

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**

**Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting**

**Date of Meeting**

**December 1, 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 Councilmember Lillquist.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Horner, City Clerk Leader, Assistant Finance Director Bassett, HR Director Young, Community Development Director Carlson, Planning Manager Henderson, Arts & Economic Development Manager Vandenberg, and approximately 40 members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: Eight members of the public

**1.A Oath of Office for Councilmember Palmer**

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Palmer.

**2. Proclamations**

**3. Awards and Recognitions**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**5. Consent Agenda**

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

5.B Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions

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

5.D DEI Commission Resignation - Serena Turney

5.E Approve December 1, 2025 Voucher Listing

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

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## 6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

- 6.A Arts Commission Appointments - Jensen Lopez & Therese Young  
Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager, introduced the two commission applicants recommended for appointment by the Arts Commission.

Councilmember Beauchamp moved to approve appointment of Jensen Lopez and Therese Young to the Arts Commission. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 6.B Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission Communication with Council —  
Proposing an Alternative Interim Version of Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9  
Amber Hoefer (present remotely) and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, DEI Commission members, reviewed information from the DEI Commission.

Public comment on the topic was heard from the following citizens:

- Beryl Kelley, Ellensburg resident
- Christopher Hobbs, Ellensburg resident

## 7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

Public Comment was heard from the following citizens:

- Pat Kelleher, City resident
- Christopher Hobbs, City resident
- Tory Jones, Ellensburg resident
- Logan Cook
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident

## 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)  
Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Public comment was heard on the topic from the following citizens:

- Michelle Adams, County resident
- Shelly Lounsbury-Griffin, County resident
- Deb Scott, City resident
- Sasha Geise, Ellensburg resident
- Geraldine O'Mahony, City resident
- Robyn Scott, City resident
- Allie Dermond, City resident
- M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, City resident
- Beryl Kelley, Ellensburg resident
- Christopher Hobbs, Ellensburg resident
- Candice Comfort, County resident
- Phil Backlund, Ellensburg resident

- Tory Jones, Ellensburg resident
- Pat Kelleher, Ellensburg resident
- Jennifer Patteson, County resident
- Amber Hoefler, (present remotely) City resident and DEI commissioner
- Carrie Vickers, County resident

Council recessed for a five-minute break at 8:58 pm  
Council reconvened at 9:05 pm

- Diana German, County resident
- Michelle Adams, County resident
- Theresa Plue, County resident
- M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, City resident and DEI commissioner
- Beryl Kelley, County resident, inquired about her written comment submitted by email on November 24, 2025

The City Clerk received Ms. Kelley's November 24, 2025 email titled Chapter 9, DEI and Civil Rights Violations, which was forwarded to Council prior to the meeting and was kept for the record.

Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager, commented regarding the Parks & Recreation plan not being included with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Council asked questions of staff.

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

Councilmember Lillquist moved to approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendments for Docket Item 25-01 with modifications provided with the CIP plan. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve Docket Item 25-02.001-.308 by adopting language in Draft B as submitted by the DEI Commission. **Motion Approved 5-2 (Palmer and Thompson voted no)**

Councilmember Palmer moved to conduct first reading of Ordinance 4977 as amended. **Motion Approved 7-0**

## 9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

- 9.A Second Reading of Ordinance 4976 - 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget (Public Comment Opportunity)  
Keith Bassett, Assistant Finance Director, presented information in the staff report.

Public comment was heard on the topic from the following citizen:

- Pat Kelleher, City resident  
Councilmember Goodloe moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4976 amending the 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget. **Motion Approved 7-0**

## 10. Unfinished Business

## 11. New Business

- 11.A 2026 City of Ellensburg Legislative Priorities (Public Comment Opportunity)  
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented amended information on the dais with Council concerning proposed priorities.  
The City's lobbyist, Josh Weiss, was present remotely for questions.

Mayor Elliott moved to approve 2026 City of Ellensburg Legislative Priorities in substantially similar form. **Motion Approved 7-0**

## 12. Miscellaneous

- 12.A Manager's Report (No Public Comment)  
The City Manager presented the report. It was suggested to review City Code Chapter 1.88 and work by the DEI Commission, and Council consensus was discussing at a study session the first or second meeting in January 2026.

An Executive Session closed session would last for ten minutes and no action would be taken.

- 12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)
- Councilmember Palmer attended the Law & Justice Council, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife and Kittitas County Solid Waste meetings

## 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.

Council recessed to a closed executive session at 10:25 pm and was anticipated to last ten minutes. No action would be taken.

Council reconvened at 10:34 pm

## 14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 pm

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:   
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City Clerk