



**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**

**Date of Meeting**

**Time of Meeting**

**Place of Meeting**

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

**April 16, 2026**

**3:30 PM**

**Council Conference Room**

**501 North Anderson Street**

**Ellensburg, WA 98926**

**Or remotely via Zoom -**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>**

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

Chair Bousson called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

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

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, 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, Delano Palmer, City Council; Rate Analyst Moores, members of the public

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Committee member Bousson motioned to add Item 7A — Selection Committee to the agenda. **Motion Approved 4-0**

Committee member Bousson moved to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 4-0**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 3-19-26 - Minutes

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

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

No public comment.

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

- 5.A 2026 Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) Energy Assistance Report  
Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager introduced guest Hassan Shaban, who presented on 2026 Clean Energy Transformation Act CETA Energy Assistance Report. Requesting a favorable recommendation to city council. Committee member Nancy Lilquist asked for clarification on funding sources for this assistance program. Committee member Jeff Bousson asked for the amount of budgeted BPA funds in 2026 - \$226,000. Guest speaker, Hassan Shaban discussed potential risks of not utilizing the budgeted funds, and suggested a solution if the funds are not utilized.

Committee member Nancy Lillquist moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to designate up to \$150,000 annually of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Energy Conservation funding to support the City's compliance obligation for the 2026 Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) RCW 19.405.120, Section 120 Low-income programs. **Motion Approved 4-0.**

- 5.B Letter of Commitment — CWU Collaboration – Geothermal Resource Characterization & Confirmation (DOE - NOFO)  
Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich introduced Letter of Commitment - CWU Collaboration - Geothermal Resource Characterization & Confirmation (DOE - NOFO). Committee Member Delano Palmer presented the geothermal facility and system plans at CWU. Committee Member Jeff Bousson asked if the committed land would be federally owned; Committee Member Delano Palmer is working on determining the land ownership with the DOE. Committee members discussed the community impact of drilling the proposed wells. Committee Member Delano Palmer suggested an increase of community engagement and communication for potential disruptions. Public comment from Lauren Spear.

Committee Member Bousson moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute the Letter of Commitment for the Geothermal Resource Characterization & Confirmation (DOE-NOFO). **Motion Approved 3-0, 1 Abstained.**

## 6. Energy Services Updates

- 6.A Energy Services Updates  
No comments.
- 6.B BPA Contract High Water Mark Review

Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich presented an information-only item on the analysis of the BPA Contract High Water Mark Review.

## 7. Commission Representative Update

Approved agenda item 7A, Selection Committee. Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich shared that the committee has received two applications. The Selection Committee discussed availability and target dates for interviews, in order to present elected members at

the next upcoming City Council meeting on May 4th. Committee Member Jeff Bousson and Committee Member Nancy Lillquist provided availability for scheduling interviews.

No commission representative updates.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:41pm.