



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

November 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 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 Rockcress 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

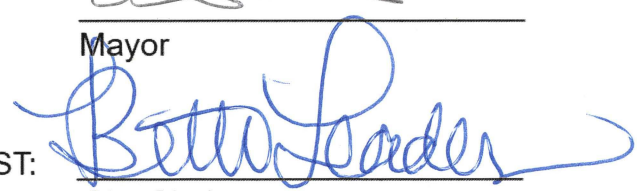
14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk