

CLE ELUM SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 25, 2024

4:00 PM

**119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

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

John Glondo - Councilmember present
Ken Ratliff - Councilmember present via zoom
Beth Williams - Councilmember present
Steven Harper - Councilmember present
Jerred Weis - Councilmember absent
Steven Cook - Councilmember present
Audrey Malek - Councilmember absent/present via zoom at 4:35 p.m.

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Ben Annen - HLA

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

2. Public Comment - Limited To 5 Minutes

3. Unfinished Business

a. Commercial Sewer Rate Discussion - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that this meeting was for further discussion to talk about implementation and options of the Sewer Rate for commercial users.

Ben Annen of HLA explained to the Council the phased implementation of increasing the sewer rates. The City can either do a 2-year phased implementation or a 3-year phased implementation. The 2-year phase would generate approximately \$230,000 per year. The 3-year phased implementation would generate \$185,000 the first year, \$360,000 the second year and \$540,000 the third year.

- The last time the sewer rates were increased was 2015. The only increase since that time has been the traditional 3% annually.

Special Meeting Agenda June 25, 2024

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- The intent of increasing rates is to raise much needed revenue for the infrastructure and treatment plant upgrades.
- This increase does not include any new connection charges.
- The council discussed the benefit of charging for strength on volume or consumption usage as opposed to a flat rate.
- RV waste can be detrimental to the treatment plant.
- WWTP requires a lot of energy to treat waste.
- The City needs to be proactive not reactive.
- The 3-year phased approach gives businesses time to budget for this additional expense.
- Veolia has a sampler that the City will be able to utilize.
- When the Ordinance is in its final form there will be a Public Hearing, so the public has time to comment. That has been the tradition of the Council.
- The Council requests staff to prepare an Ordinance with the rate structure table, and response time for responding to a request from a business to be tested.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve HLA to draft an Ordinance to include the revised billing formula with a fixed base rate on all categories + ERU's and the calculation for strength based on consumption; seconded by Councilmember Cook. There was a poll vote taken, and the results were unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

4. New Business

Mayor Lundh reported that after the Special Meeting was adjourned, the Council would go into a Closed Session regarding Collective Bargaining for about 10 minutes.

5. Other Committee Comments

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to adjourn at 5:29 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk