



**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**

**Date of Meeting**

**Time of Meeting**

**Place of Meeting**

**Minutes of Utility Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting**

**March 19, 2026**

**3:30 PM**

**Council Conference Room**

**501 North Anderson Street**

**Ellensburg, WA 98926**

**And remotely via Zoom**

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

Chair Bousson called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

Members present in person: Nancy Lillquist, City Council; Delano Palmer, City Council; Fred Springsteen, Utility Customer.

Others present in person: Energy Services Director Stanavich, Energy Resources Manager Baker, Gas Engineer Yusi, Finance Officer Bair, Telecom Manager Hiede

Others present remotely via Zoom: Jeff Bousson, Chair/CWU, Rate Analyst Mooers, members of the public

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Committee member Palmer moved to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion approved.**

**4-0**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 02-19-2026 - Minutes

Committee member Palmer moved to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion Approved 4-0**

**4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

4.A Public Comment

Meghan Anderson made a public comment.

Public comment was provided by the following (remote) attendees: Varg Vikernes, Dylan Roof.

**5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items**

5.A HopeSource Low-Income Energy Conservation Program Update

Nichole Baker introduced guest Andrew Lyons representing Hope Source, who presented the Low-Income Energy Conservation Program. Committee member Nancy Lilquist requested follow-up data on savings from the program, both monetary and energy values. Committee member Jeff Bousson asked Andrew

Lyons on the number of residences that will be improved in the year 2026 and discussed the goals.

5.B Natural Gas System Plan

Darrin Yusi presented the upcoming 6-year natural gas system plan.

Requesting a recommendation from the committee to take to council on April 6th. Committee member Nancy Lilquist requested a staff follow-up with data on the pros and cons of expanding gas utilization. Public comment from Meghan Anderson.

Committee member Palmer moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement for Professional Services for the 2027-2032 Natural Gas System Plan with the consultant Kimley-Horn. **Motion approved. 4-0**

5.C NoaNet Interlocal Agreement Amendment 3

Kenneth Heide presented NoaNet Interlocal agreement amendment 3.

Requested favorable motion of recommendation to on council April 6th.

Committee member Palmer moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment 3 to the Interlocal Agreement between the City Of Ellensburg and the Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet). **Motion approved. 4-0**

5.D Electric Utility Rate Increases

Nichole Baker introduced FCS consultants to present the electric utility rate increase. Committee members Jeff Bousson and Nancy Lillquist ask for clarification on rate increases for annual and monthly frequencies for residents in the community. Committee member Jeff Bousson requested guidance from FCS on public education to support the rate increases.

Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich verbally committed to providing information and educational materials to the public to help explain the increase in rates. Requested favorable motion of recommendation to council on April 6th.

Committee member Bousson moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to approve the Electric Utility Rate increase as presented. **Motion approved. 4-0**

## 6. Energy Services Updates

6.A New UTC Annual Report - Natural Gas

Gas Engineering Darrin Yusi shared information only item of New UTC Annual Report on leak emissions. Darrin Yusi shared metrics on gas leaks and gas loss in 2025.

6.B Energy Services Updates

## 7. Commission Representative Update

None

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 5:29pm