearly Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) updates, and 25-02.001-.308 addresses multiple requests to remove Chapter 9- DEI from the existing Comprehensive Plan Chapter.</p> <p>All 308 applications were submitted at the same time, or nearly in the same packet, and all addressed a range of requests related to DEI in the comp plan. Some requested removing DEI policies throughout the comp plan without specifying which ones should be removed, and many applications requested to remove the City’s DEI Commission, which is not related. The clearest request, and the request docketed and being considered and addressed, is the removal of the chapter. All applications were considered, and therefore compiled into 25-02, as many listed reasoning and had implied intent regarding removing the chapter.</p> <p>City Staff suggested additional outreach at the docketing meeting in July, as this became a polarizing topic within the community. Staff scheduled a Braver Angels Common ground workshop and additional outreach opportunities, and brought results back to Council October 20.</p> <p>A majority of Council selected rewriting the Chapter in 2026 as a part of Ellensburg’s Periodic Update, while also making minor revisions in 2025 to ensure the chapter complies with federal and state guidelines regarding DEI language.</p> <p>Attached is the proposed minor revision for 2025, and a rewritten chapter will be proposed next year as a part of the periodic update.</p>
<p>Is this action part of your 10-year periodic update required under RCW 36.70A.130 of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<p>For Shoreline Master Programs (SMP): Is this action part of your 10-year periodic review required under RCW 90.58.080, a Comprehensive SMP, or a Locally Initiated amendment?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Review</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive SMP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Locally Initiated Amendment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> N/A (Not an SMP)</p>
<p>Does your submittal include changes to Urban Growth Areas</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Proposed Dates: Enter the anticipated public hearing date(s) for your Planning Commission/Planning Board or for your Council/Commission.	Planning Commission: Public Hearing- November 13 City Council: Public Hearing- December 1. Second Council reading, December 15. Proposed / Date of Adoption: December 31, 2025.
Categorize your Submittal	See Last Page for Category List
Contact Information:	
Prefix/Salutation: <i>(Examples: "Mr.", "Ms.", or "The Honorable" (elected official))</i>	
Name:	Mrs. Stacey Henderson
Title:	City of Ellensburg Planning Manager
Email:	hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov
Work Phone:	509-925-8608
Cell/Mobile Phone: <i>(optional)</i>	
Consultant Information:	
Is this person a consultant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Consulting Firm name?	
Would you like Commerce to contact you for Technical Assistance regarding this submitted amendment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

REQUIRED: Attach a copy of the proposed amendment text or document(s). We do not accept a website hyperlink requiring us to retrieve external documents. Commerce no longer accepts paper copies by mail. If you experience difficulty, please email the reviewteam@commerce.wa.gov

~~~~ **ONLINE TRACKING SYSTEM AVAILABLE** ~~~~

Log in to our PlanView system where you can keep up with this submittal status, reprint communications and update your contact information.

Don't have a user account? Reply to this email to request one and attach the PlanView System Access Request Form.

**To set up your Commerce PlanView Account:**

Register for a [SAW](#) account and add the PlanView Service.

Please send completed [PlanView System Access Request Form](#) to [reviewteam@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:reviewteam@commerce.wa.gov)

Questions? Call the review team at (360) 725-3066.

- Airport Safety Zone
- Capital Facilities
- Climate
- Comprehensive Plan
- Conservation Element
- Critical Areas Ordinance
- Design Standards/Design Review
- Development Regulations
- Economic Development
- Emergency
- Environment
- Essential Public Facilities
- Historic Preservation
- Housing
- Impact Fee
- Land Use
- Military
- Open Space
- Parks and Recreation Element
- Periodic Review (SMP)
- Periodic Update
- Port Element
- Public Participation
- Recreation
- Resource Lands
- Rural Lands
- Schools
- Shoreline Master Program
- Solar Energy Element
- Subarea Plans
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Transportation
- Urban Growth Areas
- Utilities

# THANK YOU

We have received your amendment submission. Please allow 1-3 business days for review. Please keep the Submittal ID as your receipt and for any future questions. We will also send an email receipt to all contacts listed in the submittal.

## Submittal ID: 2025-S-11070

**Submittal Date Time: 10/29/2025**

### Submittal Information

|                       |                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jurisdiction</b>   | City of Ellensburg                         |
| <b>Submittal Type</b> | 60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment |
| <b>Amendment Type</b> | Comprehensive Plan Amendment               |

### Amendment Information

#### Brief Description

Proposed amendments for the 2025 annual comprehensive plan update process. 25-01 includes proposed yearly Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) updates, and 25-02.001-.308 addresses multiple requests to remove Chapter 9- DEI from the existing Comprehensive Plan Chapter.

Attached is the proposed minor revision for 2025 and a rewritten chapter will be proposed next year as a part of the periodic update.

**Yes, this is a part of the 10-year periodic update schedule, required under RCW 36.70A.130.**

**Planning Commissions Date** 11/13/2025

**City Council Date** 12/01/2025

**City Council Date** 12/15/2025

**Anticipated/Proposed Date of Adoption** 12/31/2025

### Categories

| Submittal Category |
|--------------------|
| Capital Facilities |
| Comprehensive Plan |

## Attachments

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| Attachment Type                      | File Name                                                                  | Upload Date         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Draft | 25-01 CIP Updates.pdf                                                      | 10/30/2025 10:57 AM |
| Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Draft | 25-02.001-.308_Chapter 9 Diversity Equity and Inclusion_Strike Through.doc | 10/30/2025 10:58 AM |
| Correspondence                       | City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment Notice to Adopt.msg        | 10/30/2025 11:00 AM |
| Supporting Documentation or Analysis | 2025 Comp Plan Amendment Updates_Cover Sheet.docx                          | 10/30/2025 11:00 AM |

## Contact Information

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**Prefix** Ms.  
**First Name** Stacey  
**Last Name** Henderson  
**Title** Planning Manager  
**Work** (509) 925-8608  
**Cell**  
**Email** hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov

Yes, I would like to be contacted for Technical Assistance.

## Certification

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Entered by Sarah Van Etten Leupold on 10/30/2025 11:06:23 AM

**Intake Received Date** 10/29/2025  
**Full Name** Stacey Henderson  
**Email** hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF ELLENSBURG  
2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Ellensburg City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., to consider the proposed 2025 amendments to the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan. This meeting will be held both in-person in the Council Chambers AND virtually via Zoom. During the City Council meeting held on July 21, 2025, the City Council docketed 2 proposed amendments for consideration.

**Materials Available for Review:** The proposed amendments and related documents may be examined by the public by visiting the **City of Ellensburg Community Development Department webpage** at <https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/623/Public-NoticesCurrent-Projects> or by requesting a copy from the Community Development office.

**Written Comments** from interested persons will be accepted by email up until 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2024 by sending them to Stacey Henderson, Community Development Planning Manager at [hendersons@ci.ellensburg.wa.us](mailto:hendersons@ci.ellensburg.wa.us). Written comments sent via USPS must arrive by the same deadline.

**Mailing Address: Community Development Dept., 501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg, WA 98926.**

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that all persons interested in this matter may participate in the REMOTE meetings by contacting Staff no later than 5:00 pm on **Monday, December 1, 2025**. An email link or phone number will be provided which will allow for electronic participation in the public hearings. A link will also be made available in the City Council agenda packet.

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our meetings and activities readily accessible by individuals with disabilities. Please furnish your request in sufficient time for the City to provide a reasonable accommodation by calling the City of Ellensburg ADA Coordinator at (509) 962-7222 or email [ADACoordinator@ci.ellensburg.wa.us](mailto:ADACoordinator@ci.ellensburg.wa.us).

Publish in Legal: **Saturday, November 22, 2025**

ORDINANCE NO. 4977

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 4785 AND SET OUT IN CHAPTER 15.120 OF THE ELLENSBURG CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, as one of the cities in Kittitas County, the City of Ellensburg is required to adopt and regularly update a comprehensive plan pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA); and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 4785, "Imagine Ellensburg 2037," as the official Comprehensive Plan for the City of Ellensburg, which was last amended by Ordinance No. 4946; and

WHEREAS, under the GMA and pursuant to Section 15.250.090 of the Ellensburg City Code, the City is authorized to amend its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 1997-10 and Ordinance No. 4116 as last amended by Ordinance No. 4929, establishing a policy and procedure for the annual review of proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan, which are codified in Ellensburg City Code 15.250.090(D); and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2025 the City Council reviewed all of the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments for the 2025 annual amendment cycle and moved to docket proposed amendments 25-01, and 25-02.001-.308, and then forwarded the docketed amendments to the SEPA Responsible Official for SEPA review and to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2025 the City Community Development Department provided the required 60-Day Notice of Intent to Adopt Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Washington Department of Commerce, and the 60-day review period ends on December 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the SEPA Responsible Official reviewed a SEPA checklist and other information in the record and issued a Determination of Non-Significance on November 26, 2025 for docketed comprehensive plan amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308, no comments were received during the SEPA comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Ellensburg City Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 13, 2025 and the Planning Commission approved a motion to recommend the City Council approve proposed amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308 as presented.

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the matter of adopting the docketed 2025 Comprehensive Plan amendments at its regular meeting on December 1, 2025.

Council entered into the public hearing record the agenda report with Exhibit 1 through 4, for Council’s December 1, 2025 regular meeting prior to closing the public hearing, after which City Council determined it is in the best interests of the City of Ellensburg that proposed amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308 be approved as presented in accordance with the findings and recommendations submitted by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, all portions of the City of Ellensburg 2017 Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan, “Imagine Ellensburg 2037,” as subsequently amended, shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically amended herein;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council and are by this reference incorporated herein as if set forth in their entirety.

**Section 2.** That document attached to this ordinance as Exhibit “A” and entitled “2025 City of Ellensburg Capital Improvement Plans” which is included as part of the Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended to adopt and include docket amendment 25-01.

**Section 3.** That document attached to this ordinance as Exhibit “B” and entitled “Revised Chapter 9” which is included as part of the Comprehensive Plan, is hereby amended to adopt and include docket amendment 24-02.001-.308.

**Section 4.** All portions of the City of Ellensburg 2017 Comprehensive Plan, “Imagine Ellensburg 2037,” as subsequently amended, shall remain in force and effect except as specifically amended herein.

**Section 5. 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 portions of this ordinance.

**Section 6. 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 errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**Section 9. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect December 31, 2025.

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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. 4977 is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance of like number as the same was passed by said Council, and that Ordinance No. 4977 was published as required by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Leader

## APPENDIX A: 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

These 6-year Capital Improvement Plans are hereby incorporated by reference into the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan as an Appendix to the Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter. The Capital Improvement Plans will be reviewed and updated annually.

**Table 23. Electric Utility Capital Improvement Plan**

| Electric CIP                                                                     |                     |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Project                                                                          | 2026                | 2027                | 2028              | 2029              | 2030              | 2031              | 2032-2041 |
| <b>Capitol Projects</b>                                                          |                     |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Berry to Bull Rd Tie                                                             |                     |                     | \$ 200,000        |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Canyon Rd I90 Crossing Reconductor (D2-1)                                        |                     |                     | \$ 500,000        |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Bowers Rd to Reecer Creek Extension (HE-2)                                       |                     |                     |                   |                   | \$ 250,000        | \$ 250,000        |           |
| Feeder 15 Airport Rd to Bender (HE-1)                                            |                     |                     |                   |                   | \$ 150,000        | \$ 150,000        |           |
| Mountain View Reconductor (D2-2)                                                 |                     | \$ 750,000          |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Sanders to Alder Tie (HE-3)                                                      |                     |                     |                   | \$ 80,000         |                   |                   |           |
| Sanders to Brick Rd (HE-4)                                                       |                     |                     |                   | \$ 175,000        |                   |                   |           |
| Anderson/Umptanum Rd Tie                                                         | \$ 150,000          |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| PSE Customer Annexations - Vantage Hwy                                           | \$ 150,000          |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Gateway II                                                                       |                     | \$ 250,000          |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| AMI Conversion                                                                   | \$ 1,000,000        | \$ 2,350,000        |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| SR97 / Highway 10 Loop                                                           | \$ 300,000          |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Street Lighting Laminated / Fiberglass Pole Replacement/ Misc. Lighting Upgrades | \$ 50,000           | \$ 50,000           | \$ 50,000         | \$ 50,000         | \$ 50,000         | \$ 50,000         |           |
| Seattle (Willow To Vista View Plat) Extension                                    |                     |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Rotary Park Solar Expansion and EV Install                                       | \$ 650,000          |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Radio Road Conversion                                                            |                     |                     |                   |                   | \$ 180,000        |                   |           |
| <b>Substation Improvements</b>                                                   |                     |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| Sub Land Purchase                                                                |                     |                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| D1 Dolarway Substation Improvement                                               | \$ 3,500,000        | \$ 500,000          |                   |                   |                   |                   |           |
| <b>Grand total</b>                                                               | <b>\$ 5,800,000</b> | <b>\$ 3,900,000</b> | <b>\$ 750,000</b> | <b>\$ 305,000</b> | <b>\$ 630,000</b> | <b>\$ 450,000</b> |           |

**Table 24. Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan**

| Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2026-2031                                       |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Project                                         | 2026               | 2027              | 2028              | 2029              | 2030              | 2031              |
| Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software      | \$ 50,000          | \$ 50,000         | \$ 150,000        |                   |                   |                   |
| Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software     | \$ 500,000         | \$ 500,000        | \$ 500,000        |                   |                   |                   |
| Esri Enterprise Agreement                       | \$ 31,000          | \$ 31,000         | \$ 45,000         | \$ 45,000         | \$ 45,000         | \$ 45,000         |
| Microsoft Enterprise Agreement                  | \$ 140,000         | \$ 150,000        | \$ 150,000        | \$ 150,000        | \$ 180,000        | \$ 180,000        |
| Virtual Machine (VM) Host Server                | \$ 50,000          |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$ 771,000</b>  | <b>\$ 731,000</b> | <b>\$ 845,000</b> | <b>\$ 195,000</b> | <b>\$ 225,000</b> | <b>\$ 225,000</b> |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$2,992,000</b> |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |

**Table 25. Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan**

| Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2026-2031                                           |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Project                                             | 2026               | 2027             | 2028             | 2029             | 2030             | 2031             |
| <b>Telecom Strategic Plan</b>                       |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Plan Updates (every 3 years)                        |                    | \$20,000         |                  |                  | \$20,000         |                  |
| <b>System Improvements</b>                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Hardware Refreshment                                | \$25,000           | \$25,000         | \$100,000        | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         |
| Outdoor Plant Improvements                          | \$48,000           | \$48,000         | \$48,000         | \$48,000         | \$48,000         | \$48,000         |
| Telecom Connections                                 | \$50,000           | \$50,000         | \$50,000         | \$50,000         | \$50,000         | \$50,000         |
| Telecom Infrastructure                              | \$5,000            | \$5,000          | \$5,000          | \$5,000          | \$5,000          | \$5,000          |
| <b>Line Extensions</b>                              |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Commercial Customers                                | \$25,000           | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>\$153,000</b>   | <b>\$173,000</b> | <b>\$228,000</b> | <b>\$153,000</b> | <b>\$173,000</b> | <b>\$153,000</b> |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$1,033,000</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |

**Table 26. Natural Gas Utility Capital Improvement Plan**

Natural Gas CIP

| Project                                        | 2026        | 2027        | 2028      | 2029      | 2030      | 2031      |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Gas System Planning &amp; Programs</b>      |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| System Plan Update (every 6 years)             | \$120,000   |             |           |           |           |           |
| DIMP Program                                   | \$15,000    | \$15,000    | \$20,000  | \$20,000  | \$25,000  | \$25,000  |
| PSMS Program                                   | \$15,000    | \$15,000    | \$20,000  | \$20,000  | \$25,000  | \$25,000  |
| Public Awareness Program                       | \$30,000    | \$30,000    | \$30,000  | \$30,000  | \$30,000  | \$30,000  |
| <b>System Improvements</b>                     |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| No 6 Road / Vantage Hwy Loop                   |             | \$600,000   |           |           |           |           |
| Misc System Integrity Looping                  | \$40,000    | \$40,000    | \$50,000  | \$50,000  | \$50,000  |           |
| Vantage Highway (Gateway II)                   |             | \$350,000   |           |           |           |           |
| SR97 / Highway 10 Loop                         | \$500,000   |             |           |           |           |           |
| Pipe Boring under Roads and Creeks             | \$50,000    | \$50,000    | \$50,000  | \$60,000  | \$60,000  | \$60,000  |
| Misc System Improvements                       | \$120,000   | \$120,000   | \$140,000 | \$140,000 | \$140,000 | \$160,000 |
| <b>Sustainability Improvements</b>             |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| Emission Mitigation Equipment                  |             | \$40,000    |           |           |           |           |
| Leak Detection Equipment Upgrades              |             |             |           | \$60,000  | \$80,000  |           |
| <b>Tap/Regulator Station Upgrades</b>          |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| System Telemetry Upgrades                      | \$20,000    |             | \$20,000  |           | \$25,000  |           |
| Tap Station Land Acquisition                   | \$120,000   |             |           |           |           |           |
| Kittitas Tap Station Site Improvements         |             | \$450,000   |           |           |           |           |
| Seattle Gate Station Site Improvements         |             |             | \$20,000  |           |           |           |
| <b>Cathodic Protection System Improvements</b> |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| Anode Bed Replacements                         |             | \$180,000   |           |           |           |           |
| Steel System Analysis/Work                     |             | \$60,000    |           |           |           |           |
| High Pressure Main CP Enhancements             |             |             | \$80,000  |           |           |           |
| Cathodic Protection (CP) System Study          |             |             |           |           |           | \$80,000  |
| Cathodic Protection Close Interval Survey      |             |             |           |           |           | \$25,000  |
| <b>Meter/ERT Upgrades/Improvements</b>         |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| Meter Proving/Refurbish                        | \$40,000    | \$20,000    | \$50,000  | \$25,000  | \$50,000  | \$25,000  |
| Meter/ERT Change-Outs                          | \$200,000   | \$200,000   | \$140,000 | \$140,000 | \$140,000 | \$140,000 |
| AMI Conversion                                 |             | \$800,000   |           |           |           |           |
| <b>Developments</b>                            |             |             |           |           |           |           |
| Misc System Developments                       | \$150,000   | \$180,000   | \$180,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$220,000 |
|                                                | \$1,420,000 | \$3,150,000 | \$800,000 | \$745,000 | \$825,000 | \$790,000 |

Grand total

\$7,730,000

**Table 27. Sewer Capital Improvement Plan**

| Sewer CIP                                             |              |      |            |              |            |      |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------|--------------|------------|------|--------------|
| Project                                               | 2026         | 2027 | 2028       | 2029         | 2030       | 2031 | 2032-2042    |
| Cured In Place Rehab                                  | \$400,000    |      | \$400,000  |              | \$400,000  |      | \$2,000,000  |
| Concrete & Clay Pipe Replacement                      |              |      |            |              |            |      | \$4,050,000  |
| Cora Street Pump Removal/<br>Wenas St. Main Extension |              |      |            | \$ 3,000,000 |            |      |              |
|                                                       | \$ 400,000   | \$ - | \$ 400,000 | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ - | \$ 6,050,000 |
| Grand Total                                           | \$10,250,000 |      |            |              |            |      |              |

**Table 28. Storm Water Capital Improvement Plan**

| Storm Water CIP                                              |              |              |           |           |           |           |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Project                                                      | 2026         | 2027         | 2028      | 2029      | 2030      | 2031      | 2032-2042  |
| Effectiveness Monitoring                                     | \$ 74,073    | \$ 92,039    | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ -       |
| Street Tree Inventory and Assessment                         | \$80,000     | \$0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          |
| Annual Stormwater Project (Varies)                           | \$ 75,000    | \$ 75,000    | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 750,000 |
| University Avenue Gateway II Project<br>(Vista Rd. to E. CL) |              | \$ 4,900,000 |           |           |           |           |            |
|                                                              | \$ 229,073   | \$ 5,067,039 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 750,000 |
| Grand Total                                                  | \$ 5,596,112 |              |           |           |           |           |            |

**Table 29. Wastewater Treatment Facility Capital Improvement Plan**

| Waste Water Treatment Facility CIP |               |               |              |      |               |      |           |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------|---------------|------|-----------|
| Project                            | 2026          | 2027          | 2028         | 2029 | 2030          | 2031 | 2032-2042 |
| Additional Aerator in each basin   | \$ 1,000,000  |               |              |      |               |      |           |
| RAS Building Improvements          | \$ 800,000    |               |              |      |               |      |           |
| Boiler Building                    |               | \$ 40,000     |              |      |               |      |           |
| New Aeration System                |               |               | \$ 500,000   |      | \$ 40,000,000 |      |           |
| New Clarifier                      | \$ 2,000,000  | \$ 10,000,000 |              |      |               |      |           |
| Rebuild Clarifiers                 |               |               | \$ 1,700,000 |      |               |      |           |
|                                    | \$ 3,800,000  | \$ 10,040,000 | \$ 2,200,000 | \$ - | \$40,000,000  | \$ - | \$ -      |
| Grand total                        | \$ 56,040,000 |               |              |      |               |      |           |

Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plan

EXHIBIT A

| CITY OF ELLENSBURG<br>6-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN<br>2026 TO 2031 (INCLUDES CURRENT WORK REMAINING IN 2025) |  | PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 6/16/2025<br>ADOPTION DATE: 6/16/2025<br>RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 |              |               |               |               |               |               |        |               |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--|
| REVENUE BY YEAR (thousands)                                                                                            |  | 2025*                                                                                | 2026         | 2027          | 2028          | 2029          | 2030          | 2031          |        | TOTALS        |  |
| ARTERIAL STREET                                                                                                        |  | 199                                                                                  | 133          | 111           | 45            | 345           | 45            | 119           |        | 2,243         |  |
| REGIONAL STBG                                                                                                          |  | 315                                                                                  | 1,995        | 0             | 0             | 2,500         | 0             | 750           |        | 2,627         |  |
| SALES TAX RESERVE                                                                                                      |  | 100                                                                                  | 0            | 925           | 100           | 675           | 1,055         | 500           |        | 4,743         |  |
| FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL & PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE GRANTS                                                              |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 202           | 1,370         | 4,330         | 1,550         | 250           |        | 5,202         |  |
| WSDOT SAFETY PROGRAM                                                                                                   |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 1,800         | 2,550         | 4,690         | 0             | 0             |        | 6,050         |  |
| TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT BOARD (TIB) - Grant Programs                                                                |  | 0                                                                                    | 943          | 2,872         | 850           | 0             | 6,975         | 2,800         |        | 11,953        |  |
| DISTRESSED COUNTY SALES/USE TAX                                                                                        |  | 0                                                                                    | 144          | 0             | 0             | 135           | 609           | 0             |        | 887           |  |
| 1/4 CENT REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX                                                                                        |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 812           | 152           | 750           | 361           | 147           |        | 2,597         |  |
| TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAMS                                                                                   |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 475           | 0             |        | 828           |  |
| DOE FISCAL YEAR WATER QUALITY GRANT                                                                                    |  | 465                                                                                  | 0            | 4,285         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |        | 4,250         |  |
| COUNTY LODGING TAX GRANT                                                                                               |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 67            |        | 67            |  |
| LOCAL LODGING TAX FUNDS                                                                                                |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 66            |        | 66            |  |
| TRANSIT                                                                                                                |  | 813                                                                                  | 679          | 1,601         | 991           | 126           | 126           | 126           |        | 915           |  |
| OTHER AGENCY OR CITY DEPARTMENT                                                                                        |  | 3,500                                                                                | 100          | 3,275         | 6,448         | 500           | 4,900         | 309           |        | 5,613         |  |
| LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID) / DEFERRALS                                                                           |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 2,000         | 0             | 4,005         | 695           | 8,200         |        | 17,740        |  |
| TRAFFIC IMPACT FEES                                                                                                    |  | 0                                                                                    | 606          | 1,804         | 1,325         | 250           | 990           | 480           |        | 5,748         |  |
| NOT FUNDED                                                                                                             |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |        | 0             |  |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                                                                                                   |  | <b>5,392</b>                                                                         | <b>4,600</b> | <b>19,687</b> | <b>13,831</b> | <b>18,306</b> | <b>17,781</b> | <b>13,814</b> |        | <b>71,529</b> |  |
| EXPENDITURES BY YEAR (thousands)                                                                                       |  | 2025*                                                                                | 2026         | 2027          | 2028          | 2029          | 2030          | 2031          | Future | TOTALS        |  |
| 1 S/P Bridge Inspections                                                                                               |  | 5                                                                                    | 5            | 5             | 5             | 5             | 5             | 5             | 0      | 35            |  |
| 2 S/P Engineering Transfer                                                                                             |  | 15                                                                                   | 15           | 15            | 15            | 15            | 15            | 15            | 0      | 105           |  |
| 3 S/P Signal Optimization                                                                                              |  | 10                                                                                   | 10           | 25            | 25            | 25            | 25            | 25            | 0      | 175           |  |
| 4 P Alley Reconstruction (Semi-Annual)                                                                                 |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 90            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 100           | 0      | 350           |  |
| 5 S/P Transit Stop Upgrades (Shelter & Amenities, ADA Upgrades, Lighting, Art Glass)                                   |  | 282                                                                                  | 116          | 116           | 116           | 116           | 116           | 116           | 0      | 526           |  |
| 6 S/P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)                                       |  | 0                                                                                    | 135          | 135           | 10            | 10            | 10            | 10            | 0      | 1,540         |  |
| 7 S Mountain View Ave and Bull Rd/Willow St Intersection Enhancements                                                  |  | 75                                                                                   | 750          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 1,251         |  |
| 8 S/P Helena Ave Imp (Water St to 3,200' west, Cora Connection, portion in KC jurisdiction)                            |  | 450                                                                                  | 650          | 6,540         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 170           |  |
| 9 S Water St. Overlay (Main St. to Bender Rd)                                                                          |  | 3,576                                                                                | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 360           |  |
| 10 S University Way Bridge Repair over BNSF                                                                            |  | 100                                                                                  | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 1,017         |  |
| 11 S/P University Way Gateway II - Vista Rd to east City Limits                                                        |  | 515                                                                                  | 100          | 5,125         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 200           |  |
| 12 S Vanlage Highway Shared Use Pathway                                                                                |  | 325                                                                                  | 1,993        | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 825           |  |
| 13 S 3rd Ave. Paverstone Pathway and Historic Lighting                                                                 |  | 39                                                                                   | 826          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 5,900         |  |
| 14 P Capitol Ave Sidewalk Replacement - Main St. to Sampson St.                                                        |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 110           | 0             | 120           | 130           | 0      | 6,150         |  |
| 15 P Canyon Rd Overlay - Berry Rd to Mountain View Ave                                                                 |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 1,700         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 340           |  |
| 16 P Alder St Sidewalk - One Side - 3rd Ave to Craig Ave                                                               |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 80            | 0             | 100           | 0             | 0             | 0      | 1,416         |  |
| 17 P 1st Ave Sidewalk Improvements - Ruby St. to Sampson St. - North Side                                              |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 234           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 3,041         |  |
| 18 P Anderson Rd and Umptanum Rd Intersection Enhancements                                                             |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 1,252         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 280           |  |
| 19 P Add Transit Signal Priority                                                                                       |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 350           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 180           |  |
| 20 P Mountain View Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                              |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 2,920         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 234           |  |
| 21 P Ruby St Corridor Improvements - Manitoba to University Way                                                        |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 1,100         | 5,940         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 804           |  |
| 22 P University Way Overlay - Cle Elum St to east City Limits                                                          |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 2,215         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 2,215         |  |
| 23 P Wildcat Way and 18th Intersection Enhancements                                                                    |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 756           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 755           |  |
| 24 P University Way and Water Street Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                            |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 3,270         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0      | 1,252         |  |
| 25 P Bender Rd / Sanders Rd Corridor Improvements (Whiskey Creek to Alder St)                                          |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 1,370         | 8,020         | 0             | 0             | 0      | 3,270         |  |
| 26 P Walnut St and 18th Bike Lane - Dean Nicholson to Alder St                                                         |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 150           | 0             | 0             | 0      | 2,920         |  |
| 27 P Anderson Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Umptanum to 5th Ave                                                           |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 4,300         | 0             | 0             | 0      | 150           |  |
| 28 P Umptanum Shared Use Pathway - Wilson Cr to IRRP                                                                   |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 2,100         | 0             | 0             | 0      | 1,550         |  |
| 29 P Industrial Way Improvements - LID                                                                                 |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 1,280         | 0             | 0             | 0      | 4,300         |  |
| 30 P Palouse to Cascades Reconnect Trail - Sanders to Bowers to Helena Ave/PTC                                         |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 2185          | 7,805         | 0             | 0      | 2,100         |  |
| 31 P Canyon Rd and Umptanum Rd Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                                  |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3,390         | 0             | 0      | 2,040         |  |
| 32 P Capitol Ave. Sidewalk Improvements - Willow St. to Oak St.                                                        |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 1,525         | 0             | 0      | 1,280         |  |
| 33 P Airport Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Dean Nicholson to N. City Limits                                               |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 1,170         | 0             | 0      | 3,390         |  |
| 34 P City to Canyon Trail - Umptanum Rd to Tjossem Rd                                                                  |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 3,600         | 0             | 0      | 810           |  |
| 35 P Large Scale Wayfinding Implementation Project                                                                     |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 133           | 0      | 1,525         |  |
| 36 P 14th Ave & Wildcat Way Corridor Ped/Bike Impr. - Water St to University Way                                       |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 480           | 0      | 1,170         |  |
| 37 P Mountain View Overlay - Canyon to Willow                                                                          |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 1,500         | 0      | 3,600         |  |
| 38 P Helena Ave Extension - PTC Trail to Dry Cr Rd                                                                     |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 4,100         | 0      | 890           |  |
| 39 P Cora Street Ext - PTC Trail to Bender Rd (portion in KC jurisdiction)                                             |  | 0                                                                                    | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 7,200         | 0      | 133           |  |
| 40 P Chestnut St and Walnut St Bike and Ped Improvements                                                               |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 263    | 480           |  |
| 41 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)                                        |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 300    | 1,500         |  |
| 42 P Downtown Transit Bus Hub Improvements                                                                             |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 1,000  | 4,100         |  |
| 43 P Alternative Fuel (Electric/Hydrogen/Propane) Transit Bus Infrastructure Support                                   |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 3,500  | 7,200         |  |
| 44 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)                                        |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 250    | 263           |  |
| 45 P 8th Ave LID (University Way to Maple St)                                                                          |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 1,061  | 1,061         |  |
| 46 P Trail Connection - 5th Ave to University Way (near CWU)                                                           |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 250    | 250           |  |
| 47 P 5th and Ruby Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                                               |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 741    | 741           |  |
| 48 P 3rd Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements                                                                     |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 890    | 7,310         |  |
| 49 P Anderson/Umptanum/Railroad Ave. Road Widening/Overlay                                                             |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 7,310  | 740           |  |
| 50 P Helena Ave and Walnut St Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                                   |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 740    | 4,200         |  |
| 51 P Circle the City Trail - Enterprise Way to Faust Rd                                                                |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 4,200  | 1,450         |  |
| 52 P Main St Sidewalk Improvements - University Way to 14th Ave                                                        |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 1,450  | 936           |  |
| 53 P Helena Ave and Water St Intersection Enhancements and Widening                                                    |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 936    | 1,332         |  |
| 54 P Manitoba Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Realignment                                                |  |                                                                                      |              |               |               |               |               |               | 1,332  | 1,558         |  |

**Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plans Continued.**

|                                                      |   |                                                                       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 55                                                   | P | University Way and Alder St Intersection Enhancements and Widening    |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 1,558  | 2,750          |
| 56                                                   | P | Currier Creek Pathway - Univ. Way to Reece Cr Rd to Currier Cr to PTC |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 2,760  | 3,338          |
| 57                                                   | P | University Way and Main St Intersection Enhancements and Widening     |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 3,338  | 966            |
| 58                                                   | P | Water St and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements                      |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 966    | 1,008          |
| 59                                                   | P | Airport Rd and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements                    |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 1,008  | 672            |
| 60                                                   | P | Capitol Ave and Chestnut St Intersection Enhancements                 |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 672    | 540            |
| 61                                                   | P | Canyon Rd Sidewalk - I90 to Berry Rd to Existing Sidewalk on Berry Rd |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 540    | 665            |
| 62                                                   | P | Sanders Rd and Alder St Intersection Enhancements                     |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 665    | 524            |
| 63                                                   | P | Capitol Ave and Willow St Intersection Enhancements                   |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 524    | 432            |
| 64                                                   | P | 15th Ave and Cora St Intersection Enhancements                        |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 432    | 720            |
| 65                                                   | P | 18th Ave and Alder St Intersection Enhancements                       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        | 720    |                |
|                                                      |   |                                                                       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        | <b>102,985</b> |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE                                    |   |                                                                       | 5,392 | 4,600 | 19,687 | 13,832 | 18,306 | 17,781 | 13,814 | 37,396 |                |
| ARTERIAL STREET FUND BEGINNING BALANCE (01/01/2025)) |   |                                                                       | 400   | 321   | 308    | 317    | 392    | 167    | 242    |        |                |
| EST. GAS TAX REVENUE & SCHEDULED SALES TAX TRANSFER  |   |                                                                       | 120   | 120   | 120    | 120    | 120    | 120    | 120    |        |                |
| ARTERIAL STREET FUND ENDING BALANCE                  |   |                                                                       | 321   | 308   | 317    | 392    | 167    | 242    | 243    |        |                |

\*Current year projects shown for accounting purposes.

\*\*TIP plans calls for road widening/impr. projects to be funded from Sales Tax Reserve, to replace the Federal STP funding which is now shown for potential asphalt overlay funding. (Average annual need to overlay the arterial street system on a 15 year cycle is in excess of \$1,380,500 per year.)

**Table 31. Water Capital Improvement Plan**

| Water CIP                                         |               |              |              |              |              |            |              |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Project                                           | 2026          | 2027         | 2028         | 2029         | 2030         | 2031       | 2032-2042    |
| Reservoir Property Acquisition                    | \$ 750,000    |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| Craig's Hill Reservoir Seismic Study and Retrofit | \$ 50,000     |              | \$ 180,000   |              |              |            |              |
| Pfenning Loop                                     |               |              |              |              | \$ 274,000   |            |              |
| Airport Well 3 and 1824 Zone Connector            |               |              |              |              |              | \$ 160,000 |              |
| Annual Water Main Replacement Program             | \$ 300,000    | \$ 300,000   | \$ 300,000   | \$ 300,000   | \$ 300,000   | \$ 300,000 | \$ 3,000,000 |
| Seattle Ave. Main Extension                       | \$ 323,000    |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| 24-inch Main Inspection                           | \$ 25,000     |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| 24-inch Valve Rehabilitate                        | \$ 40,000     |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| New 1860 Pressure Zone                            |               |              |              | \$ 2,500,000 | \$ 1,840,000 |            |              |
| New 4.0 MG 1824 Zone Reservoir                    |               |              |              | \$ 4,745,000 | \$ 4,745,000 |            |              |
| Reservoir Corrosion Control Program               | \$ 230,000    |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| Permanent On-Site Well Backup Generators          | \$ 550,000    |              | \$ 550,000   |              | \$ 550,000   |            | \$ 1,200,000 |
| Recoat Reservoirs                                 |               |              | \$ 825,000   |              |              |            | \$ 825,000   |
| AMI Conversion                                    |               |              | \$ 500,000   |              |              |            |              |
| Pressure Reducing Valve                           |               |              |              |              |              |            | \$ 81,000    |
| New Well(s)                                       | \$ 50,000     | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 3,500,000 |              |              |            |              |
| Water System Plan Update                          |               |              |              |              |              |            | \$ 300,000   |
| Rotary Park Irrigation                            | \$ 750,000    |              |              |              |              |            |              |
| Oversizing Fund                                   | \$ 40,000     | \$ 40,000    | \$ 40,000    | \$ 40,000    | \$ 40,000    | \$ 40,000  | \$ 520       |
| Pipe Replacement Fund                             | \$ 100,000    | \$ 100,000   | \$ 110,000   | \$ 110,000   | \$ 120,000   | \$ 120,000 | \$ 1,320,000 |
| Meter Testing                                     | \$ 35,000     | \$ 35,000    | \$ 35,000    | \$ 35,000    | \$ 35,000    | \$ 35,000  | \$ 455,000   |
| Pump and Motor Inspection/Repair                  | \$ 55,000     | \$ 55,000    | \$ 55,000    | \$ 55,000    | \$ 55,000    | \$ 55,000  | \$ 416,000   |
|                                                   | \$ 3,298,000  | \$ 3,530,000 | \$ 6,095,000 | \$ 7,785,000 | \$ 7,959,000 | \$ 710,000 | \$ 7,597,520 |
| Grand Total                                       | \$ 36,974,520 |              |              |              |              |            |              |



## CHAPTER 9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER

- ~~Background information and context related to local history, current events, and plans for the future, addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the City of Ellensburg.~~
- Policies that seek to make City resources more accessible to all.
- Policies that direct the City's efforts towards encouraging welcoming and inclusive environments within the Community.
- Policies intended to support a culturally ~~inclusive~~ welcoming community, where all people experience a sense of belonging.

### OVERVIEW

This chapter contains goals, policies, and programs that define how the City of Ellensburg can play a role in fostering an environment of understanding, and support engagement equity, and belonging within the community. ~~The following is the City of Ellensburg's initial action plan aimed at systematically addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a way that can effect sustainable change to benefit all residents.~~

This document is a starting point for the City. There are likely many issues not yet articulated that can be addressed later as they are identified. This chapter is a living document; it is intended to be revisited and revised periodically. This is an initial framework, within which the City will continue to listen to residents, encourage collaboration and communication, and support opportunities for meaningful engagement. ~~elevate marginalized voices.~~

## BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Ellensburg is committed to creating a community with a lived and built environment that improves lives, supports all people, and provides residents with opportunities to flourish. It is important for the Ellensburg community to be inclusive, to celebrate diversity, and to provide equitable opportunities to all. Doing so can help create a thriving local economy, and an environment in which individuals achieve their full potential.

Similar to many cities around the country, the national conversations that occurred in 2020 around race, social justice, and equity, sparked a discussion within our local community. These conversations highlighted the need to build a greater awareness of the impacts and challenges that marginalized communities are faced with on a daily basis. The goal of this chapter is to address ways in which the City can alleviate some of these systemic possible barriers, and foster a sense of belonging amongst all residents, by consistently listening to the ideas, experiences, and concerns of all who live here.

### Through the lens of DEI

What does this all mean? Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion related educational opportunities, social gathering opportunities, and supporting access to community resources, can create a sense of belonging within the community for all residents.

#### *Diversity*

Diversity is the presence of differences that may include, but are not limited to, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, socioeconomic status, language, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, or political perspective. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of human differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of local policies. Embracing diversity means sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. The City can help support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

#### *Equity*

Equity alleviates barriers to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist, and that as a result, we don't all start from the same place. Creating and supporting goals and policies that meet the community members where they are, will help to remove systemic barriers that make accessing basic community services challenging. Increasing accessibility to important resources and opportunities that best meet residents varying needs helps all residents succeed.



***Inclusion***

~~Inclusion is when all residents experience a sense of belonging and know they are both welcome in our community and encouraged to participate. Working on goals and policies that actively recruit participation and involvement from all residents within the community, fosters a sense of belonging and elevates traditionally marginalized voices. These methods can include listening tours, surveys, discussion groups, and use of a variety of media and print publications designed to be accessible to all residents.~~

***Fostering a sense of belonging***

~~In order to support all residents, the City will promote inclusion, listening, and diverse approaches to engagement through this lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Engaging and including marginalized groups replaces barriers with bridges and builds trust that strengthens the overall fabric of our community.~~

**Recognizing the Past - Looking to the Future**

An important step in building a forward-thinking vision within the community is to first learn about our local history, listen to residents' perceptions now, and consider how new goals and policies will positively affect the City of Ellensburg's plans for the future. ~~The City cannot adequately support our community and elevate marginalized voices without first building~~ will build a base of contextual knowledge, understanding, and trust.

***Past***

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a diverse community, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared. Acknowledging and learning local history within the community, the positive and the negative, can help increase awareness and empathy toward others and strengthen our community as a whole. Understanding local history can help create a more inclusive environment for all, where residents feel welcome and equally represented.

Kittitas Valley has always been, and continues to be, sacred to Native people. Traditionally, the Pshwanapum lived in the Kittitas Valley as a sub-band of the larger political and extended family networks of the Yakama tribes and bands. The Pshwanapum members were also referred to as the K'titas ("Kittitas") band, and they moved seasonally throughout the valley and nearby mountains to harvest roots, salmon, berries, game, and medicines. Several other tribal nations including Kiala, Tatxanixsha, Yumi'sh, and Che-lo-han, would hunt and trade in this area as well. Many descendants of these tribes continue to live throughout the 1855 Treaty

**Territory of the Yakamas, practicing, honoring, and teaching the heritage and ancestry of the area.** (*Information sourced from Daily Record News article from Aronica Family October 12, 2020, and Kittitas Valley Historical Museum*)

~~Histories and experiences of marginalized communities and people of color within Ellensburg continue to be uncovered from written and oral records, and there is still much more to be discovered. Historically, members including, but not limited to, Black, Chinese, Jewish, Hispanic, and Japanese communities have moved to Ellensburg as early as the mid-19th Century, for various reasons, such as migrant labor, work on the railroad, and work in local businesses. Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town", and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many black individuals played on local baseball teams as well. There is also evidence at times of divisive behavior and negative language towards people of color, as found in newspaper advertisements regarding restaurants and hotels that employed Chinese individuals.~~

#### *Present*

~~Currently, people of color, members of the LGBTQ<sup>+</sup>, and disability communities, among many others, still report that they feel invisible, experience slurs and discriminatory comments, nonverbal glares, and behaviors that feel unwelcoming in Ellensburg. While members of some of marginalized communities have reported frequent, targeted incidents, they also believe that Ellensburg can be more inclusive, and that the welcoming nature of our community can rise to a deeper level of acceptance and affirmation, utilizing the talents, skills, and experiences of all who live here.~~

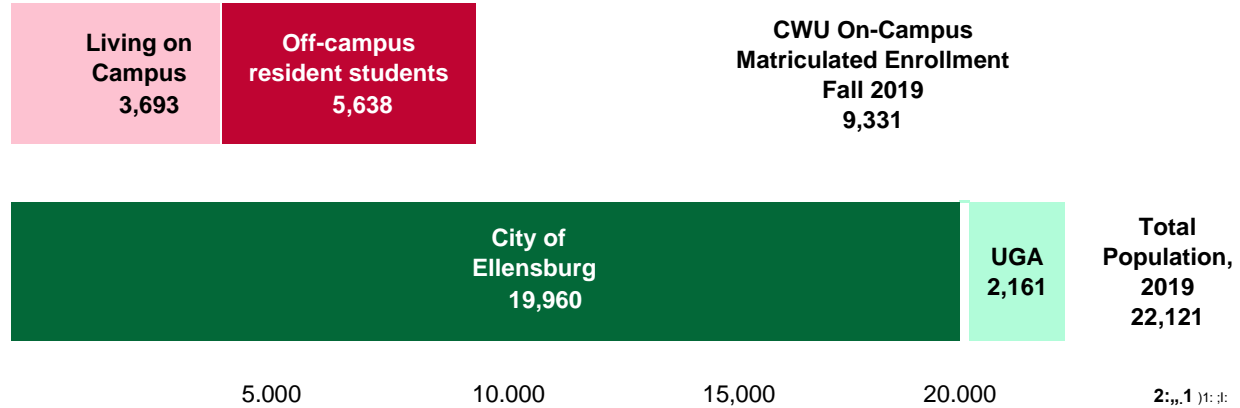
Ellensburg can be a welcoming community that comes together in times of need, where strangers reach out and neighbors help each other. ~~However, fully supporting and accepting people of color, ethnic and religious minorities, and members of the LGBTQ, disability communities, over 65 communities, and others, can be improved. Similar to what many towns and cities around the country are currently experiencing and working on,~~ The City of Ellensburg recognizes it needs to be more responsive and prepared when handling issues related to accessibility and community engagement. ~~diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~ This chapter lays the groundwork for this to happen, as the City continues towards a future of growth and expansion.

#### *Future*

Our dynamic community landscape has continued to develop, particularly in the last ten years, growing in size and in the diversity of residents. Statistics from the City of Ellensburg's 2021 Housing Action Plan, show that in 2020, the estimated population of the City, with its urban growth area, (UGA) was 22,879 people, demonstrating a growth rate of roughly 1.9% annually since 2015. Of the 22,879 people, roughly 9,331 constitute CWU enrollment, 3,693 of which were on-campus living, and 5,638 representing off campus resident students, as depicted

in Figure 26.

**Figure 26. CWU Student Population and Total Population, 2018**



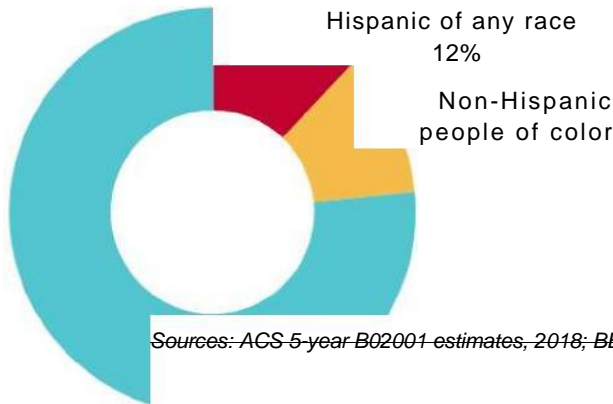
Students living on campus represents the housing occupancy for Fall 2019. Programmed capacity is 3,918 and the full built capacity is 4,249.

Sources: Central Washington University — Ellensburg Campus, Fall 2019; Washington OFM, 2021; BERK, 2021

**As the City continues to support the needs of the diverse communities that live here, it is important to recognize that the statistics reflected in this chapter from the 2021 Housing Action Plan, do not reflect all demographics of our community. Keeping that in mind, it is still valuable to look at current information that is available, as we work towards obtaining more detailed statistics in the future. By 2040 it is anticipated that 20% of the County population will be in the age bracket over age 65, and 19% in the age bracket of 45 to 64. At the same time, proportional decreases are expected for school-aged youth (5 to 19).**

~~The Census also captures racial identity and Hispanic ethnic identity for respondents. As shown in Figure 27 below, the Ellensburg community in 2018 was majority White and non-Hispanic (77%) but is growing more ethnically and racially diverse. From 2010 to 2018, Ellensburg's Hispanic population increased from 7% to 12% overall, and non-Hispanic people of color increased from 8% to 11%. Figure 28 Figure 27 provides a further breakdown of the Non-White Alone demographics.~~

**Figure 27. Ellensburg Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2028**



**Figure 28. Ellensburg Population by Racial Identity for Non-White Alone Residents, 2028**

• ~~Two or more races~~

• ~~Some other race~~



• ~~Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander~~

• ~~American Indian and Alaskan Native~~

• ~~Black or African American~~

The University's emphasis on attracting students from minority and underserved communities, as well as diverse faculty and staff, continues to impact the demographics of Ellensburg. The changing nature of the labor force has also created greater diversity in the community. People from many countries have settled in Ellensburg over the years, and there is no reason to think that these influential factors are going to be less impactful in the future.

As Ellensburg continues to grow, there is the potential for marginalized groups to feel excluded unless the community has a plan for improving cultural relationships. The City of Ellensburg has developed this chapter in a sincere effort to create a n-equitable, just welcoming, and safe community - one where all residents know they belong and are welcome.

## GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

These DEI goals, policies, and programs contain steps that the City of Ellensburg will take to create an accessible inclusive, welcoming, equitable, and safe community.

### **Goal DEI-1: Increase accessibility to City Services, Projects, Programs, and Events.**

#### **Policy A Support policies and programs that increase accessibility to City services for all, ~~utilizing the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~**

*Program 1* Provide increased access to government documents in multiple languages and easily accessible assistance for those who may need additional support.

*Program 2* Identify areas of City government where greater physical accessibility and accommodations are needed to increase access to all members of the public.

#### **Policy B Promote and encourage community engagement and outreach to all.**

*Program 1* Actively encourage participation from the public for community projects, events, and recreational activities, through a wide variety of media and information distribution methods.

~~*Program 2* Provide City staff and elected officials with tools and regular training to understand and lead actions that are inclusive and equitable.~~

~~*Program 3* Establish an ongoing review process of the costs for City-sponsored recreation and leisure activities to ensure that all members of the public have access to these services.~~

~~*Program 4* Support civic education programs that actively engage diverse groups of the community, and encourage diverse representation participation among local leadership, organizations, and agencies.~~

### **Goal DEI-2: ~~Foster Racial Understanding, Equity,~~ Encourage Engagement and Belonging within the Community.**

#### **Policy A Encourage cultural sharing.**

*Program 1* Regularly support events and celebrations that highlight the variety of cultural traditions within the community.

*Program 2* Encourage the creation of spaces where cultural foods and traditions can be shared among all members of the community, as well as the creation of public spaces that are accommodating and accessible to all.

- Program 3** Encourage increased communication and collaboration between the City government, Central Washington University, businesses, and education and social service sectors, through shared events, projects, and outreach, to help various community groups engage. ~~residents feel more comfortable visiting campus, and non-resident students feel more comfortable within the~~
- Policy B** Encourage local leadership to address systemic issues that create barriers for participation.
- Program 1** Encourage City leadership to demonstrate support of all community marginalized groups through a variety of proclamations, ~~and publicly speak to local actions that affect the diverse members of the community.~~
- Program 2** Support the development of a framework to identify and address systemic inequalities within our local institutions.
- Program 3** Collaborate with local organizations to help local businesses support all groups in need throughout ~~diverse members of the community.~~
- Goal DEI-3: Increase accessibility to local services and community resources for all residents.**
- Policy A** Ensure that high quality service programs are available, accessible, and utilized by all, to support resident's basic needs.
- Program 1** Partner with local health and social services to identify strategies for making their services accessible by all means of transportation.
- Program 2** Advocate for low income, residential care facilities, and other housing for aging persons to be located close to services and amenities.
- Program 3** Encourage and support programs that seek to provide residents with access to diverse health care providers who can respond to varying cultural and medical needs.
- Policy B** Encourage healthy activity and lifestyle by making recreational resources and opportunities accessible and welcoming to all residents.
- Program 1** Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.
- Program 2** Encourage communication between local businesses, organizations, and schools, to coordinate food pantries and local food distribution.

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## ACTION ITEMS

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1. ~~Work with DEI Commission to begin regular review of current City policies and procedures using the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.~~
  2. ~~Begin work towards regular Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for City staff and elected officials.~~
  3. 1. Increase use of community engagement and social media tools to help with local outreach.
  4. 2. Review fees and costs for city sponsored recreational and leisure activities.
  5. 3. Develop a framework of accountability.
  6. ~~Develop a work plan for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.~~
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## POLICY CONNECTIONS

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The **Housing** chapter includes policies and land use designations that support the development of many types of housing to ensure that people who live and work in Ellensburg have adequate housing choices.

The **Transportation** chapter includes policies related to providing a variety of transportation networks that is available for all community members.

The **Capital Facilities and Utilities** chapter includes policies that focus on providing public facilities and utilities that are accessible and affordable to all community members, including access to the library, reasonably priced utilities, and access to data and technology. This chapter also provides goals centered around providing excellent public safety services.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes policies that focus on providing citywide programs and services that meet all community and group needs, ~~in addition to preserving historical areas and features, while also developing high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.~~

The **Economic Development** chapter includes policies related to growing and sustaining local businesses, while creating opportunities for new businesses that can provide goods and services that meet the needs of the local and regional community.





Meeting Date: December 1, 2025  
**City of Ellensburg**  
**City Council Agenda Report**

**Agenda Subject:** Second Reading of Ordinance 4976 - 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget (Public Comment Opportunity)  
**Submitted by:** Keith Bassett, Assistant Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance

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**Suggested Motion/Action:**  
Move to conduct Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 4976 - 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget

**Background/Summary:**  
All Washington cities that adopt a biennial budget must conduct a "Mid-Biennial Review" process to amend the budget in advance of the second year of the biennium. The proposed supplemental budget is a routine budget amendment that meets the procedural requirements of a Mid-Biennial Review. The ordinance principally amends the 2025/2026 Biennial Budget to reflect changes in operational requirements and adjustments to capital project plans since the last supplemental budget was adopted in September, with a focus on plans for 2026.

**Previous Council Action:**  
Council adopted the 2025/2026 Biennial Budget via Ordinance 4950 on December 2, 2024, appropriating funds and providing expenditure authority for the two-year period beginning January 1, 2025. Council amended the budget via Ordinance 4958 on March 17, 2025, and Ordinance 4970 on September 2, 2025. Council held a public hearing on 2026 General Fund revenue sources on November 3, 2025. Council held a public hearing on the Mid-Biennial Review and Supplemental Budget Ordinance, and subsequently conducted first reading of the ordinance, on November 17, 2025. Council regularly reviews and approves additional budget adjustments as part of its ongoing review and approval of contracts and purchases.

**Analysis:**  
Since the prior supplemental budget was adopted, items have been approved by City Council that require a supplemental budget adjustment in order to be implemented. The anticipated budget impacts are presented as part of the City's standard agenda reports that accompany the initial request. The proposed ordinance will officially authorize expenditures in support of previously approved projects and program changes that have come before Council since the approval of the first supplemental budget include state grant pass-through expenditures in support of the Pathways project and IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement budget impacts.

Additional items in the proposed ordinance include:

- Carry-forward of 2025 savings to engage consultants for priority-driven budget process and performance measurement consultant services to develop the 2027-2028 Biennial Budget in 2026.
- Grant-funded crime prevention equipment for the Police Department.
- Aquatics facility pre-design planning services and pool facility reuse study services.
- Payment from sales tax reserve fund to the IT Internal Services Fund to build financial capacity for the ongoing Enterprise Resource Planning(ERP) Software replacement project.
- Non-represented employee market adjustment to maintain competitive wages.
- Expenditure authority for deployment of Peregrine analytical software service for the Police Department.
- Incremental increase to law enforcement overtime costs and mandated cost share of the basic law enforcement academy.
- Reprogram matching funds for an unsuccessful grant match to instead fund N. Alder St. Park Splash Pad in 2026.
- Carry forward construction of the West Ellensburg Park playground to 2026 and acknowledge a donation from the Morning Rotary Club in support of that project.
- Additional expenditure authority in the Natural Gas Utility Fund to provide capacity for further participation on Cap-and-Invest auctions for 2025.

Other new items in these amendments include:

- 2026 employee benefit cost changes.
- Relatively minor increases for escalating costs of contracted goods and services.
- Additional budget to accommodate supplies, equipment and workspaces for new positions added when the budget was originally adopted.
- Cleanup of principal and interest payment budget for the grant anticipation interfund loan for the Arterial Street Fund.
- An update to anticipated unemployment insurance costs for 2025.

Several items reflect opportunities to close out funds held for particular purposes, specifically expenditure authority to allow closeout of funds previously held to guarantee Local Improvement District (LID) debt service, which was paid off in 2025, and to repatriate funds held by the Health & Benefits Fund to the original contributing fund of the City, now that the self insurance program has concluded.

The Mid-Biennial Review recognizes updated revenue forecasts throughout.

Detailed figures for each item, by fund, are included in Table 1. A summary of all items by fund are identified in Tables 2 & 3.

**Financial Impact:**

The proposed ordinance increases total budgeted 2025 expenditures by approximately \$2.9 million and revenue by approximately \$7.0 million . The effect of the proposed ordinance increases the anticipated 2025 ending fund balance by approximately \$4.1 million.

The proposed ordinance increases total budgeted 2026 expenditures by approximately \$276,000, and decreases total budgeted 2026 revenue by \$549,000 and increases the total anticipated 2026 ending fund balances by \$4.34 million. The proposed amendments maintain anticipated 2025 and 2026 ending fund balances within required fund balance thresholds.

Budget Adjustment: No

**Attachments:**

1. Table 1 - Supplemental Items by Fund
2. Tables 2 & 3 - Summary of Budget Adjustments by Fund
3. Ordinance 4976- 2025-2026 Mid-Biennial Review - Supplemental Budget (Second Reading)
4. Exhibits A & B - 2025-2026 Biennial Budget as Amended

| Table 1 - Supplemental Items by Fund (Second Reading)       |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Fund/Item                                                   | 2025 Revenues    | 2025 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance | Bud. Beg. Fund Balance | 2026 Revenues  | 2026 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance |
| <b>General Fund</b>                                         |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                               | \$0              | \$0               | \$0                      | \$1,036,120            | \$0            | \$0               | \$1,036,120              |
| Professional Services Cost Escalation                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 26,725            | -26,725                  |
| General Fund Revenue Projection Update                      | 862,294          | 0                 | 862,294                  |                        | 94,393         | 0                 | 94,393                   |
| Meter Reading Device Costs (Carryforward)                   | 0                | 10,652            | -10,652                  |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Utility Payment Processing Fees (Customers on AutoPay and P | 0                | 10,000            | -10,000                  |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Pool Facility Reuse Study                                   |                  |                   |                          |                        | 50,000         | 50,000            | 0                        |
| Performance Driven Budget (Partial Carryforward)            |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 45,000            | -45,000                  |
| Crime Prevention Equipment - Grant Funding                  | 43,478           | 0                 | 43,478                   |                        | 0              | 43,478            | -43,478                  |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                           |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 156,020           | -156,020                 |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                    |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -282,464          | 282,464                  |
| Kittitas County Library Share                               |                  |                   |                          |                        | 7,000          | 0                 | 7,000                    |
| Prosecution Services Agreement                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 25,000         | 25,000            | 0                        |
| Local Improvement District (LID) Guarantee Fund Closeout    | 163,000          | 0                 | 163,000                  |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                    |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 36,430            | -36,430                  |
| General Fund Transfers Cleanup                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -700,000          | 700,000                  |
| ERP Staffing Supplies and Equipment                         | 0                | 2,000             | -2,000                   |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Finance Space Use Improvements                              | 0                | 10,000            | -10,000                  |                        |                |                   |                          |
| <b>General Fund Total</b>                                   | <b>1,068,772</b> | <b>32,652</b>     | <b>1,036,120</b>         | <b>1,036,120</b>       | <b>176,393</b> | <b>-599,811</b>   | <b>1,812,324</b>         |
| <b>General Sub-Funds</b>                                    |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| <b>Sales Tax Fund</b>                                       |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                               |                  |                   |                          | 2,286,320              | 0              | 0                 | 2,286,320                |
| General Fund Revenue Projection Update                      | 2,286,320        | 0                 | 2,286,320                |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Pool Facility Reuse Study                                   |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 50,000            | -50,000                  |
| General Fund Transfers Cleanup                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 200,000           | -200,000                 |
| ERP Project General Fund Payment                            |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 500,000           | -500,000                 |
| <b>Sales Tax Fund Total</b>                                 | <b>2,286,320</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>2,286,320</b>         | <b>2,286,320</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>750,000</b>    | <b>1,536,320</b>         |
| <b>Fire Relief &amp; Pension Trust Fund</b>                 |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                    |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 1,271             | -1,271                   |
| <b>Fire Relief &amp; Pension Trust Fund Total</b>           |                  |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>1,271</b>      | <b>-1,271</b>            |
| <b>General Sub-Funds Total</b>                              | <b>2,286,320</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>2,286,320</b>         | <b>2,286,320</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>751,271</b>    | <b>1,535,049</b>         |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds</b>                                |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| <b>Street Fund</b>                                          |                  |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                           |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 1,197             | -1,197                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                    |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -26,962           | 26,962                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                    |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 76                | -76                      |
| <b>Street Fund Total</b>                                    |                  |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>-25,689</b>    | <b>25,689</b>            |

| Fund/Item                                                     | 2025 Revenues    | 2025 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance | Bud. Beg. Fund Balance | 2026 Revenues   | 2026 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Arterial Street Fund</b>                                   |                  |                   |                          |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                 |                  |                   |                          | 170,000                | 0               | 0                 | 170,000                  |
| Arterial Street (Interfund Loan Correction)                   | 170,000          | 0                 | 170,000                  |                        | 0               | -355,813          | 355,813                  |
| General Fund Transfers Cleanup                                |                  |                   |                          |                        | -500,000        | 0                 | -500,000                 |
| Gateway I Final Project Reconciliation                        |                  |                   |                          |                        | 106,567         | 0                 | 106,567                  |
| <b>Arterial Street Fund Total</b>                             | <b>170,000</b>   | <b>0</b>          | <b>170,000</b>           | <b>170,000</b>         | <b>-393,433</b> | <b>-355,813</b>   | <b>132,380</b>           |
| <b>Ellensburg Public Transit Fund</b>                         |                  |                   |                          |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                 |                  |                   |                          | 578,063                | 0               | 0                 | 578,063                  |
| Revenue Projection Update                                     | 578,063          | 0                 | 578,063                  |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                             |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 4,336             | -4,336                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                      |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | -4,456            | 4,456                    |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                      |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 603               | -603                     |
| Gateway I Final Project Reconciliation                        |                  |                   |                          |                        | 4,195           | 0                 | 4,195                    |
| <b>Ellensburg Public Transit Fund Total</b>                   | <b>578,063</b>   | <b>0</b>          | <b>578,063</b>           | <b>578,063</b>         | <b>4,195</b>    | <b>483</b>        | <b>581,775</b>           |
| <b>Criminal Justice Fund</b>                                  |                  |                   |                          |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                 |                  |                   |                          | 0                      | 0               | 0                 | 0                        |
| KITTCOM Dispatcher Support Overtime                           | 36,314           | 36,314            | 0                        |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Reinstatement of Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding        |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 22,185            | -22,185                  |
| Peregrine Analytical Software Service                         |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 35,000            | -35,000                  |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                             |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 7,983             | -7,983                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                      |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | -7,586            | 7,586                    |
| Police Overtime Cost Escalation                               |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 19,500            | -19,500                  |
| Prosecution Services Agreement                                |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 25,000            | -25,000                  |
| Axon Cost Escalation - Taser, Body Worn Camera, In-car Video  |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 16,000            | -16,000                  |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                      |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 1,832             | -1,832                   |
| <b>Criminal Justice Fund Total</b>                            | <b>36,314</b>    | <b>36,314</b>     | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>        | <b>119,914</b>    | <b>-119,914</b>          |
| <b>Park Acquisition and Improvement Fund</b>                  |                  |                   |                          |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Reprogram to N. Alder St. Park Splash Pad                     |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | 302,800           | -302,800                 |
| Reprogram from Tennis Court Grant Match                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0               | -302,800          | 302,800                  |
| <b>Park Acquisition and Improvement Fund Total</b>            |                  |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>                 |
| <b>Affordable Housing Fund</b>                                |                  |                   |                          |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                 |                  |                   |                          | 513,444                | 0               | 0                 | 513,444                  |
| Revenue Projection Update                                     | 265,594          | 0                 | 265,594                  |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Administrative Adjustments                                    | 0                | 0                 | 0                        |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| CHIP Grant Passthrough Pathways                               | 829,875          | 829,875           | 0                        |                        |                 |                   |                          |
| Legal Costs for housing projects & Consultant Support for Hou | 0                | 14,150            | -14,150                  |                        | 0               | 50,000            | -50,000                  |
| Unbudget placeholder amounts                                  | 0                | -262,000          | 262,000                  |                        | 0               | -300,000          | 300,000                  |
| <b>Affordable Housing Fund Total</b>                          | <b>1,095,469</b> | <b>582,025</b>    | <b>513,444</b>           | <b>513,444</b>         | <b>0</b>        | <b>-250,000</b>   | <b>763,444</b>           |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds Total</b>                            | <b>1,879,846</b> | <b>618,339</b>    | <b>1,261,507</b>         | <b>1,261,507</b>       | <b>-389,238</b> | <b>-511,105</b>   | <b>1,383,374</b>         |

| Fund/Item                                                      | 2025 Revenues    | 2025 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance | Bud. Beg. Fund Balance | 2026 Revenues | 2026 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Debt Service Funds</b>                                      |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>LID Guarantee Fund</b>                                      |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                  |                  |                   |                          | -158,508               | 0             | 0                 | -158,508                 |
| Local Improvement District (LID) Guarantee Fund Closeout       | 4,492            | 163,000           | -158,508                 |                        | -4,000        | 0                 | -4,000                   |
| <b>LID Guarantee Fund Total</b>                                | <b>4,492</b>     | <b>163,000</b>    | <b>-158,508</b>          | <b>-158,508</b>        | <b>-4,000</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>-162,508</b>          |
| <b>Debt Service Funds Total</b>                                | <b>4,492</b>     | <b>163,000</b>    | <b>-158,508</b>          | <b>-158,508</b>        | <b>-4,000</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>-162,508</b>          |
| <b>Capital Projects Funds</b>                                  |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>Fieldhouse Development Fund</b>                             |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                  |                  |                   |                          | 1,760,931              | 0             | 0                 | 1,760,931                |
| Revenue Projection Update                                      | 1,760,931        | 0                 | 1,760,931                |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>Fieldhouse Development Fund Total</b>                       | <b>1,760,931</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>1,760,931</b>         | <b>1,760,931</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>          | <b>1,760,931</b>         |
| <b>Recreational Facilities Fund (REET II)</b>                  |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Aquatic Facility Pre-design & Analysis                         |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 100,000           | -100,000                 |
| W. Ellensburg Park Playground Morning Rotary Club Contribution |                  |                   |                          |                        | 15,500        | 0                 | 15,500                   |
| Carryforward W. Ellensburg Park Playground                     |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 150,000           | -150,000                 |
| Misc. Park Capital Improvements                                |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 75,000            | -75,000                  |
| <b>Recreational Facilities Fund (REET II) Total</b>            |                  |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>15,500</b> | <b>325,000</b>    | <b>-309,500</b>          |
| <b>Capital Projects Funds Total</b>                            | <b>1,760,931</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>1,760,931</b>         | <b>1,760,931</b>       | <b>15,500</b> | <b>325,000</b>    | <b>1,451,431</b>         |
| <b>Enterprise Funds</b>                                        |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>Stormwater Utility Fund</b>                                 |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 2,687             | -2,687                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | -9,698            | 9,698                    |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 1,476             | -1,476                   |
| <b>Stormwater Utility Fund Total</b>                           |                  |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>      | <b>-5,535</b>     | <b>5,535</b>             |
| <b>Telecom Utility Fund</b>                                    |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                  |                  |                   |                          | -2,036                 | 0             | 0                 | -2,036                   |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 4,547             | -4,547                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | -4,674            | 4,674                    |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 804               | -804                     |
| Gateway I Final Project Reconciliation                         |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 13,865            | -13,865                  |
| Telecom Business Manager Computer                              | 0                | 2,036             | -2,036                   |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>Telecom Utility Fund Total</b>                              | <b>0</b>         | <b>2,036</b>      | <b>-2,036</b>            | <b>-2,036</b>          | <b>0</b>      | <b>14,542</b>     | <b>-16,578</b>           |
| <b>Natural Gas Utility Fund</b>                                |                  |                   |                          |                        |               |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                                  |                  |                   |                          | -1,612,450             | 0             | 0                 | -1,612,450               |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                              |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 20,696            | -20,696                  |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | -53,332           | 53,332                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation                       |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 3,147             | -3,147                   |
| Gateway I Final Project Reconciliation                         |                  |                   |                          |                        | 0             | 760               | -760                     |
| Energy Services Compliance Instrument Bid Guarantee            | 0                | 1,612,450         | -1,612,450               |                        |               |                   |                          |
| <b>Natural Gas Utility Fund Total</b>                          | <b>0</b>         | <b>1,612,450</b>  | <b>-1,612,450</b>        | <b>-1,612,450</b>      | <b>0</b>      | <b>-28,729</b>    | <b>-1,583,721</b>        |

| Fund/Item                                            | 2025 Revenues | 2025 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance | Bud. Beg. Fund Balance | 2026 Revenues  | 2026 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Electric Utility Fund</b>                         |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                        |               |                   |                          | -45,659                | 0              | 0                 | -45,659                  |
| IBEW CBA                                             | 0             | 45,659            | -45,659                  |                        | 0              | 119,025           | -119,025                 |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                    |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 25,219            | -25,219                  |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -77,687           | 77,687                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 8,701             | -8,701                   |
| Gateway I Final Project Reconciliation (Placeholder) |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 96,139            | -96,139                  |
| <b>Electric Utility Fund Total</b>                   | <b>0</b>      | <b>45,659</b>     | <b>-45,659</b>           | <b>-45,659</b>         | <b>0</b>       | <b>171,397</b>    | <b>-217,056</b>          |
| <b>Water Utility Fund</b>                            |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                        |               |                   |                          | -30,000                | 0              | 0                 | -30,000                  |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                    |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 1,964             | -1,964                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -28,930           | 28,930                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 287               | -287                     |
| Water Treatment Cost Escalation                      | 0             | 30,000            | -30,000                  |                        |                |                   |                          |
| <b>Water Utility Fund Total</b>                      | <b>0</b>      | <b>30,000</b>     | <b>-30,000</b>           | <b>-30,000</b>         | <b>0</b>       | <b>-26,679</b>    | <b>-3,321</b>            |
| <b>Waste Water Utility Fund</b>                      |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                    |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 1,580             | -1,580                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -37,026           | 37,026                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 196               | -196                     |
| <b>Waste Water Utility Fund Total</b>                |               |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>-35,250</b>    | <b>35,250</b>            |
| <b>Enterprise Funds Total</b>                        | <b>0</b>      | <b>1,690,145</b>  | <b>-1,690,145</b>        | <b>-1,690,145</b>      | <b>0</b>       | <b>89,746</b>     | <b>-1,779,891</b>        |
| <b>Internal Service Funds</b>                        |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| <b>Shop &amp; Warehouse Fund</b>                     |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                        |               |                   |                          | -170,000               | 0              | 0                 | -170,000                 |
| Arterial Street (Interfund Loan Correction)          | 0             | 170,000           | -170,000                 |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                    |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 3,191             | -3,191                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -24,128           | 24,128                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 458               | -458                     |
| <b>Shop &amp; Warehouse Fund Total</b>               | <b>0</b>      | <b>170,000</b>    | <b>-170,000</b>          | <b>-170,000</b>        | <b>0</b>       | <b>-20,479</b>    | <b>-149,521</b>          |
| <b>General Facilities Fund</b>                       |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment                    |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 1,996             | -1,996                   |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | -4,860            | 4,860                    |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation             |               |                   |                          |                        | 0              | 383               | -383                     |
| <b>General Facilities Fund Total</b>                 |               |                   |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>-2,481</b>     | <b>2,481</b>             |
| <b>Health &amp; Benefits Fund</b>                    |               |                   |                          |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update                        |               |                   |                          | -205,147               | 0              | 0                 | -205,147                 |
| Health & Benefits Fund Self-Insurance Closeout       | 0             | 205,147           | -205,147                 |                        |                |                   |                          |
| Health & Benefits Fund Continuing Operations         |               |                   |                          |                        | 250,000        | 250,000           | 0                        |
| <b>Health &amp; Benefits Fund Total</b>              | <b>0</b>      | <b>205,147</b>    | <b>-205,147</b>          | <b>-205,147</b>        | <b>250,000</b> | <b>250,000</b>    | <b>-205,147</b>          |

| Fund/Item                                | 2025 Revenues      | 2025 Expenditures  | Bud. Ending Fund Balance | Bud. Beg. Fund Balance | 2026 Revenues    | 2026 Expenditures | Bud. Ending Fund Balance |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Risk Management Fund</b>              |                    |                    |                          |                        |                  |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update            |                    |                    |                          | -57,887                | 0                | 0                 | -57,887                  |
| Unemployment Insurance Costs             | 0                  | 57,887             | -57,887                  |                        |                  |                   |                          |
| <b>Risk Management Fund Total</b>        | <b>0</b>           | <b>57,887</b>      | <b>-57,887</b>           | <b>-57,887</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>          | <b>-57,887</b>           |
| <b>IT Fund</b>                           |                    |                    |                          |                        |                  |                   |                          |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment        |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | 14,545            | -14,545                  |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | -18,082           | 18,082                   |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | 1,883             | -1,883                   |
| ERP Project General Fund Payment         |                    |                    |                          |                        | 500,000          | 0                 | 500,000                  |
| <b>IT Fund Total</b>                     |                    |                    |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>500,000</b>   | <b>-1,654</b>     | <b>501,654</b>           |
| <b>GIS Fund</b>                          |                    |                    |                          |                        |                  |                   |                          |
| Beginning Fund Balance Update            |                    |                    |                          | 0                      | 0                | 0                 | 0                        |
| Non-Represented Market Adjustment        |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | 381               | -381                     |
| PERS Plan 2 & 3 Contribution Rate Update |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | -6,052            | 6,052                    |
| Employee Medical Benefit Cost Escalation |                    |                    |                          |                        | 0                | 1,420             | -1,420                   |
| <b>GIS Fund Total</b>                    |                    |                    |                          | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         | <b>-4,251</b>     | <b>4,251</b>             |
| <b>Internal Service Funds Total</b>      | <b>0</b>           | <b>433,034</b>     | <b>-433,034</b>          | <b>-433,034</b>        | <b>750,000</b>   | <b>221,135</b>    | <b>95,831</b>            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                       | <b>\$7,000,361</b> | <b>\$2,937,170</b> | <b>\$4,063,191</b>       | <b>\$4,063,191</b>     | <b>\$548,655</b> | <b>\$276,236</b>  | <b>\$4,335,610</b>       |

**Table 2**  
**City of Ellensburg**

**2025 Summary of Budget Adjustments by Fund**

|                                             | Bud. Beg. Fund | 2025               | 2025               | Bud. Ending        |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                             | Balance        | Revenues           | Expenditures       | Fund Balance       |
| <b>General Fund</b>                         | \$0            | \$1,068,772        | \$32,652           | \$1,036,120        |
| <b>Managerial Funds of the General Fund</b> |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Econ. Dev. Investments Fund                 | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Sales Tax Reserve Fund                      | 0              | 2,286,320          | 0                  | 2,286,320          |
| Art Acquisition Fund                        | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Grants Fund (CARES/ARPA/CCA)                | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Library Trust Fund                          | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Hal Holmes Trust Fund                       | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Fire Relief & Pension Trust Fund            | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Managerial Funds of the GF</b>     | <b>0</b>       | <b>2,286,320</b>   | <b>0</b>           | <b>2,286,320</b>   |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds</b>                |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Street Fund                                 | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Arterial Street Fund                        | 0              | 170,000            | 0                  | 170,000            |
| Traffic Impact Fees Fund                    | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Public Transit Fund                         | 0              | 578,063            | 0                  | 578,063            |
| Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund             | 0              | 36,314             | 36,314             | 0                  |
| Drug Fund                                   | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| CATV Operations Fund                        | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| CATV Capital Fund                           | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Parks Acquisition Fund                      | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Lodging Tax Fund                            | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Housing Fund                                | 0              | 1,095,469          | 582,025            | 513,444            |
| <b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>          | <b>0</b>       | <b>1,879,846</b>   | <b>618,339</b>     | <b>1,261,507</b>   |
| <b>Debt Service Funds</b>                   |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Facilities Imp. Debt Service Fund           | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| 2010 Maint. Bond Debt Service Fund          | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| LID Guaranty Fund                           | 0              | 4,492              | 163,000            | -158,508           |
| <b>Total Debt Service Funds</b>             | <b>0</b>       | <b>4,492</b>       | <b>163,000</b>     | <b>-158,508</b>    |
| <b>Capital Project Funds</b>                |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Fieldhouse Development Fund                 | 0              | 1,760,931          | 0                  | 1,760,931          |
| Cap. Imp. Bond Projects Fund                | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| General Capital Projects Fund               | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Sidewalk Fund (REET1)                       | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Rec. Facilities Fund (REET 2)               | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Capital Project Funds</b>          | <b>0</b>       | <b>1,760,931</b>   | <b>0</b>           | <b>1,760,931</b>   |
| <b>Enterprise Funds</b>                     |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Stormwater Utility Fund                     | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Telecommunications Utility Fund             | 0              | 0                  | 2,036              | -2,036             |
| Gas Utility Fund                            | 0              | 0                  | 1,612,450          | -1,612,450         |
| Electric Utility Fund                       | 0              | 0                  | 45,659             | -45,659            |
| Water Utility Fund                          | 0              | 0                  | 30,000             | -30,000            |
| Sewer Utility Fund                          | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Enterprise Funds</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>           | <b>1,690,145</b>   | <b>-1,690,145</b>  |
| <b>Internal Service Funds</b>               |                |                    |                    |                    |
| Shop & Warehouse Fund                       | 0              | 0                  | 170,000            | -170,000           |
| General Facilities Fund                     | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Health & Benefits Fund                      | 0              | 0                  | 205,147            | -205,147           |
| Risk Management Fund                        | 0              | 0                  | 57,887             | -57,887            |
| Information Technology Fund                 | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Geographic Info. Systems Fund               | 0              | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Internal Service Funds</b>         | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>           | <b>433,034</b>     | <b>-433,034</b>    |
| <b>All Funds</b>                            | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$7,000,361</b> | <b>\$2,937,170</b> | <b>\$4,063,191</b> |

**Table 3**  
**City of Ellensburg**

**2026 Summary of Budget Adjustments by Fund**

|                                             | Bud. Beg. Fund     | 2026             | 2026             | Bud. Ending        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                                             | Balance            | Revenues         | Expenditures     | Fund Balance       |
| <b>General Fund</b>                         | \$1,036,120        | \$176,393        | -\$599,811       | \$1,812,324        |
| <b>Managerial Funds of the General Fund</b> |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Econ. Dev. Investments Fund                 | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Sales Tax Reserve Fund                      | 2,286,320          | 0                | 750,000          | 1,536,320          |
| Art Acquisition Fund                        | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Grants Fund (CARES/ARPA/CCA)                | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Library Trust Fund                          | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Hal Holmes Trust Fund                       | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Fire Relief & Pension Trust Fund            | 0                  | 0                | 1,271            | -1,271             |
| <b>Total Managerial Funds of the GF</b>     | <b>2,286,320</b>   | <b>0</b>         | <b>751,271</b>   | <b>1,535,049</b>   |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds</b>                |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Street Fund                                 | 0                  | 0                | -25,689          | 25,689             |
| Arterial Street Fund                        | 170,000            | -393,433         | -355,813         | 132,380            |
| Traffic Impact Fees Fund                    | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Public Transit Fund                         | 578,063            | 4,195            | 483              | 581,775            |
| Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund             | 0                  | 0                | 119,914          | -119,914           |
| Drug Fund                                   | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| CATV Operations Fund                        | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| CATV Capital Fund                           | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Parks Acquisition Fund                      | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Lodging Tax Fund                            | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Housing Fund                                | 513,444            | 0                | -250,000         | 763,444            |
| <b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>          | <b>1,261,507</b>   | <b>-389,238</b>  | <b>-511,105</b>  | <b>1,383,374</b>   |
| <b>Debt Service Funds</b>                   |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Facilities Imp. Debt Service Fund           | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| 2010 Maint. Bond Debt Service Fund          | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| LID Guaranty Fund                           | -158,508           | -4,000           | 0                | -162,508           |
| <b>Total Debt Service Funds</b>             | <b>-158,508</b>    | <b>-4,000</b>    | <b>0</b>         | <b>-162,508</b>    |
| <b>Capital Project Funds</b>                |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Fieldhouse Development Fund                 | 1,760,931          | 0                | 0                | 1,760,931          |
| Cap. Imp. Bond Projects Fund                | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| General Capital Projects Fund               | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Sidewalk Fund (REET1)                       | 0                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| Rec. Facilities Fund (REET 2)               | 0                  | 15,500           | 325,000          | -309,500           |
| <b>Total Capital Project Funds</b>          | <b>1,760,931</b>   | <b>15,500</b>    | <b>325,000</b>   | <b>1,451,431</b>   |
| <b>Enterprise Funds</b>                     |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Stormwater Utility Fund                     | 0                  | 0                | -5,535           | 5,535              |
| Telecommunications Utility Fund             | -2,036             | 0                | 14,542           | -16,578            |
| Gas Utility Fund                            | -1,612,450         | 0                | -28,729          | -1,583,721         |
| Electric Utility Fund                       | -45,659            | 0                | 171,397          | -217,056           |
| Water Utility Fund                          | -30,000            | 0                | -26,679          | -3,321             |
| Sewer Utility Fund                          | 0                  | 0                | -35,250          | 35,250             |
| <b>Total Enterprise Funds</b>               | <b>-1,690,145</b>  | <b>0</b>         | <b>89,746</b>    | <b>-1,779,891</b>  |
| <b>Internal Service Funds</b>               |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Shop & Warehouse Fund                       | -170,000           | 0                | -20,479          | -149,521           |
| General Facilities Fund                     | 0                  | 0                | -2,481           | 2,481              |
| Health & Benefits Fund                      | -205,147           | 250,000          | 250,000          | -205,147           |
| Risk Management Fund                        | -57,887            | 0                | 0                | -57,887            |
| Information Technology Fund                 | 0                  | 500,000          | -1,654           | 501,654            |
| Geographic Info. Systems Fund               | 0                  | 0                | -4,251           | 4,251              |
| <b>Total Internal Service Funds</b>         | <b>-433,034</b>    | <b>750,000</b>   | <b>221,135</b>   | <b>95,831</b>      |
| <b>All Funds</b>                            | <b>\$4,063,191</b> | <b>\$548,655</b> | <b>\$276,236</b> | <b>\$4,335,610</b> |

ORDINANCE NO. 4976

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE 2025-2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON AS SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE NO. 4950 TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CITY'S FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 4950, which adopted a biennial budget for fiscal years 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 4958, which amended the biennial budget for fiscal years 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 4970, which amended the biennial budget for fiscal years 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, Ch. 35A.34 RCW provides procedures for adopting, managing, and amending a biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has identified the need to make certain revisions to the 2025-2026 biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has conducted a public hearing on 2026 proposed revenue sources at its November 3, 2025 regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has conducted a public hearing regarding the Mid-Biennial Review and 2025-2026 Supplemental Budget at its November 17, 2025 regular meeting;

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the proposed adjustments to the budget and has determined that they should be made;

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

**Section 1. 2025-2026 Supplemental Budget.** The 2025-2026 Biennial Budget for the City of Ellensburg for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, as authorized in Ordinance 4950 and previously amended in Ordinance 4958 and Ordinance 4970 is hereby amended as revised in attached Exhibits A and B, and are hereby appropriated for expenditure at the fund level during the 2025-2026 biennium.

**Section 2. 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 3. 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 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance, being an exercise of a power specifically delegated to the City legislative body, is not subject to referendum, and shall take effect five (5) days after passage and publication of the ordinance or a summary thereof consisting of the title.

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 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. 4976 is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance of like number as the same was passed by said Council, and that Ordinance No. 4976 was published as required by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BETH LEADER

| <b>City of Ellensburg</b>                   |                       |                 |                     |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2025 Budget - All Funds as Amended</b>   |                       |                 |                     |                     |
|                                             | <b>Bud. Beg. Fund</b> | <b>2025</b>     | <b>2025</b>         | <b>Bud. Ending</b>  |
|                                             | <b>Balance</b>        | <b>Revenues</b> | <b>Expenditures</b> | <b>Fund Balance</b> |
| <b>General Fund</b>                         | \$8,301,093           | \$22,381,847    | \$23,937,442        | \$6,745,498         |
| <b>Managerial Funds of the General Fund</b> |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Econ. Dev. Investments Fund                 | 657,018               | 272,000         | 18,806              | 910,212             |
| Sales Tax Reserve Fund                      | 1,392,527             | 8,670,232       | 7,056,734           | 3,006,025           |
| Art Acquisition Fund                        | 82,560                | 51,000          | 105,000             | 28,560              |
| Grants Fund (CARES/ARPA/CCA)                | 805,941               | 750,000         | 1,100,881           | 455,060             |
| Library Trust Fund                          | 382,656               | 7,500           | 8,974               | 381,182             |
| Hal Holmes Trust Fund                       | 199,147               | 4,500           | 1,472               | 202,175             |
| Fire Relief & Pension Trust Fund            | 949,397               | 232,767         | 163,852             | 1,018,312           |
| <b>Total Managerial Funds of the GF</b>     | 4,469,246             | 9,987,999       | 8,455,719           | 6,001,526           |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds</b>                |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Street Fund                                 | 1,149,604             | 2,658,227       | 3,149,134           | 658,697             |
| Arterial Street Fund                        | 228,475               | 6,437,253       | 5,686,316           | 979,412             |
| Traffic Impact Fees Fund                    | 682,871               | 389,387         | 158,330             | 913,928             |
| Public Transit Fund                         | 4,300,013             | 3,213,190       | 3,230,015           | 4,283,188           |
| Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund             | 2,787,333             | 2,087,540       | 2,164,481           | 2,710,392           |
| Drug Fund                                   | 26,286                | 3,100           | 10,000              | 19,386              |
| CATV Operations Fund                        | 117,688               | 81,536          | 86,109              | 113,115             |
| CATV Capital Fund                           | 70,820                | 0               | 0                   | 70,820              |
| Parks Acquisition Fund                      | 672,237               | 101,820         | 427,800             | 346,257             |
| Lodging Tax Fund                            | 1,841,216             | 687,000         | 622,966             | 1,905,250           |
| Housing Fund                                | 3,424,285             | 2,302,875       | 2,886,895           | 2,840,265           |
| <b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>          | 15,300,828            | 17,961,928      | 18,422,046          | 14,840,710          |
| <b>Debt Service Funds</b>                   |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Facilities Imp. Debt Service Fund           | 361,381               | 562,327         | 563,326             | 360,382             |
| 2010 Maint. Bond Debt Service Fund          | 86,815                | 186,403         | 186,403             | 86,815              |
| LID Guaranty Fund                           | 153,508               | 9,492           | 163,000             | 0                   |
| <b>Total Debt Service Funds</b>             | 601,704               | 758,222         | 912,729             | 447,197             |
| <b>Capital Project Funds</b>                |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Fieldhouse Development Fund                 | 5,607,619             | 2,332,931       | 485,232             | 7,455,318           |
| Cap. Imp. Bond Projects Fund                | 348,384               | 0               | 348,384             | 0                   |
| General Capital Projects Fund               | 116,203               | 0               | 0                   | 116,203             |
| Sidewalk Fund (REET1)                       | 232,319               | 396,000         | 363,000             | 265,319             |
| Rec. Facilities Fund (REET 2)               | 806,936               | 313,431         | 35,000              | 1,085,367           |
| <b>Total Capital Project Funds</b>          | 7,111,461             | 3,042,362       | 1,231,616           | 8,922,207           |
| <b>Enterprise Funds</b>                     |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Stormwater Utility Fund                     | 1,404,011             | 3,518,351       | 3,802,605           | 1,119,757           |
| Telecommunications Utility Fund             | 262,779               | 1,019,457       | 1,031,365           | 250,871             |
| Gas Utility Fund                            | 7,585,123             | 15,122,537      | 19,902,582          | 2,805,078           |
| Electric Utility Fund                       | 14,328,297            | 22,634,757      | 31,553,245          | 5,409,809           |
| Water Utility Fund                          | 9,071,285             | 6,978,953       | 9,253,523           | 6,796,715           |
| Sewer Utility Fund                          | 7,415,678             | 8,266,225       | 10,212,243          | 5,469,660           |
| <b>Total Enterprise Funds</b>               | 40,067,173            | 57,540,280      | 75,755,563          | 21,851,890          |
| <b>Internal Service Funds</b>               |                       |                 |                     |                     |
| Shop & Warehouse Fund                       | 9,793,434             | 4,178,620       | 3,310,993           | 10,661,061          |
| General Facilities Fund                     | 181,326               | 3,522,128       | 3,481,135           | 222,319             |
| Health & Benefits Fund                      | 1,295,483             | 10,000          | 1,301,366           | 4,117               |
| Risk Management Fund                        | 1,356,984             | 1,076,102       | 1,168,716           | 1,264,370           |
| Information Technology Fund                 | 2,992,205             | 2,998,071       | 3,357,481           | 2,632,795           |
| Geographic Info. Systems Fund               | 433,228               | 349,127         | 538,095             | 244,260             |
| <b>Total Internal Service Funds</b>         | 16,052,660            | 12,134,048      | 13,157,786          | 15,028,922          |
| <b>All Funds</b>                            | \$91,904,165          | \$123,806,686   | \$141,872,901       | \$73,837,950        |

| City of Ellensburg                          |                     |                      |                      |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2026 Budget - All Funds as Amended          |                     |                      |                      |                     |
|                                             | Bud. Beg. Fund      | 2026                 | 2026                 | Bud. Ending         |
|                                             | Balance             | Revenues             | Expenditures         | Fund Balance        |
| <b>General Fund</b>                         | \$6,745,498         | \$20,240,939         | \$23,153,794         | \$3,832,643         |
| <b>Managerial Funds of the General Fund</b> |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Econ. Dev. Investments Fund                 | 910,212             | 0                    | 0                    | 910,212             |
| Sales Tax Reserve Fund                      | 3,006,025           | 6,475,071            | 7,256,164            | 2,224,932           |
| Art Acquisition Fund                        | 28,560              | 51,000               | 50,000               | 29,560              |
| Grants Fund (CARES/ARPA/CCA)                | 455,060             | 0                    | 300,000              | 155,060             |
| Library Trust Fund                          | 381,182             | 7,500                | 8,983                | 379,699             |
| Hal Holmes Trust Fund                       | 202,175             | 4,000                | 1,546                | 204,629             |
| Fire Relief & Pension Trust Fund            | 1,018,312           | 231,888              | 169,793              | 1,080,407           |
| <b>Total Managerial Funds of the GF</b>     | <b>6,001,526</b>    | <b>6,769,459</b>     | <b>7,786,486</b>     | <b>4,984,499</b>    |
| <b>Special Revenue Funds</b>                |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Street Fund                                 | 658,697             | 2,857,106            | 3,285,180            | 230,623             |
| Arterial Street Fund                        | 979,412             | 2,064,218            | 2,509,744            | 533,886             |
| Traffic Impact Fees Fund                    | 913,928             | 389,387              | 1,034,750            | 268,565             |
| Public Transit Fund                         | 4,283,188           | 1,720,571            | 3,208,505            | 2,795,254           |
| Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund             | 2,710,392           | 2,070,984            | 2,299,002            | 2,482,374           |
| Drug Fund                                   | 19,386              | 3,100                | 5,000                | 17,486              |
| CATV Operations Fund                        | 113,115             | 75,954               | 86,047               | 103,022             |
| CATV Capital Fund                           | 70,820              | 0                    | 0                    | 70,820              |
| Parks Acquisition Fund                      | 346,257             | 101,820              | 0                    | 448,077             |
| Lodging Tax Fund                            | 1,905,250           | 687,000              | 625,975              | 1,966,275           |
| Housing Fund                                | 2,840,265           | 805,406              | 492,770              | 3,152,901           |
| <b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>          | <b>14,840,710</b>   | <b>10,775,546</b>    | <b>13,546,973</b>    | <b>12,069,283</b>   |
| <b>Debt Service Funds</b>                   |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Facilities Imp. Debt Service Fund           | 360,382             | 562,327              | 563,326              | 359,383             |
| 2010 Maint. Bond Debt Service Fund          | 86,815              | 186,403              | 186,403              | 86,815              |
| LID Guaranty Fund                           | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    | 0                   |
| <b>Total Debt Service Funds</b>             | <b>447,197</b>      | <b>748,730</b>       | <b>749,729</b>       | <b>446,198</b>      |
| <b>Capital Project Funds</b>                |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Fieldhouse Development Fund                 | 7,455,318           | 0                    | 0                    | 7,455,318           |
| Cap. Imp. Bond Projects Fund                | 0                   | 0                    | 0                    | 0                   |
| General Capital Projects Fund               | 116,203             | 0                    | 0                    | 116,203             |
| Sidewalk Fund (REET1)                       | 265,319             | 376,000              | 490,000              | 151,319             |
| Rec. Facilities Fund (REET 2)               | 1,085,367           | 328,931              | 825,000              | 589,298             |
| <b>Total Capital Project Funds</b>          | <b>8,922,207</b>    | <b>704,931</b>       | <b>1,315,000</b>     | <b>8,312,138</b>    |
| <b>Enterprise Funds</b>                     |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Stormwater Utility Fund                     | 1,119,757           | 2,542,752            | 2,776,419            | 886,090             |
| Telecommunications Utility Fund             | 250,871             | 410,324              | 564,063              | 97,132              |
| Gas Utility Fund                            | 2,805,078           | 15,177,736           | 15,314,872           | 2,667,942           |
| Electric Utility Fund                       | 5,409,809           | 28,983,598           | 30,440,661           | 3,952,746           |
| Water Utility Fund                          | 6,796,715           | 6,878,953            | 8,186,506            | 5,489,162           |
| Sewer Utility Fund                          | 5,469,660           | 10,241,344           | 12,262,821           | 3,448,183           |
| <b>Total Enterprise Funds</b>               | <b>21,851,890</b>   | <b>64,234,707</b>    | <b>69,545,342</b>    | <b>16,541,255</b>   |
| <b>Internal Service Funds</b>               |                     |                      |                      |                     |
| Shop & Warehouse Fund                       | 10,661,061          | 4,348,114            | 3,245,085            | 11,764,090          |
| General Facilities Fund                     | 222,319             | 1,057,701            | 1,020,246            | 259,774             |
| Health & Benefits Fund                      | 4,117               | 250,000              | 250,000              | 4,117               |
| Risk Management Fund                        | 1,264,370           | 1,116,798            | 1,161,525            | 1,219,643           |
| Information Technology Fund                 | 2,632,795           | 3,387,368            | 2,689,685            | 3,330,478           |
| Geographic Info. Systems Fund               | 244,260             | 357,010              | 542,309              | 58,961              |
| <b>Total Internal Service Funds</b>         | <b>15,028,922</b>   | <b>10,516,991</b>    | <b>8,908,850</b>     | <b>16,637,063</b>   |
| <b>All Funds</b>                            | <b>\$73,837,950</b> | <b>\$113,991,303</b> | <b>\$125,006,174</b> | <b>\$62,823,079</b> |



Meeting Date: December 1, 2025  
**City of Ellensburg**  
**City Council Agenda Report**

**Agenda Subject:** 2026 City of Ellensburg Legislative Priorities (Public Comment Opportunity)  
**Submitted by:** Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager  
**Department:** City Manager

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**Suggested Motion/Action:**  
Move to approve 2026 City of Ellensburg Legislative Priorities in substantially similar form.

**Background/Summary:**  
The Ellensburg City Council approved a 2023-2028 Strategic Vision by Resolution 2022-17, reflecting a common set of priorities and milestones for the City over the near term. At the May 20, 2024, Ellensburg City Council meeting, the Council adopted a new resolution that included the refined strategic priorities and milestones for 2024-2029. Because state and federal legislation impacts policy and operations at the local level, creating a common legislative agenda aligned with City priorities is an important next step as the State Legislature reconvenes in January 2026 for a Short Session.

**Previous Council Action:**  
The City Council adopted 2023 Legislative priorities at their meeting on November 1, 2022 which included topics of Energy Policy Compliance, Homeless and Affordable Housing, Wastewater Treatment Plant Infrastructure Upgrade, Behavior Health Resources, Reserve Police Officers, Blake Decision and Costs Transferred to Cities. At their February 6, 2023 meeting, Council added advocacy for funding the Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse to this list of priorities. At the meeting on August 7, 2023, the City Council approved funding for legislative advocacy services. Josh Weiss of Gordon Thomas Honeywell (GTH) was selected to assist in preparing for the 2024 Washington State Legislative Session and to represent the City's interests. Following a successful effort which resulted in state policy change (SB 6047), \$750,000 allocated to the City for decarbonization activities, and \$72,000 for the Fieldhouse project, the City Council approved funding to extend the Agreement with GTH through 2024, and later extended the Agreement through 2026 at the meeting on September 3, 2024. The agreement was later transferred to Columbia Policy Advisors in 2025, to continue services with Partner Josh Weiss. Mr. Weiss provided an end of 2025 State Legislative Session report to Council on June 16, 2025.

**Analysis:**  
Having a set of adopted legislative priorities assists staff, elected officials, and lobbyists align advocacy efforts around policies that may positively or negatively impact City infrastructure, utilities, and services. Since 2022, the City has prepared a legislative agenda which is approved by the City Council. Research, preparation, and early advocacy are important for successful policy and funding initiatives. The City Manager and staff have been working with

Josh Weiss, a partner at Columbia Policy Advisors, to build awareness and relationships in service to the City's near and long-term interests, including creating the 2026 Legislative Priorities for City Council's consideration and approval.

**Financial Impact:**

Funding for the Agreement with Columbia Policy Advisors for legislative advocacy services was allocated in the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget for continued services, including a three percent annual increase in 2026.

Budget Adjustment: No

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Ellensburg 2026 Legislative Priorities 12-1-25 for Council Consideration
2. AWC 2026 Legislative Priorities
3. AWC Leg Priorities Full Details

## Proposed Ellensburg 2026 Legislative Priorities

The City of Ellensburg supports legislation that furthers the goals of the Council's Strategic Vision and protects the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to residents. Prior to the start of a legislative session, the City Council adopts Legislative Priorities (also called Legislative Agenda). These priorities are developed by City staff and Councilmembers with support from the City's Lobbyist/Policy Advisor.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Infrastructure investment is important to Ellensburg's economic vitality. The City's current wastewater treatment plant is over 50 years old and needs technology and infrastructure improvements to continue serving this growing community. The City has responsibly invested in the plant over its life span to maintain and meet planned capacity needs for the system as well as met or exceeded Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) permit compliance. A General Sewer System Plan and Aeration Upgrade (additional aerator) design will be completed in early 2026. The sewer system plan identifies \$127 million in treatment plant upgrades over the next seventeen years, with \$83 million projected over the next ten years.

The City previously adopted policies to phase sewer utility rate increases and has raised plant investment fees for new ratepayers to maximize local funding for the project. Customer rates have increased annually between 2019 through 2025 to help support these necessary projects and the City is performing a revenue analysis to evaluate ongoing sewer utility rate needs. The City holds a "growth" pays for "growth" philosophy and has aggressively raised permit fees so that new permit holders are paying their fair share. The City is actively seeking State and Federal funding for these essential plant investments.

- **\$1 million Capital Budget Request:** for construction of the aeration project. Design will be complete in 2026, and with the state's investment the City will be ready to build a fifth aerator for the system by the middle of 2027. This will enable the City to make future infrastructure upgrades.
- Future project phases include installation of an additional secondary clarifier which is estimate at \$23.1 million by 2029 as well as additional aeration system process improvement/blower building \$51.6 million by 2033. Together, these improvements will provide upgraded infrastructure, significant electric energy savings, and future treatment capacity to support a growing community.

### ELLENSBURG RECREATION FACILITIES

Ellensburg is the county seat and the largest city within Kittitas County. As such, the City has invested in recreation facilities that benefit the entirety of Kittitas County, including the Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool (KVMP), built in 1977, and the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC), which was entirely lost to arson fire in 2022. The City is taking steps to provide a replacement indoor court/turf facility including

secure partial funding, beginning preliminary design, exploring alternative delivery methods, and now is securing a leased facility with the potential to purchase. The KVMP replacement work recently began with a community needs assessment through the Park Recreation and Open Space planning project. Design will begin for the facility in 2026. These two facilities have been primarily supported by City General Funds for decades.

### **1. Replacement for Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool – Design Assistance Funding - \$150,000 Capital Budget Request**

***The City contributed \$100,000 for pre-design and is requesting \$150,000 from the Community Capital Projects to get to advance the design for the replacement facility.***

The Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool and Fitness Center (KVMP) was completed in 1979 and includes the following amenities:

- 25-meter pool
- Hot tub
- Training pool
- Wet/dry sauna
- Fitness room
- 1 meter diving board
- Children's spray feature

The current pool is open six days a week and provides: lap swim, water exercise classes, swim lessons, recreational swims, family swims, facility rentals, and special events.

As with any older aquatic facility, the KVMP is in need of significant capital repairs and investment, the last major renovation was completed in 2011. In 2026, the City will have a KVMP facility analysis performed which will provide a detailed report on potential reuse of the facility, as well as look at what a new aquatic facility cost (pre-design). In the fall of 2025, the City allocated funds to replace the flat roof and HVAC unit over the office area, funds have also been budgeted in 2026 to replace the sloped roof over the swimming pool.

Based on the uncertainty of how long the existing facility will be operable, the City will be conducting pre-design work on a new facility in 2026. This work will include community outreach to determine what kind of programmatic elements need to be accommodated in a new facility, possible locations, and cost estimates.

The KVMP is the most heavily used recreational facility in Ellensburg with over 50,000 participations in 2024. The closure of the CWU pool in the spring of 2025 has forced the relocation campus aquatic programs to the KVMP. This includes the Ellensburg High School swim team, water exercise classes, and the

Ellensburg Area Swim Team (EAST), a competitive swim program for youth and adults.

The City is currently updating its Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Sustainable Funding Plan. Public outreach efforts have included a community survey and community pop-up events and resulted in 1,125 responses. The message from this outreach is clear: aquatics is a high priority for our community.

Although the planning efforts for a new aquatic facility are just beginning, it is anticipated that the key partners will include:

- Central Washington University
- Ellensburg School District
- Kittitas County
- City of Ellensburg
- Ellensburg Area Swim Team
- Community at large

## **2. Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse**

The Ellensburg Fieldhouse project is an indoor recreation facility that will be approximately 60,000 square feet in size. The facility will be located in the southeast corner of Rotary Park, a City of Ellensburg owned park facility. As a part of the fieldhouse construction, a large parking lot will be constructed that not only serves fieldhouse activities but also events and activities taking place at the Rotary Park athletic fields.

As planned, the fieldhouse building will be a prefabricated steel frame building that will consist primarily of sport courts and a synthetic turf area. The sport court area will make up much of the building and will include up to five full sized basketball courts (84'x50'), the basketball courts will also include court lines for volleyball and pickleball. The synthetic turf area will be approximately 14,400 square feet and will be able to accommodate training for sports such as football, rugby, soccer, softball, and baseball. A fitness track will circle the perimeter of the building, providing a safe and dry place for people to walk or run year-round. The building will also include a multipurpose room that could be rented for parties, offices for staff, and spectator viewing areas.

The facility would complement and add to the recreational uses of Rotary Park, a facility that is currently used by local youth and adult sports organizations, as well as the Ellensburg School District for recreational and tournament baseball, soccer, softball, and rugby. The addition of the Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse will enhance regional state-wide tournaments opportunities for the county by providing space for tournament play in the center of the state.

The City plans to enter into a public/private partnership through Chapter 35.42 RCW, to construct and lease back a fieldhouse facility. The City published a request for qualifications for the construction of the fieldhouse at Rotary Park and responses are under review. Next steps include selecting the builder and negotiating a ground lease and building lease that will include terms for the City to purchase the building in the future. Under this arrangement the builder assumes all risks during construction and will own the building throughout the term of the lease. Upon completion of the fieldhouse, the City would manage and operate the day-to-day operations of the building.

Under this model, the City believes the total cost to construct and furnish the building will be approximately \$16,000,000.00. The proposed project timeline has construction beginning in late 2026 with an estimated completion date of 2027.

## ENERGY AND CARBON REDUCTION

The City of Ellensburg stands at a crossroads partially shared by just one other in Washington—responsible for both natural gas and electric services, serving 5,000 homes and businesses with natural gas, and many more with public power. As state-mandated climate laws like the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) accelerate Washington's transition to a cleaner future, small municipal utilities like Ellensburg are at the front lines—tasked with delivering ambitious carbon-reduction goals, maintaining system reliability, and keeping energy affordable for all residents.

This reality has created multiple impacts on the City and its residents, and challenges:

**Steep Upfront Costs:** Since the inception of the CCA in 2023, Ellensburg has spent over \$3.5 million—roughly 14% of total utility revenue—on CCA allowance auctions. Wiring public funds as bid guarantees through international institutions exposes local agencies to financial risk and short-term cash flow challenges.

**Disproportionate Burden:** Unlike larger investor-owned utilities, small municipals must comply with the same technical mandates yet face outsized financial and administrative hurdles. With limited staff every new program, reporting requirement, or unfunded mandate, stretches resources thinner.

**Incentives Not Designed for Consumer-Owned Utilities:** State cap-and-invest incentives, rebates, and program carve-outs tend to bypass small, non-profit utilities. The lack of a CCA-aligned low-income customer definition means that up to 40% of Ellensburg's customers could be exempted from cost recovery, forcing all CCA compliance costs onto a shrinking rate base.

Ellensburg has shown leadership in conservation and clean energy for decades, yet requires legislative action to mitigate the unintended consequences that the CCA and

CETA are having. The City will seek targeted changes to state policy that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that small municipal utilities can effectively and efficiently implement.

## **HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY**

About 40% of Ellensburg households are cost burdened (paying more than 30% of their income for housing), and over one quarter (28%) are severely cost burdened (paying more than 50% of their income on housing). Ellensburg has taken action to address housing affordability over the past few years. Voters passed the 0.1 percent local sales and use tax (RCW 82.14.530) in 2017, with funds allocated to projects that create new affordable housing. The City also identified three parcels for affordable housing, and has partnered with Habitat for Humanity, HopeSource, and private developers to bring housing project online. Currently, there are 100 units of affordable housing (ranging from 30%-80% AMI) in the pipeline plus 20 units completed.

Ellensburg requests that the Legislature continue to implement flexible policies and provide funding to expand housing, preserve affordability, and address homelessness, including:

- Continuing state funding for emergency shelters. Ellensburg, in partnership with Kittitas County and community providers, established a cold-weather shelter during winter months. There is no year-round emergency shelter that serves the community's most vulnerable by providing access to services and to manage health and safety. The City and County are working with providers collectively to reduce gaps in the spectrum of housing and support services.
- Allowing local communities to determine their own needs and solutions and provide support for agreed local solutions. Resource-intensive homelessness solutions for larger metropolitan areas do not translate well for use in rural communities.
- Refraining from preemption of local land use authority and zoning mandates, while supporting policies that provide flexibility to respond to local housing needs.
- Providing tools to preserve existing affordable housing units.
- Continuing to support organizations dealing with homelessness that have shown success.
- Expanding flexibility and resources available through Connecting to Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) to continue community partnerships for affordable housing projects.

## **PUBLIC DEFENSE COST INCREASES**

The Washington Supreme Court has substantially lowered the caseload requirements (first established several years ago) for indigent defense counsel. The new standards will have a significant budget impact on Washington cities and counties, who are required pay for indigent defense services. Although the Legislature increased the

amount it provides to local governments, the amount is woefully inadequate, and there is no long-term stable state funding for these services.

## **PROVIDE FUNDING FOR RECENT COSTS TRANSFERRED TO CITIES**

The City of Ellensburg urges the Legislature to take responsibility for costs recently transferred to municipalities, particularly those related to law and justice. Additional investment is needed to help cities with the costs stemming from the transfer of misdemeanor crimes to local communities. This includes costs from:

- Transferring drug related offenses to misdemeanor crimes;
- Vacating criminal convictions and repaying legal financial obligations;
- Administration of diversion programs;
- Alternative response teams;
- Treatment facilities for both youth and adults;
- Behavioral health services—specifically, increased services for those experiencing mental health and substance abuse while maintaining accountability for those who have criminally victimized the community; and
- Medical costs for felony inmates.

### **Other issues to consider:**

- Public Disclosure Requests – We recognize and support the need for transparency in government and public disclosure, but the process is routinely abused by individuals utilizing the system to collect information outside the intended purpose of government accountability. Cities need the ability to adequately recover the actual cost for disclosures.
- Flock Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) – Retain tools for law enforcement to investigate hold offenders and accountable. ALPR is a valuable tool for solving crime and locating missing individuals but the PDR issue must be resolved.
- Increased services for juvenile exposed to adverse child experiences.
- Oppose increasing Juvenile age to 20 years-old— We oppose increasing the age to 20 years old for the juvenile justice process. We currently lack sufficient resources for those offenders under the age of 18 and by adding the additional 2 years will only spread resources thinner.
- Juvenile Access to an attorney (RCW 13.40.740) – We support the clarification of when a juvenile can be interviewed regarding a criminal matter and allowing the parents to make the determination on what's in the best interest of their child, not the state.

Ellensburg supports Association of Washington Cities (AWC) 2026 Legislative Priorities, attached.

# 2026 City Legislative Priorities

Cities and towns are home to 66% of Washington’s residents, drive the state’s economy, and provide the most accessible form of government. The success of our cities and towns depends on adequate resources and community-based decision-making to best meet the unique needs of our communities.

Washington’s 281 cities and towns ask the Legislature to partner with us and act on the following priorities:



## Indigent defense

Increase state support and funding for indigent defense services to meet existing needs as well as the new lower caseload mandates ordered by the Washington Supreme Court. Enhance state support for increasing the indigent defense workforce with incentives and programs to encourage more public defenders.



## Transportation

Increase sustainable revenue that supports local transportation preservation, maintenance, and operations and includes direct distributions to cities and towns. Continue to support efforts to improve traffic safety. Explore revenue tools such as a highway usage fee, a retail delivery fee, expanded transportation benefit district (TBD) authority, or a “sidewalk utility.”



## Housing supply

Provide time to implement recent state housing legislation. Increase housing investments to meet needs across the housing continuum, including construction and preservation of affordable housing, home ownership, and senior housing. Support tools to better coordinate urban growth area (UGA) development and funding options such as a local option real estate excise tax, short-term rental tax, and expanded use of lodging taxes for housing.



## Shared revenues

Continue the historical revenue-sharing partnership between the state and its cities and towns, which provides stability and continuity for local budgets. Preservation of these resources, such as liquor revenues and criminal justice assistance funds, are indispensable to local fiscal sustainability and predictability.



Contact: **Candice Bock**  
Government Relations Director  
[candiceb@awcnet.org](mailto:candiceb@awcnet.org)

## 2026 AWC legislative agenda

The following items are the official 2026 City Legislative Priorities as adopted by the AWC Board.

### 2026 City Legislative Priorities

**Enhance indigent defense:** Increase state support and funding for indigent defense. Enhance state support for increasing indigent defense workforce.

**Increase sustainability for local transportation preservation, maintenance, and operations needs:**

Advocate for sustainable revenue that supports local preservation, maintenance, and operations and includes direct distributions to cities and towns. Continue to work to improve traffic safety and explore revenue tools like a highway usage fee, a retail delivery fee, and expanded Transportation Benefit District (TBD) authority, as well as other funding options such as a “sidewalk utility.”

**Preserve state shared revenues:** Preserve existing state shared revenues for cities and towns.

**Improve housing supply:** To help cities meet their goals for more housing affordability, cities need the state to provide the time to implement recent state housing legislation and, critically, provide new tools to increase housing investments. Cities need new investments and funding tools to meet the needs for affordable housing in cities large and small across the housing continuum, including construction and preservation of affordable housing, home ownership and senior housing, and support for tools such as updating UGA development, local option real estate excise tax and short-term rental taxes, and expanding use of lodging taxes for housing.

### Issues that are significant to cities

- **Increase revenue flexibility:** Find opportunities to enhance existing revenue tools to make them more flexible and easier to implement including moving to more councilmanic options. Ensure a mix of local revenue options that are broad enough to meet unique community needs. Consider modifying the voter approved levy lid lift options to expand the maximum time that apply to the levy lid lifts. Continue to support revising the property tax cap.
- **Public safety funding:** Review new funding tools created in HB 2015 to ensure that they are effective and accessible for communities of all sizes. Continue to explore additional funding tools to support public safety.
- **Support programs to reduce homelessness:** Focus resources on programs that will help individuals access emergency shelter as well as permanent and supportive housing options. Focus on programs to reduce youth homelessness. Continue to support existing state funding for state right of way programs.
- **Enhanced emergency management support:** Support additional resources and technical assistance for emergency preparedness, disaster response, and long-term recovery
- **Behavioral health treatment capacity:** Support increased investments in community behavioral health treatment funding – both capital start-up and operational expenses; support expansion of continuum of treatment capacity, from crisis stabilization to inpatient to outpatient; support continued expansion of forensic behavioral health treatment capacity; Support substance abuse treatment and behavioral health crisis centers; provide more support for diversion programs and alternative response programs.
- **Increase technical assistance and community engagement in land use:** Focus state involvement on providing more technical assistance and preserving the importance of community engagement and

incentives. Avoid agency overreach that prioritizes state enforcement, redundancy, and substituting community engagement for bureaucratic process.

- Reduce costs and improve consistency in land use decisions: Reduce costs and improve consistency in land use by minimizing new mandates and providing more funding for implementing any state-mandated changes to land use and planning and permitting requirements. Allow for more time for implementation of recent changes.
- Updating UGA development: Ensure better coordination of development standards in unincorporated UGAs and cities to facilitate future annexations. Require county to apply city development standards in unincorporated UGA to facilitate future annexations. Explore opportunities to make it easier to make changes to UGA boundaries to support growth and housing targets.
- Nutrient General Permit for wastewater treatment: Ensure that any state efforts around developing the nutrient general permit are balanced between the benefits and the costs to local government and rate payers of wastewater systems. Update Marine Dissolved Oxygen science including update Marine DO Criteria last set in 1967.
- Infrastructure funding: Provide direct and meaningful state investment in local infrastructure for operations and maintenance of aging systems, including keeping up with state regulatory requirements. Preserve reliable revenue streams for the Public Works Assistance Account and fully fund the account.
- PFAS: Seek local liability protection for PFAS contamination and treatment. Seek additional investments and technical support for cities and towns responding to PFAS detection and contamination.
- Fish barrier removal (Culverts): Include local barrier correction in state investments and fully fund the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Board list. Oppose diversion of existing local infrastructure funding to state culvert replacement.
- Support capital facilities planning: Provide more technical assistance and resources for capital facilities planning and assessing funding needs.
- Public records and public safety tools: Support efforts to limit release of data and images collected by automated license plate readers and other public safety camera systems to protect privacy and preserve this cost-effective public safety tool.
- Preserve public employer management rights: Protect against efforts to reduce management rights in collective bargaining, particularly efforts to impede a city's right to make decisions about expenditures, programs and new technology.
- Reduce inefficient and costly requirements: Find opportunities to reduce inefficient, costly, and outdated requirements and reports.

### Issues that cities support

- Tax code structural changes: Support efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures such that they rely less on regressive revenue options and recognize the unique aspects of different communities (i.e. border communities). Changes to the state tax structure should not negatively impact cities' revenue authority and should allow cities revenue flexibility to address their community's needs.
- Alternative Response programs: Support continued and expanded operational grant funding, as well as dedicated ongoing operational funding for co-response, municipal therapeutic courts, community courts, and diversion programs.
- Crime reduction: Support additional prosecutorial and law enforcement resources to address retail theft. Support efforts to prevent and address juvenile crime, including expansion of juvenile behavioral health treatment capacity. Support efforts to reduce gun violence.
- Support encampment mitigation: Advocate for resources similar to those used in state right of way to mitigate unsanctioned encampments located on city-owned and private properties.
- Streamlining state permitting/regulatory requirements: Explore changes to state permitting/regulatory requirements that are impacting housing development.
- Expand tax incentive for redeveloping surface parking lots: Expand existing tax incentive for redeveloping parking lots for affordable housing so that it is available to cities and towns of all sizes.

- Preserve mobile home parks: Advocate for more funding to support preservation and development of mobile home parks.
- Disincentivize investor residential purchases: Explore options to disincentivize investor purchases that result in out-of-state ownership and increased costs.
- Incentivize condominium development: Support efforts to expand development of condominiums as more affordable home-ownership options.
- Publicly owned land available for housing: Look for opportunities to reuse state owned land for housing. Explore expanding use of eminent domain for housing development.
- Alternative affordable housing options: Provide cities with more flexibility to regulate health and safety around temporary housing uses like RVs.
- SEPA and state permitting: Work on policy changes that provide clarity and certainty within SEPA, Shorelines and state permits without lessening any environmental protection measures.
- Balanced state regulatory requirements: Ensure state regulatory requirements are balanced and take into account the cost impacts on local governments and tax and ratepayers.
- State highways in cities & towns: Increase maintenance funding of state highways in cities and towns and avoid shifting these costs to local jurisdictions.
- Reduce city liability exposure: Seek opportunities to reduce liability exposure and reduce costs of litigation and insurance.
- Public Records: Continue to pursue changes to reduce the impacts of vexatious litigation.
- Public notice requirements: Provide more flexibility for public notice requirements given the cost of publication and limited reach. Allow cities to rely on more modern forms of communication.
- Update local government ethics code: Update local government ethics code to make it more consistent with state officials' ethics requirements.
- Audits and accountability: Provide more support for technical assistance and training around misuse of public funds. Explore options to reduce the costs of audits.
- Increase digital equity and accessibility statewide: Advocate for statewide funding that supports affordable connectivity and policies that increase digital literacy and adoption.
- Improving contracting and procurement: Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness in local bidding, contracting, and procurement.



# MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE: December 1, 2025

To: Ellensburg City Council

FROM: Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager

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## **1. City Secures TIB Grants for Two Projects**

Staff recently received notice of Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant funding awards for two street improvement projects on the City's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

First, the Umptanum Rd & Anderson Rd Intersection Improvements project will install a roundabout at this intersection of two minor arterials providing primary access to the City's west side industrial zone and the City's two largest recreational parks. This part of the City is also a Washington State, Department of Commerce, Opportunity Zone. WinCo Foods acquired 118 acres of vacant land immediately north of this intersection and began the construction in 2024 for a new grocery distribution center with a maximum build out of 1.1 million sq ft. The City is also planning a Community Fieldhouse in Rotary Park adjacent to the WinCo project site through a lease-lease back process with these off-site improvements constructed by the City. Nearly \$1.7M in Urban Arterial Program funds administered through TIB were secured for the project. The required local match of \$600K will be from the City's Traffic Impact Fee fund for 2027 construction.

Second, the 2026 Canyon Road Overlay project will grind and place an asphalt overlay on Canyon Rd from Umptanum Rd to Mountain View Ave. An asphalt surface grind and overlay will repair surface degradation, cracks, and patches. The project will also replace and update the channelization and any non-compliant ADA sidewalk curb ramps. About \$528K in Arterial Preservation Program funds administered through TIB were secured for the project. A local match of \$105K will be required for 2026 construction.

## **2. Parks Investments in 2026**

The mid-biennial supplemental budget presented at the December 1, 2025, meeting frames a number of recreation investments planned in 2026. Pre-design for a replacement community pool (\$100,000 in construction sales tax funding, plus \$150,000 request from State Capital program in 2026), plus \$50,000 for a facility re-use

study for the current Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool facility. Considering recent and upcoming investments—HVAC System and flat roof replaced in 2025 (\$160,000); sloped roof engineering design and roof construction (budgeted at \$535,000 for 2025/2026), plus future humidification system replacement (estimated at \$250,000 in 2027)—exploring feasibility options for future re-use of the current pool facility is prudent.

Playground equipment replacement project at West Ellensburg Park, including sensory equipment installed as a partnership with the Rotary Club is also budgeted an intended to be completed in 2026. The project includes some volunteer labor for installation.

A Splash Pad will be installed at North Alder Street Park was funded through Park Impact Fees and is budgeted for 2026. These funds were re-directed from the Tennis Court project after grant match funding was not successful in 2025.

The City is able to make many of these investments due to decisions made by Council in previous years to begin to secure sustainable funding for Parks. In December 2022, Council approved the second quarter percent (0.25%) Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2) on the sale of real property within the City which they dedicated to funding Parks. Since that time, the City has received nearly \$1.1 million, which has allowed Council to direct investments to urgent facility needs such as the KVMP flat roof, HVAC, and sloped roof. Combined with Park Impact Fees (revenue received from new residential development to expand park capacity projects), these funds have allowed for more investment in parks and recreation to serve the community.

### **3. Cold Weather Shelter is Seeking Volunteers**

The Cold Weather Shelter opened 11/24/25 and is seeking volunteers. A link to HopeSource's volunteer sign ups and donation opportunities page is available on the City's [Cold Weather Shelter page](#).

### **4. Reception on January 5**

Staff request cancellation of the January 5, 2025, Study Session. A reception honoring newly elected officials is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on January 5.

### **5. Preview of December 15 Council Agenda**

The next meeting will include the second reading of the proposed 2025 Comp Plan Amendments, an Agreement for Property Transfer between CWU, Kittitas County, and the City, an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City and Kittitas County for Opioid Settlement Grant Distribution, and another ILA with Kittitas County for flood mapping.