

RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON TO TEMPORARILY WAIVE THE CUSTOMER CHARGE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.

WHEREAS, A significant number of industry stakeholders are urging electric utilities to support the buildout of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure to aid the development of the EV industry which in turn will decarbonize the transportation sector, promote energy independence, and increase electric retail sales resulting in a net benefit to all ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Benton PUD, Franklin PUD, Kittitas PUD, the City of Richland, Energy Northwest and Benton REA have formed a consortium of public agencies called the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Transportation Alliance (EVITA) to advocate for sustainable electric transportation infrastructure and take action to promote public/private partnerships for the development of EV charging stations within the Tri-Cities, Kittitas County, and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, The City has entered into an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for the Installation of EV Charging Stations between the Benton PUD, Franklin PUD, Kittitas PUD, the City of Richland, and Energy Northwest; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) developed a pilot program to support the deployment of EV infrastructure that is supported by both public and private financing for projects that provide benefit to the public through development, demonstration and deployment of clean energy technologies to reduce harmful air emissions or otherwise increase energy independence for the state; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT identified Interstate 82, U.S. Highway 395, and Interstate 90 as priority corridors for the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, EVITA plans to submit a grant proposal for consideration for the WSDOT pilot program; and

WHEREAS, EVs are a key component to the carbon reduction objectives being promoted by federal and state legislators; and

WHEREAS, The transportation sector in Washington State contributes the majority of carbon emissions relative to the state's overall carbon emissions footprint; and

WHEREAS, The City's most recent Fuel Mix Disclosure Report published by the Washington State Department of Commerce shows current resources used to meet its retail load requirements are 97% carbon-free; and

WHEREAS, EVs represent an opportunity for utilities to preserve or even grow loads and revenues in an era when most are experiencing small or declining load-growth rates; and

WHEREAS, EVs can benefit all ratepayers by spreading fixed costs over a larger energy sales base; and

WHEREAS, Installation of a network of EV charging stations throughout the Tri-Cities area and Kittitas County may contribute to economic development by attracting business travelers and tourists from metropolitan areas in the state with a high concentration of EVs and by improving the “sustainability” label of the area; and


WHEREAS, Staff proposes that a temporary waiver be approved for an EV infrastructure pilot program related to federal, state, or industry EV grant programs. During the 5-year pilot period, the City will collect and analyze data to better understand the benefits and impacts of charging stations on the City’s system. Staff believes the potential long-term benefits of EVs relative to all ratepayers and the local community justifies the City’s investment in EV infrastructure and pilot program rate structure. Staff also believes that the cost to serve is difficult to determine for this pilot program, and that the data from this pilot program will be informative if the City eventually establishes rates and charges more broadly for charging stations. Similar to other utilities, staff believes that establishing a per kilowatt hour charge equal to the municipal service rate, without a demand charge or daily customer charge (monthly customer charge), is necessary to garner private investment in the pilot program;


NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council makes the following determination:

1. That the electric customer charge shall be temporarily waived for new Pilot Electric Vehicle Public Charging Stations related to federal, state or industry EV grant programs. This temporary waiver shall only apply to the customer charge included in ECC 9.91.100.H.3. This resolution shall be in effect through February 6, 2022.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg this 6th day of February, 2017.

  
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MAYOR

  
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CITY CLERK

APPROVED

  
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CITY ATTORNEY