



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

February 17, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Miller.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Horner, City Clerk Leader, Community Development Director Carlson, Planning Manager Henderson, HR Director Young, Parks & Recreation Director Case and approximately ten members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: two members of the public

2. Proclamations

2.A National Black History Month

The Proclamation was read by Mayor Elliott

3. Awards and Recognitions

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

5.A Approve Minutes of February 2, 2026 Regular Meeting

5.B Approve Minutes of February 2, 2026 Study Session

5.C Approve Minutes of February 6, 2026 Retreat

5.D Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions

5.E Project Acceptance – Bid Call 2024-23 Anderson Road Sewer Extension Phase 2

5.F Authorize City Manager's Signature on a Memorandum of Understanding with IBEW Local 77

5.G Approve February 17, 2026 Voucher Listing

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

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

6.A Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Presentation
Alex Conley, Executive Director of the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Board, presented information to Council. Council thanked Mr. Conley for the information and the work that has been done.

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

Public comment was heard from citizen Pat Kelleher.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

10. Unfinished Business

10.A Review of ECC Chapter 1.88 - Continue Discussion on Commission Role, Duties, and Responsibilities (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, reviewed information in the staff report. Mayor Elliott reviewed items that required discussion by Council.

Councilmember Lillquist moved to rename the Commission to Community Engagement Commission.

Public comment was heard on the topic from the following citizens:
William Coleman
Pat Kelleher
Beryl Kelley

Motion Approved 6-1 Goodloe voted no

Councilmember Thompson suggested the number of commission members be decreased from nine members in Section 1.88.010.

Public comment was heard on the topic from the following citizens:
Beryl Kelley
William Coleman

Councilmember Thompson moved to reduce the number of commission members from nine to seven. Motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion of Section 1.88.020

Public comment was heard on the topic from citizen Pat Kelleher, who also submitted written comments to the Clerk.

Discussion of Section 1.88.040

Councilmember Goodloe recommended an appeal process on commission decisions.

Discussion of Section 1.88.060

Councilmembers discussed selection of item D.1-5 as the powers and duties, including language regarding advocacy, incorporation of a workplan and commission advisory to Council.

Public comment was heard on the topic by Camber Elsom

There was also a recommendation to include a metric for tracking effectiveness of grant funded events.

Staff will incorporate those recommendations into an ordinance for future consideration by Council.

11. New Business

- 11.A West Ellensburg Park Playground Purchase (Public Comment Opportunity)
Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Public comment was heard on the topic from Beryl Kelley

Councilmember Palmer moved to authorize the necessary budget adjustments and purchase of a new playground at West Ellensburg Park. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 11.B 2026 Community Development Long Range Planning Work Program (Public Comment Opportunity)
Stacy Henderson, Planning Manager, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve 2026 Community Development Long Range Planning Work Program. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 11.C Ellensburg's 2026 Opioid Funding Contribution to Distribute Through Pooled City/County Grant Process (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve \$100,000 in restricted Opioid Settlement Funds to be pooled with Kittitas County funds to distribute through

the grant process established through the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Kittitas County and the City of Ellensburg for Pooling of Opioid Funds for the 2026 cycle and to make the necessary budget adjustments. **Motion Approved 7-0**

12. Miscellaneous

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

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report. She also gave an update of the Fieldhouse project and Memorial Pool.

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

- Councilmember Thompson participated in a ride-along with EPD
- Councilmember Palmer attended Affordable Housing Commission meeting
- Councilmember Miller attended Planning Commission meeting and Council Budget Retreat
- Councilmember Lillquist attended the Council Budget Retreat and ETAC meeting
- Councilmember Goodloe attended the Council Budget Retreat, and Parks & Recreation Commission meeting
- Councilmember Beauchamp reported on LTAC and Arts Commission
- Mayor Elliott reported on KITTCOM and met with representatives in Olympia. He spoke concerning a letter on the dais from KCCOG referencing CWU President Wohlpart and requested from Council whether the City should take a position on the matter. Council consensus was to remain neutral and not take a position either way.

13. Executive Session

Two separate executive sessions would take place and was estimated to last ten minutes each. No action would be taken. Council recessed into executive session at 9:02 pm.

- 13.A RCW 42.30.110 (1)(B) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of an increased price.

Mayor Elliott announced at 9:11 pm that the second executive session would begin.

- 13.B 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 reconvened at 9:21 pm

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk