

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

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

12:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Ratliff - present
Audrey Malek - present
Jerred Weis - present via zoom

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
William LaRue - Veolia
Colleda Monick - HLA
Audrey Casassa - Utility Clerk
Whitney Prosek - Office Assistant

2. Unfinished Business

a. Cemetery Clean Up - Discussion

Notes from last meeting: the current caretaker is doing a good job. The cleanup of artificial flowers was discussed. Henry from Johnston & Williams suggested posting good signage of what's allowed and if certain dates are selected for clean up, to have the rules clearly stated. Spring would be the best time to implement the new cemetery guidelines. Discussed the irrigation system.

Mayor Lundh suggested to the Public Works & Community Development Committee that over the winter months would be a good time to come up with new rules and guidelines. Currently, the only guidelines state no dogs. The goal would be to have the new rules ready in the spring.

Discussion was had about the irrigation system, and it currently has a fair number of leaks. Mayor Lundh reported that there is \$100,000 currently in the budget for repairs. It is not enough. The committee agrees that doing it in phases would be the best approach. It would be a replacement irrigation system.

Mayor Lundh will have staff get a bid package put together.

b. Downtown Parking

The Council is in favor of charging a fee for non-residents in the downtown of Cle Elum.

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The committee can discuss what areas to have the signs placed and the fees that would be implemented. Mayor Lundh states the biggest question is where, First Street, Stafford to Peoh, was agreed on and the committee all agreed to have similar rates to Roslyn. These are the two decisions that need to be made prior to signing the contract. Roslyn fees are charged only on the downtown strip and parking by the library. All areas that have had improvements, for example, Peoh to Billings, would be a good start. There are no other parking lots other than the park and ride.

Mayor Lundh stated that the payment is not enforced. It is voluntary. It could state residents exempt and defined in the code. The City could designate the funds for the core business district. The staff will work up a draft to go to the Council.

3. New Business

- a. Approve the Minutes Dated August 1, 2024, Public Works & Community Development Committee

MOTION: Committee Member Weis made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 1, 2024: seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

- b. Veolia Contract

Mayor Lundh reported there is not a contract yet. When it is available, it will be either a 5 or 10-year contract.

Discussion was had regarding the renewal dates of the contract or did the committee want to take on the responsibility of the wastewater and water operations. The water contract expires June 30, 2025, and the wastewater contract expires December 31, 2025. The City would hire the employees directly. The city used to run the sewer plant, but not the water plant.

William LaRue is the authority on the water treatment plant. Veolia takes care of the plants. The city has a contract with Veolia that has benefits. For example, positions are always filled, the City of Cle Elum has global buying power, institutional knowledge, no HR issues, since they recruit, they also have the capacity to grow. Veolia operates 9500 plants worldwide. Potentially, the Regional Vice President of Veolia could give a presentation in the future. The water and waste water plant has to have a level 3 certificate operator to run both water and sewer plants.

This will have an impact on the 2025 budget. The City of Cle Elum does own the equipment and the plant.

Discussion was had about the move forward with preparing a new contract to keep with

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Veolia. Suggestions hiring staff that already exist, that helps with knowledge but not other aspects of running the plant. The City would have at least 5 years until they could look at taking on the plant themselves. If the City of Cle Elum terminated the contract sooner than 5 years, the city will have to pay a penalty.

A committee/staff should put a quote together for the City running the water and sewer plants. Questions as to who would handle repairs, maintenance etc. would have to be answered.

c. Right of Way Use Permit - Colleda Monick HLA

Colleda Monick of HLA reported that there are some overhangs, encroachment of awnings and signs that would need to be updated in the Cle Elum Municipal Code. Minor adjustments to the code would be adding two new sections: 1. Projecting sign and awning right-of-way-use permit and 2. Right-of-way permit duration.

Definitions were added to clarify the information. Additional amendments to the right-of-way codes. Routine maintenance is exempt from getting a permit for the flower beds or bulb outs. Updated construction standards were added for road and bridge work construction as per WSDOT. Clarifying language for awnings and signs that need right of way permits would be required. This protects the city's right of way over liabilities and safety issues.

The applications for right of way would need to be amended if this code does pass. The length of the permit allowance was 6 months, a longer permit duration would need to be allowed for signs or awnings. There may be instances of a longer term permit that exceeds 180 days.

Business signs and awnings right of way use permits would need to be renewed every year due to insurance reasons.

The next step would be to bring this to the Council for consideration with an Ordinance.

More discussion on restoration of surfaces. Committee Member Ratliff has concerns regarding the new sidewalks having damage due to salt use. He was not sure if this could be put in the code or not. Mayor Lundh stated this can be included in the code because science shows that heavy salting has damaged the sidewalks. The city should do everything to protect the investment of new sidewalks.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to accept these code recommendations regarding the right of way use permit to the Council; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

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d. Waste Management Contract

Mayor Lundh reported that the Waste Management Contract is coming up for an extension. Waste Management would like a 5-year contract. They will add recycling for a fee, and dumpsters for special events. Overall, the fees do not change. Waste Management has incorporated all the amendments into one new contract.

Recycle opts in for \$12-\$14 per twice a month pick up same day as garbage pick up. Recycling mixed paper, cardboard, no glass, tin, aluminum or steel, plastic bottles. Items not allowed are shredded paper, fabric, etc. Waste Management will do some public education.

More informational item at this point. A final contract should be available at the next Committee Meeting.

4. Other Committee Comments

The Committee is concerned about the salt damage to sidewalks.

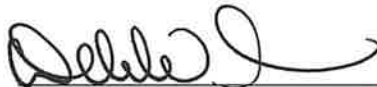
Committee Member Malek read the Municipal Code of Walla Walla regarding ice and ice removal. They have a list of products that they recommend that reduce pitting.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

For 

Jerred Weis, Chair



Debbie Lee, Clerk