



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of City Council, Special Meeting

Date of Meeting

May 8, 2025

Time of Meeting

5:30 PM

Place of Meeting

**Council Chambers
501 N Anderson St
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

City Council Present: Sarah Beauchamp, Rich Elliott, Nancy Goodloe, Nancy Lillquist, David Miller, Delano Palmer, Joshua Thompson

Kittitas County Commissioners: Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, City Attorney Horner, Deputy City Clerk Davison, Community Development Director Carlson, Housing and Grants Administrator Frey, Arts and Economic Development Manager Vandenberg, Finance Director Pascoe, Kittitas County Public Works Director Fredrickson, Kittitas County Community Development Services (CDS) Director Bala, Kittitas County Deputy Prosecutor Todd, Central Washington University President Wohlpart, and approximately 10 members of the public

Mayor Elliott opened the meeting for the City of Ellensburg and Commissioner Wright opened the meeting for the Kittitas County Commissioners. Mayor Elliott moved to amend the agenda to allow for new discussion topics before adjournment.

2. Economic Development Partnership Update

2.A Collaborative Activities; History and Update – Commissioner Cory Wright, Central Washington University President Jim Wohlpart, and City Manager Heidi Behrends Cerniwey

Commissioner Wright provided background regarding the history of economic development in Kittitas County. Dr. Jim Wohlpart presented initiatives for Central Washington University in building a workforce-ready program. City Manager Behrends Cerniwey presented the partnership framework for the Kittitas County Economic Development plan. Councilmember Lillquist inquired if this was supported by .09 funds. Councilmember Palmer requested an update on timeframes and milestones for those present.

2.B Interlocal Agreement and Property Exchange Status

Kittitas County Public Works Director Fredrickson presented information on the Interlocal agreement and property exchange status. Councilmember Miller asked questions

APPROVED

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regarding the leases on the property. The Interlocal agreement is estimated to be presented to the respective parties by June.

3. Comprehensive Plan – Period Update Status Update

3.A Urban Growth Area Discussion

Kittitas County Community Development Services (CDS) Director Bala, and City of Ellensburg Community Development Director Carlson, opened the discussion. CDS will have an open house on the morning of May 17, 2025, at Unity Park, and another in Cle Elum that evening. CDS Director Bala and Community Development Director Carlson responded to questions from Council.

4. Housing and Homelessness

4.A 2024/25 Cold Weather Seasonal Shelter Report – HopeSource

HopeSource CEO Susan Grindle and HopeSource Navigator Billy Brimley reported on the Cold Weather Shelter. CEO Grindle reported very positive reviews about the food and community volunteers lowering the cost of the cold weather shelter. Some requests for the future included more shower days, cots, and day storage.

4.B 2025/26 Cold Weather Seasonal Shelter Partnership, Site, Operations Discussion

City Manager Behrends Cerniwey opened the discussion and mentioned an option to lease a building from a local church for the upcoming season.

4.C Sleep Center Discussion

City Manager Behrends Cerniwey presented information regarding the sleep center project. The recommendation is to discontinue sleep center siting and continue the seasonal cold weather shelter.

4.D Affordable Housing Project Update

Housing and Grants Administrator Frey gave a short update on current projects and upcoming projects, housing changes, and developer incentives.

5. Behavioral Health Funding Update

5.A Kittitas County Public Health Report on 0.1% Funding

Commissioner Wachsmith and Kittitas County Public Health Human Services Manager Kasey Knutson presented information regarding the 1/10th of 1% Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Tax and the projects it supports.

5.B Handle With Care and Mental Health Referral Trends – Ellensburg Police

Ellensburg Police Department Chief Wade presented information on the effects of mental health interactions with law enforcement and the Handle with Care program.

6. America 250

6.A Overview and County Coordination

Commissioner Wachsmith presented information on the America 250 Act.

7. New Topics for Discussion

Commission Wachsmith reported on veteran services in Kittitas County. Councilmember Miller wanted to continue discussion on food security and potential Medicaid cuts. Mayor Elliott spoke regarding COG and growing into a regional advisory board. Councilmember Palmer stressed importance on the infrastructure of our energy systems. Commissioner Wright spoke regarding the construction of recreational facilities and infrastructure of growth.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Elliott adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Deputy City Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Laura Osiadacz
Chair



Cory Wright
Vice-Chair



Brett Wachsmith
Commissioner