

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 13, 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
 Steven Cook - Councilmember - Present
 Ken Ratliff - Councilmember - Present
 John Glondo - Councilmember - Present
 Audrey Malek - Councilmember - Present
 Jerred Weis - Councilmember - Present
 Beth Williams - Councilmember - Present via zoom
 Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Aaron Barr - Public Works
 Rich Albo - Chief of Police
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief via zoom
 Colleda Monick - Planner HLA
 Ben Annen - HLA via zoom

- a. February 13, 2024 Council Meeting Sign in Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Tim Meier - Concerns about drug dealers on his block and the theft that is occurring in his neighborhood. Tim also stated that he believes the Ridge Development owner should be responsible for all of their infrastructure, not the City.

Two women stood up. They did not state their names. They spoke of their support of the Senior Center and that they volunteer there. They also stated they think the Senior Center is a good place for resources and events for seniors.

Travis Harris - Owns 509 Bake House and he has concerns regarding the Downtown Revitalization Project and the cost of tearing down and reinstalling awnings for the business owners. Travis would like to work with the City and see if there is a solution of some type, so the financial burden could be lessened.

Michael Carlucci - Is in support of the Senior Center and feels lucky that it is located in Cle Elum. Michael would also like to see recycling being more available to citizens.

Justin and Jacob McGehe - owners of Snowy River Sales, stated that they are running out of room at their current location and recently purchased the Bator Lumber property. Currently, zoning

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regulations are not compatible with their type of business and they have been working with the Planning Commission on some zoning issues. They updated the council on this and was hoping to apply for a CUP.

3. **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(g) To Review the Performance of a Public Employee**

The Councilmembers, Mayor and City Administrator went into Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(g) to review the performance of a Public Employee at 6:15 p.m. and would return in 15 minutes at 6:30 p.m. with no decisions being made.

4. **Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that the City had received an application from Marc Kirkpatrick for the vacant Planning Commission seat. Mayor Lundh would like the Council to confirm the appointment to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to confirm the appointment of Marc Kirkpatrick to the Planning Commission ; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Councilmember Harper would like to add under New Business E. Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Worker Public Works job description.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, adding under New Business E. Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Worker; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

6. **Elect Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Lundh explained that when they voted by ballot at the last meeting, that was incorrect and the Council needed to re-do the process.

Councilmember Cook nominated Councilmember Harper.
Councilmember Williams nominated Councilmember Ratliff.

Clerk Debbie Lee took a poll vote:
Councilmember Glondo - Harper
Councilmember Ratliff - Harper
Councilmember Harper - Harper
Councilmember Williams - Ratliff

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Councilmember Weis - Harper
Councilmember Cook - Harper
Councilmember Malek - Harper

6 votes for Councilmember Harper
1 vote for Councilmember Ratliff

Councilmember Harper was elected as Mayor Pro Tem.

7. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Ratliff commended the City Clerk for the agenda and how nice it looks.

- a. Approve the Minutes of January 22, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2024 Special/Closed Session Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Approve Accounts Payables Dated February 13, 2024 \$679,213.77 - As Approved by the Budget Committee
- d. Approve January 2024 Payroll \$283,139.78 - As Approved by the Budget Committee
- e. Approve February 13, 2024, Payable Ascent Foundations - Emergency Sewer Repair \$22,945.48 - As Approved by the Budget Committee

8. Staff Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans
See attached report.

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b. **Public Works - Aaron Barr**

See attached report.

Councilmember Ratliff asked how long the leak on Rossetti Way had been leaking. Aaron Barr said about a week ago. Councilmember Ratliff also thanked Public Works and the good job that they have been doing.

c. **Planner - Colleda Monick**

See attached reports.

d. **Fire Chief - Ed Mills**

See attached report.

e. **Police Chief - Rich Albo**

See attached report.

f. **Veolia - William LaRue**

Councilmember Ratliff asked if replacing the waterline had decreased the amount of leakage. William LaRue said the plant has seen about 5% decrease.

See attached report.

g. **Ben Annen - HLA**

Ben Annen of HLA wanted to thank Public Works for their help with the water project. They have been instrumental in its success.

Ben gave an update on all the projects - 2nd Street Pathway, 2nd Street Water Main Project, First Street Phase 3C Project, 2nd Street Roundabout Project, Final Phase of First Street Project (starting soon), City Safety Application, Roundabout 903. The Federal Functional Classification Request has been submitted.

Ben also gave a brief report on Hanson Ponds. All the teams were present: the Department of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Veolia City of Cle Elum staff, HLA staff and Yakima Nations.

The consultant firm KCT will work on a model plan to present to the Council at a future date that will balance dilution potential, minimize infrastructure in the floodway and maximize ecological uplift. They will evaluate alternatives that impact the city.

Councilmember Ratliff thanked Ben for the information and stated that the experts should make the decision and recommend it to the Council.

Discussion was had about inviting nearby landowners to the next meeting.

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9. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

Lori Nevin gave a presentation to the Council on the state of the Senior Center and asked for \$37,000 annually for support.

Discussion was had about making sure it was not gifting funds, available grants, etc.

Mayor Lundh stated that this item will be put back on the next agenda, so the Council can discuss this further.

- a. Upper Kittitas County Senior Center - State of Center and Request Funding - Lori Nevin

10. Business Requiring Public Hearings

11. Unfinished Business

12. New Business

- a. Progress Estimate No. 4 Second Street & Rossetti Way Water Main Imp. - Ascent Foundation and More - Ben Annen HLA

Ben Annen from HLA stated that Ascent Foundations & More is 60% complete, they are at 50% of contract working days, they are averaging 5-7 water hook-ups per day and 5 blocks are remaining for the main line. HLA recommends approval of this pay request.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Progress Estimate No. 4; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- b. Main Street Credit - B&O Approval - CEDA Letter - Mayor Lundh

The Downtown Association submitted a letter regarding the Main Street Credit. This request is for \$55,000. The city will get back 75%, approximately \$41,250 credit in 2025.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve awarding the Downtown Association a \$55,000 Main Street Credit; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

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MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- c. Ordinance 1666 Granting PSE Franchise Agreement - First Reading - Colleda Monick HLA

Colleda Monick of HLA informed the Council that PSE has submitted a Franchise Agreement and that the attorneys have approved the document and this is the first reading. The Franchise Agreement requires two readings. The final reading will be at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Williams asked if this included natural gas. Colleda Monick stated she did not know but could find this information and provide it at the next meeting.

- d. Kittitas County Support Letter - Accessory Dwelling Units - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that Commissioner Osadiaz asked if the City of Cle Elum could add their support to the letter to congress regarding the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee regarding ADU Units.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Mayor Lundh to sign the letter of support; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- e. Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Public Works Job Description - Councilmember Harper

Councilmember Harper stated that the Council is the curator of job descriptions, and they looked over the Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Position Application, and he felt it was fine the way it is.

Councilmember Williams stated that she did not get a chance to look at it and would like to make this decision at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Lundh explained that this would be an internal hire as there are current employees who are qualified for this position.

13. Report of Committees

- a. West Railroad Credit Request - Frozen City Main - Utility Committee

Councilmember Ratliff stated that the Public Works & Community Development Committee met and had two items that needed addressing and for both items the committee recommended forgiveness.

The first item was the Crystal Creek frozen water line, and some citizens were without

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water for more than 48 hours. Per the Cle Elum Municipal Code, they are eligible to receive a credit.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the water outage that a few customers had when the waterline at Crystal Creek froze, and they were without water for more than 48 hours; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

b. Leak Forgiveness City Plow Damaged Frost Free

The second item was the City's fault as someone from Public Works hit a frost free pipe and caused a water leak.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the leak forgiveness for the frost free; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Ratliff explained to the Council that there will be more leak forgiveness requests at the next meeting.

c. Lodging Tax Application - Pioneer Days Queen Coronation

Councilmember Harper reported to the Council that the Lodging Tax & Event Committee met to consider the Pioneer Days Queen Coronation Application that was submitted. The committee approved \$2300 at that time. The Lodging Tax Committee will be meeting once per month on the 2nd Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the Pioneer Days Queen Coronation Application for the amount of \$2300; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

14. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Harper reported that the meetings were running smoothly.

Mayor Lundh reported that Waste Management may be adding recycling to the Cle Elum area. He will find out more later.

Mayor Lundh stated there are several openings on different committees and boards and encourages citizens to apply.

Coal Mine Trail

Civil Service

Historical Committee

Library Board

Planning Commission

Salary Commission

Tree Board

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There will be a Public Hearing on the Grant Street Alley Vacate at the Council Meeting on February 27, 2024

Mayor Lundh would like the Council Committees to nail down a scheduled time and date when they can meet one time per month. Preferably not on a Council Meeting day right before the Council Meeting.

The City received an application for a City Planner which seems to have the qualifications needed. Mayor Lundh was encouraged.

a. [FYI - AWC Equity Resource Guide](#)

15. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by none.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk