



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Utility Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting

June 18, 2026

3:30 PM

Council Conference Room

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom -

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Bousson called the meeting to order at 3:41pm.

Members present in person: Jeff Bousson, Chair/CWU, Delano Palmer, City Council, Fred Springsteen, Utility Customer, Camber Owlsym, Utility Customer.

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, Energy Services Director Stanavich, Energy Resources Manager Baker, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator Holmes, Gas Engineer Yusi, Finance Officer Bair, and members of the public.

Others present remotely via Zoom: Rate Analyst Mooers, members of the public.

Committee Member Delano Palmer motioned to excuse the absences of Nancy Lilquist and Frederick Padjen. **Motioned Approved 4-0.**

2. Approval of Agenda

Committee member Bousson moved to Approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 4-0**

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 5-21-26 Minutes

Committee member Bousson moved to Approve the Minutes from the meeting.

Motion Approved 4-0

4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

4.A Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items

5.A Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager, introduced Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager with the City of Ellensburg to discuss any questions related

to the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter — Energy Services or the redline plan chapter that was shared with the committee.

Committee member Bousson emphasizes the importance of planning and accuracy of Kittitas County growth plan and population growth.

Committee Member Palmer mentioned the redline plans were helpful in the review process.

Committee member Camber Owlysm asked for clarification on the language corrections in the redline copy.

Planning Manager, Stacey Henderson announced the open house meeting on July 20th for further discussions and questions on the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan.

City Manager, Heidi Behrends Cerniwey expressed that City Council will have the opportunity to review and discuss the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan prior to the community event on July 20th.

Committee member Bousson moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to approve Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services. **Motion Approved 4-0.**

- 5.B Natural Gas - Distribution Integrity Management Program Overview
Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer introduced information only item; Distribution Integrity Management Program. Darin explained what the program does and how it benefits our utility. Gas Engineer Darin Yusi explained the program identified the number one issue with utility interruption, which is third party damages from excavators or groundwork. Darin emphasized the importance of public outreach and education of 811-call before you dig within the community.

Committee member Bousson asked how many "close-call" excavation damages the utility has each year. Darin Yusi stated we only have 2–3 excavation damages within the year in the City of Ellensburg Gas territory and expressed that these occurrences have been significantly reduced because of community outreach.

Committee member Owlsym asked if there was a change in the number of excavation damages after we increased on advertising and community outreach in 811-call before you dig.

6. Energy Services Updates

- 6.A Energy Services Updates
Committee Member Bousson introduced our new Sustainability and Energy Coordinator, Brittany Holmes. Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich shared that Brittany Holmes will be working on the Decarbonization Plan.

City Manager Heidi Behrends Cerniwey expressed gratitude towards the staff's involvement in the Touch-a-Truck event that was held yesterday on June 17th, 2026.

7. Commission Representative Update

No commission representative updates.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:11pm.