

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of City Council, Regular Meeting

March 16, 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 Thompson

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, Police Chief Wade, Community Development Director Carlson, Housing Program Manager Frey, Associate Planner Rud, HR Director Young, Parks & Recreation Director Case and approximately fifteen members of the public

Others present remotely via Zoom: three members of the public

2. Proclamations

- 2.A Natural Gas Utility Workers Day
Councilmember Miller read the proclamation.
- 2.B Transgender Day of Visibility
Councilmember Goodloe read the proclamation.
- 2.C National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
Mayor Elliott read the proclamation.

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 March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting
- 5.B Approve Minutes of March 2, 2026 Study Session
- 5.C Acknowledge Minutes of Boards and Commissions

5.D Award Bid 2026-03 Dolarway Substation Reclosers

5.E Approve March 16, 2026 Voucher Listing

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

6. Petitions, Protests, and Communications

6.A 2025 Police Department Annual Report
Ken Wade, Ellensburg Police Chief, presented information in a report to Council. Council asked questions of staff.

6.B Invitation to the Passing of the Laurel Ceremony
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, shared information with Council.

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Issues

Public comment was heard from the following citizens:

- Pat Kelleher
- Joylyn Schneider

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

8.A Closed Record Hearing (Quasi-Judicial) to consider adoption of Resolution 2026-05, approving the Houghton Preliminary Subdivision (File # P25-140) (Limited Public Comment)
Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing and asked the standard questions regarding appearance of fairness and conflict of interest. There were no appearance of fairness, ex parte contacts or conflicts of interest disclosed by the Mayor or Councilmembers. Mark Rud, Associate Planner, presented information in the staff report.

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

Councilmember Miller moved to adopt Resolution 2026-05 approving the Houghton Preliminary Long Subdivision pursuant to the Hearing Examiner's March 5, 2026 Recommended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision, and Conditions of Approval. **Motion Approved 7-0**

9. Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

9.A Second Reading of Ordinance 4981 Amending Ellensburg City Code and Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-06 Regarding Community Development Review Fees (Public Comment Opportunity)
Dan Carlson, Community Development Director, presented information in the staff report. A correction to the proposed fee schedule was included on the dais.

Councilmember Palmer moved to conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance 4981 amending Ellensburg City Code regarding Community Development review fees. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-06 adopting Community Development Review fees. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 9.B First Reading of Ordinance 4982 Amending Ellensburg City Code Chapter 1.88- Access and Engagement Commission (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report.

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

- Amber Hoefer, DEI Commissioner (speaking remotely)
- Candice Comfort
- Sasha Geise
- Joylyn Schneider
- Pat Kelleher
- Alison Durmond
- M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, DEI Commissioner (speaking remotely)

Councilmember Palmer moved to conduct first reading of Ordinance 4982 amending Ellensburg City Code Chapter 1.88 regarding the name, role, duties, and responsibilities of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.

Councilmember Palmer moved to amend the motion by striking the last sentence in the second whereas in Ordinance 4982. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Councilmember Miller moved to amend the last sentence of the last paragraph in Section 1.88.010 to include the word safety "... is supportive to all residents and visitors because doing so enriches each individual's life and the community's well-being, **SAFETY** and vitality." **Motion Approved 7-0**

Councilmember Goodloe moved to amend the motion by changing the commission name to Access Advocacy Engagement and Equity Commission.

Councilmember Lillquist moved to strike Advocacy from the amendment. **Motion Failed 1-6** (*Lillquist voted yes*)

Vote on the amendment changing the proposed commission name. **Motion Approved 5-2** (*Palmer and Thompson voted no*)

Vote on the main motion as amended. **Motion Approved 5-2** (*Palmer and Thompson voted no*)

Councilmember Goodloe made a statement and requested council consider a

resolution to show support. Mayor Elliott recommended consideration at a future council meeting.

10. Unfinished Business

- 10.A Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Presents Partnership Request: Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project (Public Comment Opportunity)
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, presented information in the staff report. County Commissioner Wachsmith presented information concerning the County's request for funding. Council asked questions of staff and Commissioner Wachsmith.

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve award of \$500,000 lodging tax funding to Kittitas County to support the Rodeo Grandstand Improvement Project, per the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee recommendation, approve budget adjustments, and authorize the City Manager's signature on the resulting lodging tax grant agreement with Kittitas County. **Motion Approved 7-0**

- 10.B Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Sustainable Plan Adoption (Public Comment Opportunity)
Mayor Elliott announced at 9:25 pm that Council would take a five-minute break. Council reconvened at 9:30 pm

Brad Case, Parks & Recreation Director, presented information in the staff report. Cindy Mendoza, Principal at MIG, was present remotely to review the Funding Plan. Council asked questions of staff and Ms. Mendoza.

Public comment on the topic was heard from citizen Victoria Thomas.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to adopt the Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Sustainable Funding Plan as presented.

Councilmember Lillquist moved to amend the motion by removing item F from Appendix B-8. **Motion Approved 6-1** (Miller voted no)

Vote on main motion as amended. **Motion Approved 7-0**

11. New Business

- 11.A Lease Agreement between the City of Ellensburg and Kittcom for Unit 4 at the Airport Business Park (Public Comment Opportunity)
Mayor Elliott abstained from discussion on the item due to a conflict of interest. Mayor Pro Tem Lillquist ran discussion on the item.

Chris Horner, City Attorney, presented information in the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

Public comment was heard on the topic from citizen Pat Kelleher

Councilmember Goodloe moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a lease agreement (as attached or in substantially similar form) for Unit 4 located at the Airport Business Park, 3110 N. Airport Rd., Ellensburg. **Motion Approved 6-0** (*Elliott abstained*)

11.B Interlocal Agreement with Kittitas County for Cold Weather Shelter Maintenance (Public Comment Opportunity)

Lily Frey, Housing Program Manager, presented information in the staff report.

Councilmember Palmer moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement (ILA) with Kittitas County. **Motion Approved 7-0**

11.C Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center Roof Replacement (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 by the following citizens:

- Joylyn Schneider
- Candice Comfort
- Victoria Thomas
- Pat Kelleher

Councilmember Palmer moved to direct staff to pursue option 2 and provide Council with information on the projected service life of both options.

Mayor Elliott moved to amend the motion to request staff establish a timeline for both options. **Motion Approved 7-0**

Vote on main motion as amended. **Motion Approved 7-0**

12. Miscellaneous

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

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, reviewed three letters of support on the dais for congressionally directed spending and requested Council approval for the Mayor's signature.

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve the Mayor's signature on the three letters of support. **Motion Approved 7-0**

The City Manager reviewed the report.

12.B Councilmembers' Reports (No Public Comment)

- Councilmember Lillquist requested Lodging Tax Committee discussion of downtown Christmas decorating with the EDA
- Councilmember Beauchamp requested excused absence for the April 6, 2026 meeting

Councilmember Goodloe moved to approve an excused absence for Councilmember Beauchamp at the April 6, 2026 meeting. **Motion Approved 7-0**

13. Executive Session


13.A Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii), 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.(iii) Litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Council recessed to Executive Session at 10:43 pm. It was anticipated to last ten minutes and no action would be taken.

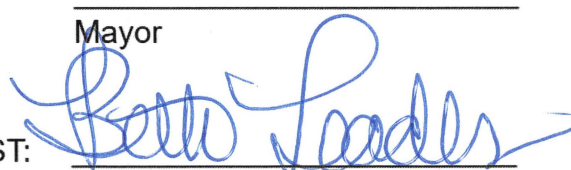
Council reconvened at 10:50 pm

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm



Mayor

ATTEST: 

City Clerk