

**CLE ELUM PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

12:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Steven Cook - present via zoom

Ken Ratliff - present

Jerred Weis - present

Rob Omans - City Administrator

Debbie Lee - Clerk

Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

Audrey Casassa - Utility Clerk

2. Elect Chair Person

MOTION: Committee Member Weis made a motion to nominate Committee Member Ratliff as the new Chair; seconded by Committee Member Cook.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to nominate Committee Member Weis stating he did not see a need for a change; seconded by Committee Member Cook.

Ratliff voted for Weis.

Weis voted for Ratliff.

Cooke voted for Ratliff.

Committee Member Ratliff is the new Chair for the Public Works & Community Development Committee.

3. Unfinished Business

a. Cemetery Clean Up - Discussion

Discussion was had about changing the Cle Elum Municipal Code to not allow artificial flowers as they are not natural and cause issues with the mower and cleaning up. The Committee also discussed having a dedicated clean-up day and if this would need to be written into the Municipal Code.

The Committee referred it back to staff to draw up an ordinance with these changes.

4. New Business

Public Works & Community Development Committee Agenda

February 5, 2025

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

- a. [Approve the Minutes for January 2, 2025 Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes Dated January 2, 2025; seconded by Committee Member Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

The Committee also discussed whether the School District sewer bills were resolved. Audrey explained that she took the usage on the January bill and used it for October and November bills. She will send a copy of the bill to the Committee.

- b. [Myles Turpen Request for Leak Adjustment 1-24-25](#)

Audrey reported to the Committee that this was a new homeowner who had a small leak in December. The shut-off valve was hard to get to since it was located underneath the deck. The homeowner shut the valve off and will replace it in the spring.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve the leak adjustment request in the amount of \$627.48 and recommend it to the Council; seconded by Committee Member Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

- c. [Traci Schiffner Request for Leak Adjustment 1-31-25](#)

Audrey reported to the Committee that this was a short-term rental and permitted correctly. Audrey stated that she tries hard to notify a customer of a leak as soon as possible. She notifies them by telephone, door hanger and email.

The Committee stated that this would be different if they were on vacation when this happened, but since it is a short-term rental they should have a property management company to deal with issues that arise if the owner is not on site.

Mathew Bailey stated that this request falls outside the timeline that is stated in the Cle Elum Municipal Code. The customer was notified in early December but did not fix the leak until the end of January.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to deny the request for leak adjustment due to the lack of timeliness; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

- d. [Sewer Deduct Meter Application - Mathew Bailey](#)

Mathew Bailey presented a code amendment with added language for sewer deduct meters and averaging the residential water for the months of November through March. These months will be what is used for summer months' usage. This should help with the new rate

Public Works & Community Development Committee Agenda

February 5, 2025

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

structure that was added to the sewer rates. This is based on irrigation water that does not go to the sewer plant and does not have to be treated.

The commercial customers who want to deduct irrigation water will have to purchase a sewer deduction meter with the initial set up of \$533.00. The customer also has to install the meter. Commercial users that irrigate, use an ice-making machine, food packaging, or filling pools and spas could use this type of meter. This could be beneficial to commercial users. The Public Works Director will have to approve all of these meters.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to recommend this Ordinance to the Council once legal has approved it; seconded by Councilmember Weis.
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

e. Veolia Contract Discussion - Mathew Bailey

Mathew Bailey reported that he is presenting a proposal for the costs of running the waste water and water treatment plants without a contract with Veolia. He used the 2022–2024 figures to get a baseline of consumables like electricity and materials. Mathew believes it is possible that the City of Cle Elum could accomplish the task of running the plant with their own employees. This would be a cost saving to the City.

Discussion was had about resources like a possible inter-local agreement with other area plants, and that Evergreen Rural Water is a good resource for employees and hiring. The Committee would like Public Works to come up with a plan and present it at the next Public Works & Community Development Committee meeting. The City will have to create job descriptions for these positions. One contract with Veolia expires in June and one in December.

5. Other Committee Comments

Mathew Bailey wanted to discuss with the Committee the cost of the ROW permit. It is a flat fee of \$50 and, for the residential customer, that is a fair price, but someone like Zipley who recently purchased a ROW permit and worked in the ROW for 20,000 feet of work is not equitable. It takes more time to review this permit, inspect, etc. Mathew suggested a linear foot charge on top of the \$50 fee. The committee would like Mathew to look at what other cities charge for residential and commercial ROW permits and report back at the next Public Works & Community Development Committee meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.


Ken Ratliff, Chair


Debbie Lee, Clerk