



October 24, 2024

Welcome: Mayor Rich Elliott
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager

City 101- Introduction to Ellensburg



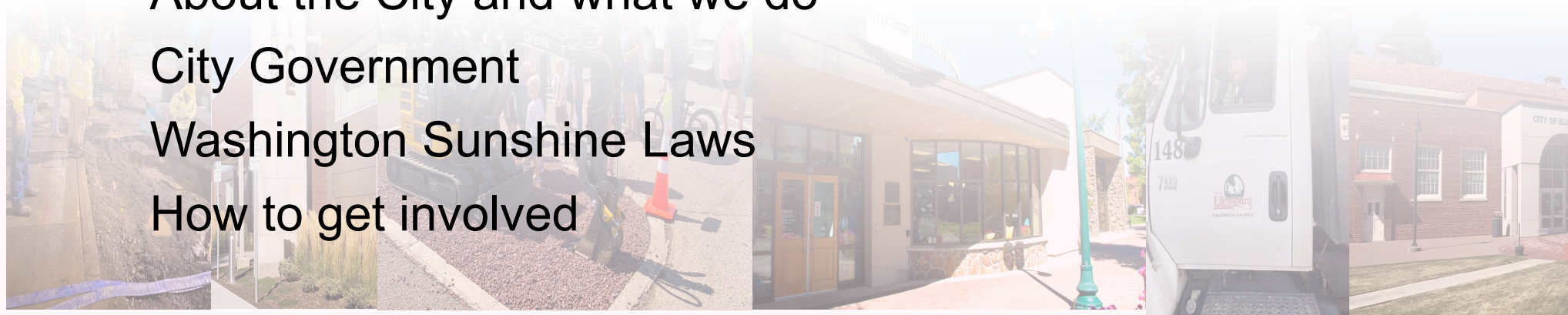
City of
Ellensburg
WASHINGTON



Welcome to City 101



About the City and what we do
City Government
Washington Sunshine Laws
How to get involved



City 101 - By the Numbers

- **Population:** 20,970
- **Budget:** ~\$124 million budget
- **Employees:** 215+
- **Facilities:** City Hall, Library & HHCC, Police Station, AAC, Pool, WWTP, SBYC, Adoption Center, Operations & Maintenance Facility, Parks, etc.
- **Utility Services:** Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Electric, Natural Gas, Fiber/Telecom
- **Transit:** 116,980 rides
- **Fleet:** 185 equipment/vehicles
- **Parks:** 150 acres
- **Open Space:** 1,321 acres
- **Trails:** 8.76 miles
- **Wells:** 1.55 billion gallons
- **Wastewater:** 1.14 billion gallons effluent
- **Streets:** 92.8 miles
- **Sidewalks:** 113.36 miles
- **Bike lanes:** 8.7 miles
- **Traffic signals:** 28
- **Stormwater:** 49.3 miles | Street Sweeping: 750 tons
- **Police calls:** 18,173
- **Investigations:** 253 cases



City Council: Legislative

- Seven elected representatives
- At-large (no districts); Nonpartisan
- Four-year terms
- Council elects a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore to serve two-year terms
- Elections are held in odd years
- Rules and Procedures guide meetings and roles
- Council adopts policies, comprehensive plan, and budget
- Define powers, functions, and duties of City officers and employees

- **Washington Code City**
- **RCW 35A.13 Council-Manager**



[City Council | Ellensburg, WA](#)

City Organization

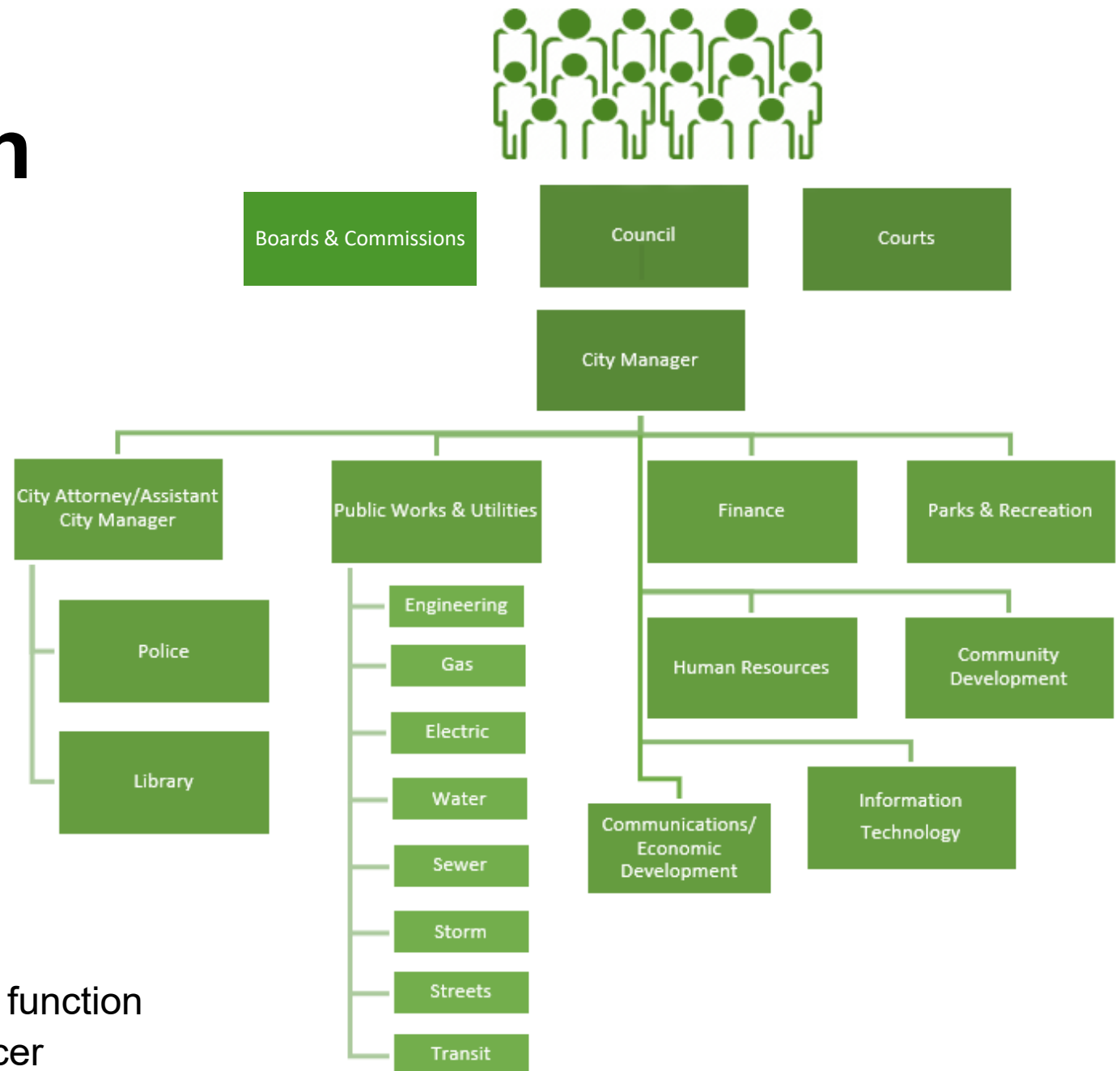


RCW 35A.13 Council-Manager



Separation of Powers

City Manager: Executive function
Chief Administrative Officer



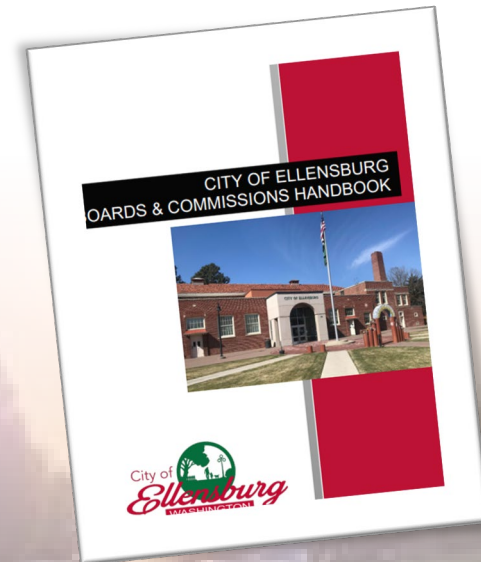
Judicial Branch

- **Kittitas County Superior Court** - adult felony crimes, civil disputes, dissolutions and family law matters, juvenile offenders, matters involving children, real property disputes, and domestic violence issues
- **Kittitas County Lower District Court – Prosecution by City Attorney’s Office**
 - Criminal misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors
 - Contested traffic infractions
 - Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for Public Defense
 - Infractions
- **Hearing Examiner** – administrative quasi-judicial land use and other matters



Advisory Boards & Commissions

- Affordable Housing Commission
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Landmarks and Design Commission
- LEOFF 1 Board (new)
- Library Board
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Transit Advisory Committee
- Utility Advisory Committee



...serve as advisory to City Council or special purpose

Partnerships with Others

Kittitas County

Central Washington University (CWU)

Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR)

Kittitas County EMS

Conference of Governments (COG) - .09%
sales tax for rural counties distribution

Economic Development – County, CWU,
Chamber, EDA, etc.

Ellensburg Downtown Association (EDA) -
Main Street Program

KITTCOM - 9-1-1 dispatch

HopeSource - Community Action Agency;
low-income energy program,
homelessness and housing response;
transit provider, Cabulance

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce –
tourism; #MyEllensburg.com

Waste Management

ECTV

Kittitas Valley Healthcare



What cities do:

- **Essential services - water, sewer, gas, electric, etc.**
- **Transportation & Transit**
- **Clean Environment & Drinking Water**
- **Energy (electric, natural gas, solar)**
- **Public Safety**
- **Safe Buildings**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Community Building**
- **Justice**
- **Stable & Thriving Economy**
- **Land Use/Zoning/Permitting**
- **Balance the Budget**

What cities don't do:

- **Anything not delegated by the State or US Constitution (or prohibited otherwise)**
- **County statutory requirements (voting, public health, superior court)**
- **Determine business selection, investment, and location**
- **Undermine property rights**
- **Make all the laws**



Washington Sunshine Laws - Transparency

- **Open Public Meetings Act**

- Published announcements, 24-hours in advance (except emergencies)
- Must be open to the public
- Meeting records (minutes, some recordings)
- Hybrid participation (generally)

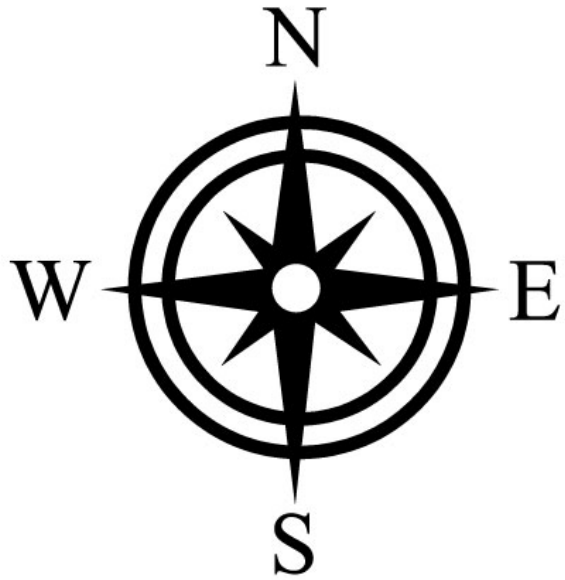
- **Public Records Act**

- Requires that all public records maintained by state and local agencies be made available to all members of the public, with very narrow statutory exemptions
- Public record is defined in RCW 42.56.010(3) as any writing that is prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local government agency, and which contains information that relates to the conduct of government, or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function

City Council Actions

- **Ordinances** are the highest level of official City action. It is the only means by which laws can be created and budgets adopted. Ordinances require two readings prior to Council action.
- **Resolutions** are the official way of expressing the decision of the Council in terms of policy, approval, acceptance, or giving authority. Resolutions express council policy or direct administrative actions.
- **Proclamations** have no substantive power other than to express the will of the Mayor and are primarily ceremonial. Proclamations may be issued by the Mayor without limitation.
- **Ellensburg Code City (ECC)**
 - Ordinances are “codified” into local laws

City Council's Strategic Vision 2024-2029



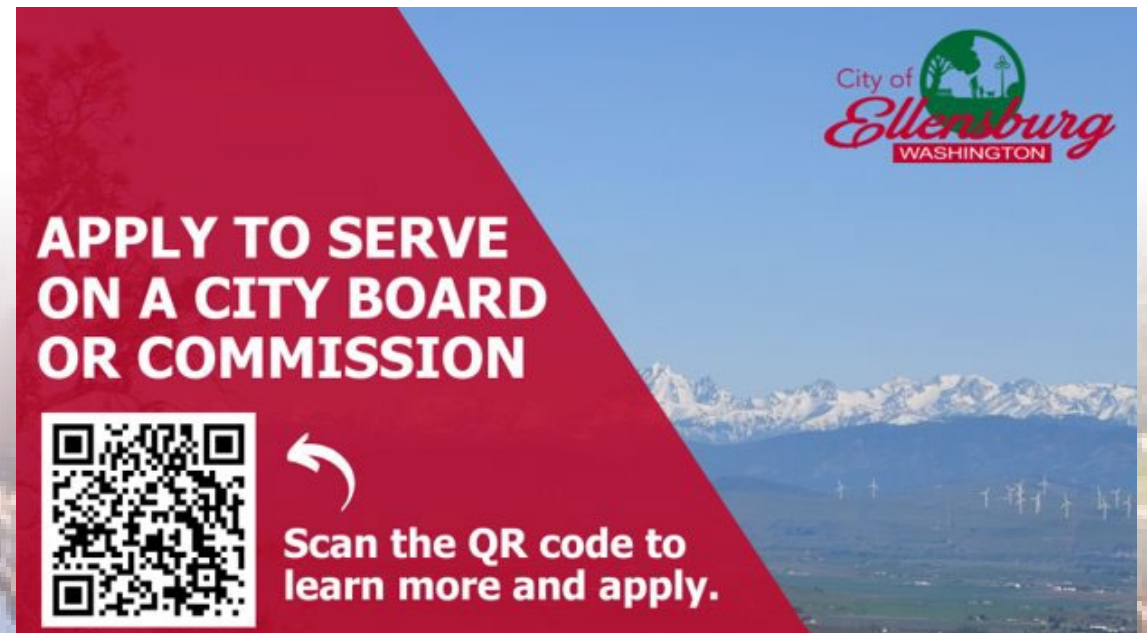
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Infrastructure and Energy
- Safety, Civic Engagement, and Cultural Inclusion
- Affordable Housing and Living
- Dedicated Parks and Recreation Resources

www.ellensburgwa.gov/strategicvision



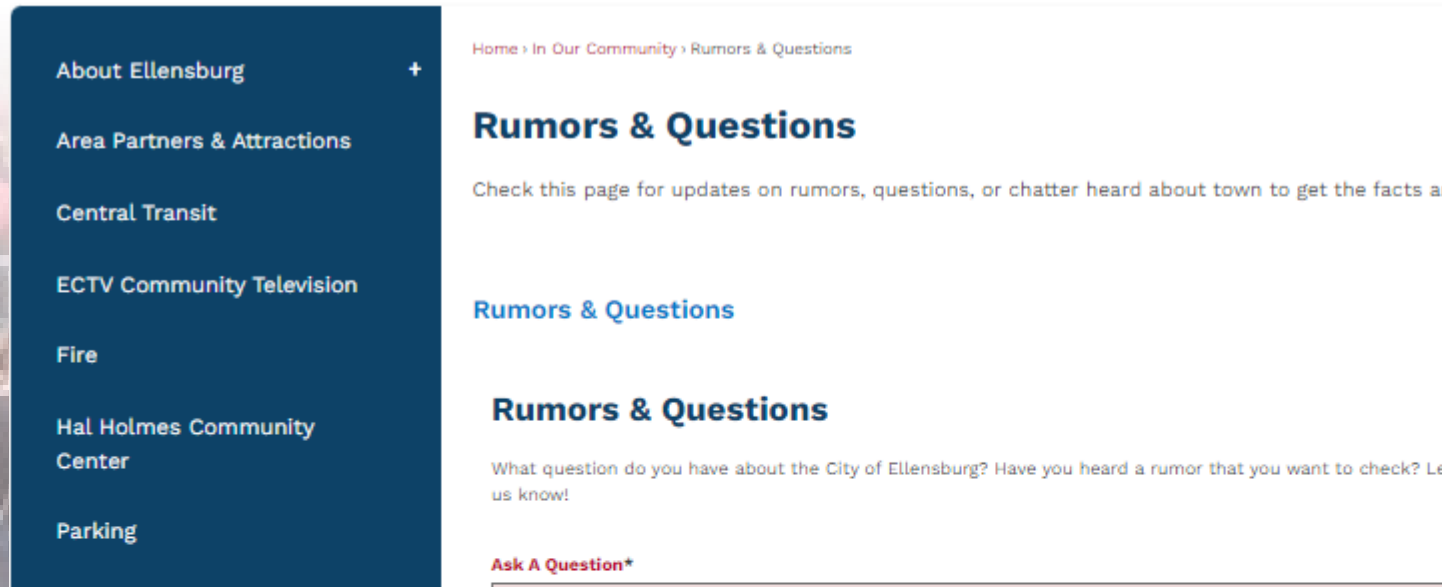
How to serve on a Board or Commission

- Openings | [Boards & Commissions | Ellensburg, WA](#)
- Applications online or City Manager's Office
- Attend a meeting
- Interview by sub-committee
- City Council appointment
- Ad-Hoc Committee and Sub-committee service



How to be involved

- Comprehensive Plan
- Attend a meeting
- Provide testimony (projects and City Council – written or verbal)
- Participate in an Open House
- Take a survey
- Let us know how to be more accessible
- Serve on an advisory board or commission
- Ask your questions or dispel a rumor...



Stay Informed

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To get regular messages from the City of Ellensburg, subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter, Ellensburg Insider.

Ellensburg
INSIDER

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City of Ellensburg
501 N. Anderson St.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

This report includes 2021 accomplishments and outlines projects to be completed in 2022.

Ellensburg INSIDER

City Annual Report 2021

Working Toward A Strategic Vision

In the fall of 2021, the Ellensburg City Council developed a shared vision for the future built on strategic priorities. The City Council's Strategic Vision 2022-2027 represents the most important issues facing the City of Ellensburg and establishes precedence for expenditure of staff and other City resources. In addition to providing essential public services, the vision includes:

- Sustainable Energy
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Affordable Housing
- Safe and Inclusive Community

These priorities were further refined in 2022. To learn more, visit ellensburgwa.gov/strategicvision

Sustainable Infrastructure

- An Interlocal Agreement was adopted for coordinated planning and development in the urban growth area which will require consistent urban development standards and impact fees to support future growth of City infrastructure.
- Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) were allocated to projects that directly benefit the community. Utility Park design and construction, Anderson Road Sewer Extension, a construction project manager, and gateway signage to improve the first impression entering the City.
- Adopted FEMA flood regulations to retain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Perkins partnership grants funded West Ellensburg Park field improvements, Ellensburg Explorer/Exposures de Ellensburg nature day camp (KEEN), and Reservoir Creek floodplain interpretive signs.

Affordable Housing

The City adopted a Housing Action Plan in 2021 with strategies to create more housing, different types of housing, and more affordable housing stock. The City was awarded an additional \$75,000 Department of Commerce grant to implement the priority strategies in 2022.

Above: A house and accessory dwelling on Brentwood Street.

Housing affordability is a statewide problem. Housing has taken several actions to help improve housing options. In 2017, voted 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent) sales tax for affordable housing. These funds, along with City property are being used to develop affordable housing for members of our community. In 2021 there were three main projects: nearly 60 new units of long-term affordable housing.

Significant Projects Completed:

- Main Street Signalization
- Central Business District Alley (2nd & 4th, Main to Water) reconstruction
- Bridge Load Rating Update
- North Campus Signal at 14th Avenue and Wilcox Way

Left: New Vichayapa, fabric collage, "Community Out!" Right: George Dial, watercolor, "Yester"

Economic Development

- To facilitate recovery efforts, the City partnered with Kittitas County to create a County-wide economic development strategic plan with some specific actions for Ellensburg. Industry centered groups (real estate, agriculture, small business, transportation, manufacturing, technology, etc.) have been included in planning to identify priorities to enhance quality of life and a robust local economy as the community grows. Funding was provided by the sale of City business incubator earlier in the year.
- The Arts Commission (from the City's arts fund) purchased \$15,700 in public grants, purchased five pieces for the City's collection, commissioned one social equity piece, revitalized First Friday Art Walk, and funded the Art Walk audio tour.
- Locking Tax grants to support community events totaled \$46,850.

Safe and Inclusive Community

- Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) added resources to police investigations and administration to address strategic public safety needs. EPD produced an annual report available online.

Upcoming Projects

Major infrastructure projects scheduled for 2022:

- Two trail sections to create better connectivity: Palouse to Cascade (PTC) reconnection from Dean Nicholson Blvd. to University Way and a shared use path along Planning Road from Third Ave. to the PTC Trail.
- Improvements along Helena Ave. from Water St. to Airport Road are nearly complete and include new sidewalks, fire hydrants, Central Transit bus shelter, and bicycle lanes.
- Utility Park master planning is underway with construction in 2023.
- City entryway upgrades at Gateway I and II projects proceed along University Way and Vantage Highway to enhance the image, filter stormwater runoff, and add sidewalks and street trees.
- University Avenue/Reservoir Creek and Fifth Avenue Railroad will get new upgrades.
- Installation of field lights at Rotary Park youth baseball/softball complex.

Budget & Administration

- Business Licenses: 1,797 active
- New Business Licenses: 510
- Ordinances: 15
- Public Records Requests: 148
- Budget: \$122 million
- Employees: 196.27 FTEs
- Payroll checks processed: 5,416
- Survey responses: 2,808
- Financial Audit: 0 findings
- Grant expenditures: \$3,340,408

Coffee With City Council

Friday, August 19
9-11 a.m.
at Dakota Cafe

Stop by for a cup and conversation.

BeHeardEburg.com

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

City Directory

Emergency Services 9-1-1
Fire Department | 509-923-7231 non-emergency
Police Department | 509-923-7280 non-emergency
General Information | 509-923-7224
City Manager | 509-923-7221
Building Permits | 509-923-7231
Hal Holmes | 509-923-7240
Library | 509-923-7250
Natural Gas Division | 509-923-7124
Parks & Recreation | 509-923-8638
Public Works & Utilities | 509-923-7230
Utility Billing | 509-923-7201

Ellensburg City Council

The Ellensburg City Council meets twice each month, at 7 p.m., on the first and third Monday in the Council Chambers at Ellensburg City Hall. All City Council, board, and commission meetings are hybrid.

Nancy Lilquist Mayor
Rich Elliott
Nancy Goodlow
David Miller
Morica Miller
Bruce Tabb
Adam Winn

Thank you!

citymanager@ellensburgwa.gov

Slides will be posted on the City website.

Please take the survey to help us improve. Thanks!

