

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

MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2024

12:00 PM

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

1. Call to Order

Audrey Malek - Committee Member absent
Ken Ratliff - Committee Member present
Jerred Weis - Committee Member present

Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Audrey Cassasa - Utility Clerk
Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Ben Annen - HLA
Dean Smith - HLA

2. Unfinished Business

a. Sewer Rate Recap - HLA Ben Annen

Ben Annen of HLA stated that the open house the City held for the Sewer Rate Increase Discussion was well attended.

The reason behind using the city of Yakima Sewer Rate Structure is that there is a larger sampling size, more car wash businesses, smaller and larger businesses compared to Cle Elum.

5/9/24 Public Meeting - Comment Summary:

- Businesses should be sampled/tested to confirm category.
- Confirmation of use needs to be confirmed before implementing a category.
- Sampling protocol should be detailed in the ordinance.
- Increases should be tied to the Consumer Price Index, not an automatic 3% annual increase.
- Landscaping should be subtracted from sewer rates
- It seems sewer costs will be higher than the heating bill.
- Raise rates over time instead of all at once.
 - 1. Will discuss later in the meeting
- Increases are too high and will cause companies to go out of business.
- Require grease interceptors to reduce loading from Class C customers.
- Customers should not be required to pay for sampling.

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- Consider increasing residential also and not just commercial to lessen the impact on businesses.

Phased Implementation Alternatives to New Rates:

Modify the proposed ordinance to reflect:

- The initial step to phase in Commercial B, C and Industrial accounts will increase by 50% in 2024, followed by a full increase in future years(s).
- Proposed new revenue was \$530,000 under the prior rate proposal
 1. The revised new revenue is \$230,000 under a phased implementation rate proposal for 2024.

Question & Answer Time - Public

Craig Sill had some questions regarding the calculations and if they were equitable. Discussion was had about irrigation usage, the cost to connect a new irrigation meter and how this would increase a sewer bill.

Committee - Discussion/Decision

Discussion was had about adding a flat increase to all residential and commercial accounts. The Committee also talked about the priority of pipes that will be fixed. These are only in the City of Cle Elum, not regional pipes.

Committee Member Ratliff also wanted to know if a fund would be established to make sure this increased revenue was earmarked for the specific purpose of repairing sewer lines.

HLA will bring back to the Public Works & Community Development Committee what the revenues would be for placing a flat fee on all residential and commercial accounts, possible penalty examples, and how the City would monitor grease traps.

3. New Business

- a. Approve the Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes Dated May 2, 2024

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated May 2, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 2 yes 0 no.

- b. Reschedule July 4, 2024, Public Works & Community Development Meeting to July 11, 2024

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve moving the July 4,

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2024, Public Works & Community Development Meeting to July 11, 2024; seconded
by Committee Member Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 2 yes 0 no.

4. **Other Committee Comments**

5. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


for Jerred Weis, Chair


Debbie Lee, Clerk