

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2024

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 absent
John Glondo - Councilmember present
Ken Ratliff - Councilmember present
Jerred Weis - Councilmember present
Steven Cook - Councilmember present
Audrey Malek - Councilmember present
Matthew Lundh - Mayor present
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Chief of Police
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
William LaRue - Veolia
Aaron Barr - Public Works
Christina Wollman - Perteet
Ben Annen - HLA
Colleda Monick - HLA

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

2. Council Meeting Sign In Sheet

- a. January 8, 2024 Council Meeting Sign In Sheet

3. Oath of Office

- a. Ken Ratliff Council Position 2 City of Cle Elum

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Mayor Lundh administered the oath of office to Councilmember Ratliff.

b. Steven Cook Council Position 6 City of Cle Elum

Mayor Lundh administered the oath of office to Councilmember Cook.

c. Audrey Malek Council Position 7 City of Cle Elum

Mayor Lundh administered the oath of office to Councilmember Malek.

d. Matthew Lundh - Mayor Oath FYI only
Jerred Weis - Council Position 4 FYI only

4. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Brian Tate: Stated he has been coming to some council meetings, and he has not seen justice since moving to Cle Elum. He was a victim of theft of his property and threats were made against him. He has had his property surveyed and has ongoing issues with his neighbor.

Kris Sullivan: Stated he is a neighbor of Brian Tate and has had similar property boundary issues. He has also had his property surveyed. The city owns the ROW to the alley. Kris Sullivan said that a couple of years ago, Public Works came and spoke to him about removing items out of the ROW and he complied. He is concerned about the tree house, shed, and gazebo that is now in the ROW.

Larry Stauffer: Larry Stauffer welcomed the new Council and Mayor. He informed the Council that there are some big issues ahead of them and wanted to make sure the Council understands their responsibility.

Nora Cantwell: Concerned about the fees that have been paid to the attorneys regarding the City Heights project. Nora Cantwell also wanted to know when this issue will be resolved, because the citizens need to know.

Ingrid Vimont: Asked if the City could get a better sound system as it is hard to hear online and in person.

5. Elect Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Lundh read aloud chapter 8.16 from the Councilmember Procedure Handbook on the rules for electing a Mayor Pro Tem. Someone can be nominated, or you can nominate yourself and there is a ballot vote or poll vote.

Councilmember Ratliff stated that during his time as Mayor Pro Tem he did lead a few meetings. Possibly with the new Mayor there will be fewer duties.

Councilmember Harper said that as the city expands, the job of Mayor Pro Tem may expand also.

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MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to nominate Councilmember Ratliff as Mayor Pro Tem ; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED : 6 yes 0 no.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper nominated himself as Mayor Pro Tem ; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED : 6 yes 0 no.

Written ballots were given to the clerk. The first round was 3 for Ratliff and 3 for Harper. Ballots were submitted again and the second round was 2 for Ratliff and 4 for Harper.

Councilmember Harper is the newly elected Mayor Pro Tem.

6. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

Councilmember Ratliff presented a plaque to Mayor McGowan for his years of service to the City. Mayor McGowan thanked everyone and told Mayor Lundh he would do a good job and congratulated him.

- a. Council to Authorize the Mayor to Approve the Fire Department Officers of 2024 - Chief Ed Mills

Fire Chief Mills informed Council that the elected officers for 2024 wanted to attend the meeting but had other obligations. They plan on attending the next meeting to introduce themselves to the Council.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the Mayor to approve the 2024 Fire Department Officers ; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED : 6 yes 0 no.

7. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

8. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. Approve the Council Meeting Minutes Dated December 11, 2023.
- b. December 20, 2023 Payroll Draws \$53,250.00 - As Approved by the Budget Committee

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- c. Approve Accounts Payable Vouchers Dated December 26, 2023, \$1,548,953.94 - As Approved by the Budget Committee
- d. Approve Accounts Payable Vouchers Dated December 29, 2023, \$657,944.93-As Approved by the Budget Committee
- e. Approve Accounts Payables Vouchers dated January 8, 2024, \$67,645.76 As Approved by the Budget Committee.
- f. Approve Payroll Vouchers dated January 8, 2024, \$202,049.57 As Approved by the Budget Committee

9. Staff Reports

- a. Rob Omans - City Administrator

See attached notes.

- b. Colleda Monick - HLA Planner

See attached report.

Colleda also reminded Council and citizens about the Short Course on Planning that will be held at City Hall on January 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

- c. Aaron Barr - Public Works

See attached report.

- d. Rich Albo - Chief of Police

- Chief Albo invited the Council to schedule a ride along and stated that he has an open-door policy and to come and speak with him at any time.
- Stats from 2023: 4071 calls, 48 physical arrests, 25 noncustodial arrests, 610 traffic stops, 3 major incidents where Chief Albo was the Incident Command.
- Chief Albo hired 4 new officers, 2 of whom went through the academy and

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successfully completed FTO.

- Promoted 2 Sergeants.
- About 2 weeks ago there were two major incidents. One was a hostage situation that wasn't. The officers learned early that it may be a hoax but treated it as real. There was also a burglary in progress that was stopped. This has lead to many cases throughout the Upper County and more investigations, but a great bust overall.
- New Year's Eve was relatively uneventful other than lots of firework complaints.
- Chief Albo has some changes in 2024, but priorities could change. Schedules, annual meetings, continue growing the wellness program. Chief Albo is the chair of the Law and Justice Council, the First Responders club with KCSO and RSO will be starting. Chief will be looking into internships with CWU, and will try to gain public interest in the reserve program. Chief Albo will also be working on the inventory.
- Chief Albo reminded everyone that dog licenses are due every year.
- He is working on a drone program.
- Chief Albo will be working on updating the criminal code.
- Chief Albo is looking for creative and inexpensive ways to supplement help for our support staff.

e. [Ed Mills - Fire Chief](#)

See attached report.

f. [William LaRue -- Veolia](#)

See attached notes.

g. [Ben Annen - Engineering Update HLA](#)

See attached notes.

h. [Christina Wollman - Planner Perteet](#)

See attached notes.

10. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

a. [Hanson Pond Update - Kittitas County Conservation Trust](#)

Mel Babick gave an update on Hanson Ponds.

Discussion was had about pipe storage, ripple effect, etc.

Kittitas County Conservation Trust would like the Council's opinion of the hybrid model and storing pipe. It was noted that there are some points that need clarifying before

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continuing.

11. Business Requiring Public Hearings

12. Unfinished Business

a. Resolution 2023-029 Credit Card Policy - Rob Omans City Administrator

Councilmember Harper thought that there should still be some language amended.

Councilmember Cook thought that there were some holes in the policy.

Mayor Lundh suggested it be referred back to the budget committee.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to refer this back to the budget committee ; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

13. New Business

a. Progress Estimate No. 8 & Final - First Street Downtown Revitalization Phase 3A & 3B Belsaas & Smith - Ben Annen HLA

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to accept Progress Estimate No. 8 and accept the project as final ; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. WSDOT Project Review Reimbursable Agreement SR 903 & Stafford Ave Roundabout - Ben Annen HLA

Ben of HLA explained that this agreement is for the state to be involved with this project and have oversight.

Councilmember Harper wanted it noted that he was against the roundabout.

There was quite a bit of discussion of the pros and cons of the roundabout.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to have the Mayor sign the WSDOT Project Review Reimbursement; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

c. Second Street and Rossetti Way Water Main Improvements Progress Estimate No. 03

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Ascent Foundation & More - Ben Annen HLA

Councilmember Ratliff is impressed with the contractors and their progress.

d. Task Order No. 2024-01 Development of Climate Element - Deb LaCombe HLA

Deb LaCombe of HLA explained that a recent house bill enacted a requirement to the Comp Plan Update. The state allocated funds based on population to municipalities to add a climate element to the Comp Plan.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Task Order No. 202-01 Development of Climate Element; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

e. Professional Services Contract for Prosecution Services January 2024-December 2024 - Rich Albo, Chief of Police

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Professional Service Contract for Prosecution Services ; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

f. Ordinance 1664 Council Meeting Day and Time - Discussion Mayor Lundh

Discussion was had regarding changing the meeting day to Tuesday instead of Monday. This will take effect February 1, 2024.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1664; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

g. Reorganization of Council Committees - Discussion Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh proposed reorganizing the different committees and having the meetings on a set schedule.

Discussion was had about the Finance Committee codified in the municipal code and possibly leaving this one alone for the time being, passing the new organization minus the Finance Committee. This committee has the Mayor, the Treasurer and one Council member. The council discussed adding another council member to this.

Councilmember Ratliff likes what is being presented. Councilmember Ratliff asked if the Mayor would assign members to the committees. Mayor Lundh suggested council contact him with the top choices of which committees they would like to serve on and Mayor Lundh will try to do his best with the placement.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to reappoint Councilmember Harper to the Finance Committee; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

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MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the reorganization of the committee list, but remove the Finance Committee from the list; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

14. Report of Committees

Councilmember Ratliff commented that this was a great meeting with the new Mayor and Councilmembers.

Councilmember Glondo welcomed all new Councilmember's.

- a. FYI - AWC Road Map Elected Officials

15. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Harper commented that the City of Cle Elum had received a settlement from the Insurance Company regarding City Heights. This money is what is being used to pay the different attorneys representing the City of Cle Elum about City Heights issues. The City is currently in the discovery process with City Heights.

Mayor Lundh reported that staff reports would continue.

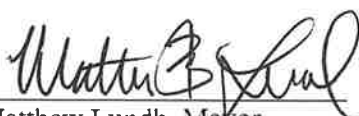
The Short Course on Planning is January 23, 2024, and encourages all to attend.

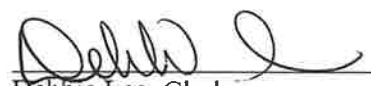
Mayor Lundh would like to have a council retreat for one day in the next month. This will give the council a chance to set goals. Mayor Lundh would also like to have several field trips for council to visit different sites around the city, and its infrastructure.

Mayor Lundh will be scheduling a closed session meeting with council and the bargaining team for collective bargaining.

16. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk