

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

6:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis - Councilmember present
Ken Ratliff - Councilmember present
Beth Williams - Councilmember present at 6:42 p.m.
Steven Harper - Councilmember present
Jerred Weis - Councilmember present
Steven Cook - Councilmember present
Audrey Malek - Councilmember present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Chief of Police
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

MOTION: Councilmember Weis made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Williams; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. February 25, 2025, Sign-In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Brian Tate discussed getting his HOPE card and a new T-shirt. He does not want to fade into obscurity and wants the city to follow its Municipal Code.

Rhonda Holden - Supports the Whole Health Pharmacy drive-through.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. Appoint Kathleen Sullivan to the Library Board of Trustees - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh asked the council to confirm the appointment of Kathleen Sullivan to the Library Board of Trustees.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the appointment of Kathleen Sullivan to the Library Board of Trustees; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

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MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Mayor Lundh made an announcement that the Council of Governments (COG) passed Resolution 2025-001 in support of the City of Cle Elum, regarding the financial situation that the city is currently facing.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

a. City Council Meeting Minutes Dated February 11, 2025

b. Payables Dated February 25, 2025 \$273,938.15

6. Department Head Reports

a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached reports.

b. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

Mathew reported:

- Public Works is currently doing some in-house training for CDL's and Water Distribution Manager certifications.
- They are also working on Personal Protective Equipment training.
- Working on having a continually up-to-date inventory that uses the work order system to keep track of parts, pipes, couplings, etc.
- The crew is working on the spring cleanup of the pipe bone yard and the storm water section.
- The First Street bathrooms have been vandalized again after only 9 days of being open. It will take some time to order parts and make the necessary repairs.
- Since the weather has changed, there have been some small water leaks that have

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appeared. The crew will start to work on these repairs.

c. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

7. **Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit**

a. Handle With Care - Dr. Eliann (Eli) Carr, Crime Intelligence Analyst

See attached presentation.

b. UKC Senior Center Year in Review - Lori Nevin

See attached presentation.

Lori reported that they now have 410 members.

c. Upper Kittitas County Community Recreation Center Annual Report - FYI

d. Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

See attached report.

The interns are working with Kylie Thompson.

Main Street B & O Credit - Mayor Lundh

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

9. **Unfinished Business**

a. Fire Department Consolidation Discussion - Mayor Lundh

Discussion was had regarding the consolidation process. Citizens could see a reduction in fire insurance, a more efficient department without redundancies. They discussed possibly having a Regional Fire Authority. A Regional Fire Authority would have representatives from each city, so all cities are represented fairly. The council has heard some positive feedback and the local departments have talked about this for a long time.

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The council also discussed the acoustics at the Senior Center, because it's difficult to hear online during meetings. Lori from the Senior Center stated she had applied for a grant and received quite a large grant to help purchase acoustic tiles for the rooms that are used for meetings. This should be completed by May.

10. New Business

a. Resolution 2025-005 Surplus City Hall/Public Works - City Administrator, Rob Omans

City Administrator Omans recommends the council approve this surplus resolution. There was an iPad that was lost, and the city went through all the proper procedures to record the loss. A police report was filed.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-005 Surplus Public Works and City Hall; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

b. Cleaning Service Agreement - City Administrator, Rob Omans

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Cleaning Service Contract with Heather Trokey; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

a. Lodging Tax & Events Committee - Steven Cook, Chair

2025 Lodging Tax Application - Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust - Coal Mines Trail Interpretive Wayside Project

Steven Cook, Chair of the Lodging Tax & Events Committee, informed the Council that they recommend approval of this request. Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is asking for \$6,700, to help purchase interpretive signs. This is a small amount as they have already got the majority of the project funded.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Coal Mines Trail Interpretive Wayside Project 2025 Lodging Tax Application; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Staff Report CLTAC Admin Support

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Steven Cook reported that the Consolidated Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (CLTAC) has micro-grants available. These grant requests will need to be tourism-related.

Steven also reported that Kittitas County has been supporting all the administrative functions and costs of CLTAC, and they are discussing spreading the cost between all the cities that are members. Kittitas County stated it is no longer feasible for them to keep doing this. If this can't be done by everyone contributing, they might have to restructure or do away with the lodging tax.

Discussion was had about the proper way, because the reimbursements should come from the grants themselves. The council also discussed the inconsistencies in scoring the grants and possibly changing the process to allow only the people who score the grants to be able to attend the final meeting. Councilmember Harper stated he would be going to the next meeting.

b. COG Update - Steven Cook

Steven Cook also reported that he was pleased that the Council of Governments passed a resolution in support of the City of Cle Elum and their ongoing issue with City Heights.

COG will start meeting in other towns, not just Ellensburg.

COG would like to move forward with the grant process of distributing .09 funds and using a hybrid model.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Mayor Lundh reported that Cassidy Buechle-Curtis has been appointed to the Kittitas County Housing and Homeless Committee.

Councilmember Cook is in support of the Whole Health Pharmacy and trusts that Colleda is doing the process correctly.

Councilmember Ratliff wanted to thank COG for their resolution of support for the City.

Councilmember Malek inquired if the Mayor could look into putting a camera on the water tower. She has had several people inquire about this.

Councilmember Weis would like the Public Works Committee to look at the baseball agreement. Some work needs to be done in these fields and the group has some long and short-term goals.

Mayor Lundh stated that there is not a lot of money in the budget for parks, but the city will be as supportive as they can be. He suggested grassroots funding.

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported that Councilmember Ratliff, Buechle-Curtis, and himself attended the AWC Action Days in Olympia. It was a good conference.

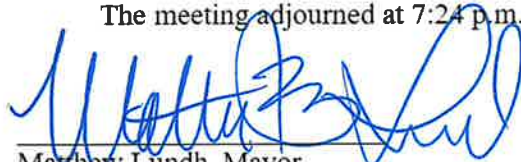
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Councilmember Buechle-Curtis said she was able to connect with leaders from across the state.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor

Debbie Lee, Clerk