

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

6:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET

CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Steven Harper - Councilmember present
 Beth Williams - Councilmember present via zoom
 Sew Bay-Hansen - Councilmember present
 Kan Ratliff - Councilmember present via zoom
 John Glondo - Councilmember present
 Matthew Lundh - Councilmember present
 Sarah Lackey - Councilmember present

Jay McGowan - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Robin Newcomb - Finance Director
 Rich Albo - Chief of Police

a. November 27, 2023, Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

No public comment.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

4. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

a. Approve the Council Meeting Minutes Dated November 13, 2023

b. Approve Accounts Payable Vouchers Dated November 27, 2023 \$470,395.34 - As Approved by the Budget Committee

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5. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

6. Officer Reports

a. Police Stats Report

Chief Albo reported that they conducted oral boards and out of twelve applicants, nine applicants showed up. Four applicants passed the oral boards. This is a common ratio. Chief Albo will interview the top three in the next two weeks.

One bid was received from FCI on the patrol cars. Two vehicles will be ready in February and the other two will be ready in the months of March-June.

Chief Albo thanked Public Works for helping clean up an abandoned homeless encampment near Oakes Street.

There was a good turnout for the Roslyn Parade last Saturday.

b. Rental Properties - Rent Analysis - FYI

Rob Omans, City Administrator, reported that Christmas in CleElum will be this Friday, December 1, 2023, and Saturday, December 2, 2023.

AWC Elected Officials Essential Training is December 9, 2023. The cost is \$95 and the city will pay for this training for any elected official that would like to sign up. You can take this training online or in person. City Administrator Omans will contact the newly elected members and give them the information.

There will be a Retirement Party for Mayor McGowan on December 28, 2023, at the Senior Center from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Watermain Replacement Project is progressing as planned.

7. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

a. Jordan Peterson - Downtown Association

Jordan Peterson of the Downtown Association reported on everything they have been working on this past month. (see attached report)

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Note: Councilmember Ratliff left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Councilmember Lundh asked if Santa would be at the tree lighting ceremony. Jordan Peterson stated yes.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

a. Final Budget 2024 - Finance Director Robin Newcomb

Mayor McGowan opened the public hearing at 6:27 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m. with no public comment.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Ordinance 1658 Sewer Regulations, Establishing Cle Elum Municipal Code Section 13.08.380 Regarding Collection - Utility Committee

City Administrator Omans stated that the attorney removed the language of a re-connection fee being added.

Councilmember Harper asked how many days until a disconnect is in effect, 60 days.

MOTION: Councilmember Lundh made a motion to approve Ordinance 1658 Sewer Regulations; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 1 no. (Councilmember Harper).

b. Establishing a Salary Commission - Employee Relations Committee

Councilmember Williams informed the Council that the Employee Relations Committee was unable to meet due to the holiday.

Councilmember Lundh volunteered to replace Sew Bay-Hansen on the Employee Relations Committee as this was her last Council Meeting.

The Employee Relations Committee will meet regarding the Establishment of a Salary Commission.

10. New Business

a. Ordinance 1661 Final Budget 2024 - Finance Director Robin Newcomb

Councilmember Harper stated that this year's budget process went smoother as the budget committee started earlier. Councilmember Harper felt that the 2024 budget is flexible and

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balanced.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1661 Final Budget for 2024; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. Ordinance 1662 Salary Schedule 2024

City Administrator Omans stated that the Council has already approved a 10% increase for 1/3 of the employees. These wages came from the salary survey and the union. This increase was suggested by the union to retain and attract employees and that Cle Elum's wages should be compared to Ellensburg.

Councilmember Lundh informed everyone that the police were pretty far behind in wages and that is why there was the 10% increase. Councilmember Lundh stated that Cle Elum is a little different from Seattle when it comes to COLA. City Administrator Omans stated that the CPI amount is really hard to find for just Cle Elum. He has found that most people use the CPI information from Seattle for Washington State.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to table this ordinance and have the budget committee look at it; seconded by Councilmember Lundh.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Harper stated that since there was public testimony regarding the 10% raise, and that there is not a contract with the majority of the city crew, that this ordinance should go back to the committee for discussion. Councilmember Harper feels like the Council is selling themselves short by starting at 10% for negotiations. He would like this to go back to the committee. The Employee Relations Committee has not done lately what the majority of the Council has asked them to do. Maybe, since there is new movement in the seats, there will be some kind of progress on the committee.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to refer Ordinance 1662 Salary Schedule 2024 back to the Employee Relations Committee. Councilmember Harper would like the Employee Relations Committee to meet and come back with a good reason for a 10% or 3% increase for some employees, not necessarily across the board raises. This is his recommendation; seconded by Councilmember Lundh.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 3 no. Mayor McGowan voted Nay. Ordinance 1662 went back to the Council for discussion.

Councilmember Williams stated this salary ordinance did not get presented to the Employee Relations Committee, so to say that the committee is not doing what the Council has asked them to do is basically ram-riding decisions.

Councilmember Harper stated the majority of the elected officials asked the committee to do the work as directed. This is not ram-riding ideas, it's a committee that is not doing their job.

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MOTION: Councilmember Lundh made a motion to refer Ordinance 1662 to the Employee Relations Committee for discussion with no direction; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

Councilmember Harper reported that the Consolidated Lodging Tax Committee will meet on Friday in Ellensburg. All local committee member will be present and part of that process.

Mountain Madness was a smashing success all over the county and appreciates the support from the Lodging Tax Committee.

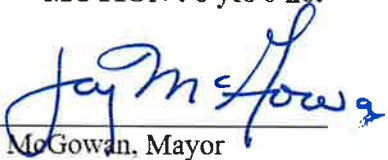
Councilmember Lundh would like to thank Councilmember Sew Bay-Hansen for her service to the City and Council, and she was a great addition to the City.

Update on the rental properties? Councilmember Lundh would like to have the Budget Committee look at the comparisons, as the numbers are all over the board.

12. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Lundh made a motion to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.


Jay McGowan, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk