

AGENDA

LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 4, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
2:00 PM - Regular Meeting
Join Zoom**

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87292971205?pwd=SEFEZjVnOTZXYTNLSWhTRzBDR3F1dz09>

**Meeting ID: 872 9297 1205
Passcode: 247907**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

1.A Roll Call: Chair, Sarah Beauchamp, Steve Townsend, Lacie Dawson, Carmen Wiggins, Arlo Evasick

2. Citizen Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Review and Approval of February 4, 2026, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

4. Unfinished Business

4.A Review Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project LTAC Funding Application

5. Adjournment



For more information on the Ellensburg Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, contact Arts & Economic Development Manager, Kelle Vandenberg at 509-962-7149.
The Contents of this agenda have been photocopied on recycled paper.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

February 4, 2026

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: Carmen Wiggins, Steve Townsend, Lacie Dawson, Sarah Beauchamp

Absent: Arlo Evasick

Guests: Matt Anderson, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Amy McGuffin, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Brett Wachsmith, Kittitas County, Carl Jensvold, Ellensburg Rodeo, Bryan Elliott, Kittitas County, and Kady Porterfield, Kittitas County Event Center

2. Approval of Agenda

2.A Motion: Move to approve the February 4, 2026, LTAC meeting agenda as presented.

By: Carmen Wiggins

Seconded by: Steve Townsend

All in Favor:

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion carries

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of January 7, 2026, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

By: Lacie Dawson

Seconded: Steve Townsend

All in Favor: All in Favor

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carries

4. Budget Report

4.A JLARC REPORTING FOR 2025

Staff updated the committee regarding no reporting required for 2025.

4. B 2026 Budget Update & 2026 Estimated Expenditure Report: Staff updated the budget as presented in the packet.

5. New Business

5.A Partnership Request: Ellensburg Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project

Funding Request from Rodeo Grandstand Partnership Group: Bryan Elliott, Carl Jensvold, Kady Porterfield, Brett Wachsmith

Discussion: Bryan Elliott outlined the request as presented per the letter in the agenda packet. Reviewed the funding stack of existing partners with the committee. Committee asked questions regarding overage costs and timelines.

\$13.5 M secured currently with existing partners funding stack.

Motion: Ellensburg Lodging Tax Committee recommends to City Council to utilize \$500,000.00 in lodging tax funding to support the Ellensburg Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project.

By: Carmen Wiggins

Seconded by: Steve Townsend

All in Favor:

Opposed: None

Abstained: Lacie Dawson

Motion carries

6. Previous Business

6.A LTAC Strategic Spending Plan for Funding Ellensburg Projects and Facilities
Brief committee discussion regarding long-term strategic planning for funding.

6.B. 2026 Schedule Review (see notes from packet)

Committee Review and amended the previously approved 2026 LTAC meeting schedule for 2026.

2026 Schedule:

- March No meeting
- April 1, 2026
- May No meeting
- June 3, 2026
- July No meeting
- August 5, 2026 CLTAC Training with Matt Anderson from Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
- September 9, 2026 (moved back one week due to holiday/rodeo week)

- October 7, 2026
- November 4, 2026 (tentative date—pending CLTAC Presentation meeting)
- December 3, 2026 (tentative date)

7. Tourism Report

7.A Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce gave update on monthly social media report.

8. Council Report

No update given

9. Citizen Comment

No citizen comment

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

DRAFT



Kittitas County, Washington
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One
Cory Wright

District Two
Laura Osiadacz

District Three
Brett Wachsmith

To: Ellensburg City Council / City of Ellensburg Lodging Tax Committee/ City Manager
From: Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
Subject: Partnership Request: Ellensburg Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project

Kittitas County is proud to lead the revitalization of the historic Ellensburg Rodeo Grandstands, a project central to our regional identity and economic vitality. To date, the County and the Rodeo Board have committed \$13.5 million in combined working capital to ensure the facility meets modern standards for safety and fan experience.

As we work toward the critical completion deadline of the 2026 Ellensburg Rodeo, we have encountered necessary but unanticipated building and design requirements. To maintain the project's strict timeline, we must approve essential change orders totaling \$1.4 million.

While the Rodeo Board is actively working with the County to help bridge this gap, these necessary adjustments and additional change orders may result in a budget shortfall of \$750,000.

The Ellensburg Rodeo is a primary economic driver for City businesses, hotels, and restaurants. To ensure this project is completed without delay or compromise, we are inviting the City of Ellensburg to join us as a formal partner to help bring this project across the finish line.

We request a contribution of \$500,000 to help close the funding gap. This investment ensures:

- On-time completion prior to the 2026 season.
- Safety and accessibility upgrades that benefit all residents and visitors.
- Continued economic growth through a premier, multi-use venue.

We view this as a strategic partnership. By joining forces, we can ensure that our community continues to possess a facility that matches its world-class reputation as a rodeo and events destination.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Brett Wachsmith, Kittitas County Commissioner

Bryan Elliott, County Auditor