

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 27, 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
Jerred Wies - Councilmember present
Beth Williams - Councilmember present via zoom
Audrey Malek - Councilmember present
Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Aaron Barr - Public Works
Colleda Monick - Planner HLA

NOTE: Councilmember Williams was present for roll call but then connection was lost.

- a. February 27, 2024 Council Meeting Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Travis Harris - 509 Bake House provided a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding his awnings that need to be removed due to the Downtown Revitalization project. Please see the attached letter.

Kim Oswalt - Gemeni Fish Market provided a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding their awning that needs to be removed due to the Downtown Revitalization project. Please see the attached letter.

Sean Northrup - Gave an update to Council regarding the City Heights project.

Misty Fordham - Has concerns about how her previous questions have been answered or acknowledged. She has had water issues, bridge issues and sewer issues. Misty did thank Audrey and Aaron for helping with garbage and sewer issues. She also asked the Council why they had not hired a PW Lead position for 8 months.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

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- a. WSDOT Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grant Program for I-90 Weight Station Project - Support Letter Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that this letter of support from WSDOT to the US Department of Transportation regarding the RAISE grant application for the weigh station was signed and submitted.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. Approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2024, Council Meeting
- b. Approve Accounts Payables Dated February 27, 2024 \$461,507.97 - As Approved by the Budget Committee

6. Staff Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached notes.

- b. Chief of Police - Rich Albo

See attached report.

- c. Public Works - Aaron Barr

Public Works Aaron Barr reported that while Ascent was working on the waterline replacement project they have found an un-metered service. This service is most likely irrigation, and it is now associated with an address, and it's being metered.

The generator is up and running, so if the city loses power, it will still be able to receive

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water.

Aaron also informed the Council that there was a lot of grease that needed to get jetted from the vac truck on Railroad Street. They now have it on their schedule to jet every two weeks. This should help solve the problem of sewer backing up.

See attached report.

d. Planning - Colleda Monick HLA

Colleda Monick Planner with HLA reported that there was a Town Hall Meeting regarding the RR Crossing Feasibility Study. It was well attended.

Colleda attended the Hazard Mitigation Training with Kittitas County.

There were two pre-application meetings. One was Habitat for Humanity for some affordable housing sites and the second meeting was with Kittitas County Public Works regarding a new Search and Rescue building by the airport.

7. **Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit**

a. Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

See attached report.

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:49 p.m.

There were two public comments.

Brian Tate wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for considering the ROW vacation and thinks this would be the best course of action.

Kris Sullivan has property on the north side of this vacation. He stated that he has always maintained his area and kept it clean. Kris stated that he was interested in seeing the outcome.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:51 p.m.

Council had discussion about the cost of the property and having it surveyed, if this was gifting,

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zoning, if in the future would the city need the ROW for utilities.

Colleda Monick stated that since this was a city initiated ROW that there would not be a need to have it appraised. But all of these decisions are for Council to make.

Mayor Lundh stated that this would be a benefit to the city due to the amount of staff time the city has spent on different disputes and that this would now make those disputes civil and take the city out of the equation.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve having staff draw up an Ordinance vacating the Grant Street Alley ROW Vacation and having the area surveyed for corner markers; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- a. [Public Hearing - Vacate ROW Grant Street Alley - Colleda Monick HLA](#)

9. Unfinished Business

- a. [Ordinance 1666 PSE Franchise Agreement - Colleda Monick HLA](#)

Colleda Monick stated this was the second reading for Ordinance 1666 PSE Franchise. This is renewing the current franchise that is expiring soon.

A representative from PSE commented that the language is written broadly to include all types of energy.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the PSE Franchise Ordinance No. 1666; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- b. [2023-029 Resolution - Credit Card Policy - Councilmember Cook](#)

Councilmember Harper stated that he would like the resolution to say Finance Director or Mayor's designee.

MOTION: Harper made a motion to approve the resolution adding the language to say Finance Director or Mayor's designee; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- c. [Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Worker - Job Description - Councilmember Harper](#)

Councilmember Harper fully endorses this job description. Harper stated that the wage

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appears to be inline with other cities. Councilmember Harper said that there is movement on the Public Works Lead job description and that will be brought to the Council in the next few meetings.

Mayor Lundh stated that he would always have the Council review job descriptions.

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the Heavy Equipment Operator/Maintenance Worker job description; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

d. Upper Kittitas County Senior Center - Funding - Council Discussion

Councilmember Harper felt it best to maybe sit down with the General Government Committee and the Senior Center to have a discussion.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the General Government Committee to meet with the Senior Center; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

10. New Business

a. 2024-003 Resolution Providing for the Disposal of Certain Inventory Items: Public Works, City Hall - Aaron Barr Public Works

Aaron Barr of public works informed the Council that they had forgotten to add another police car to the surplus list. This vehicle is totaled, the transmission is not working and all the police equipment has been removed for reuse.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-003; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

b. 2024-004 Resolution Employee Handbook Update (travel policy) - Councilmember Cook

Councilmember Cook stated that when he first looked at the Credit Card Policy there were a few holes, he also reorganized and expanded the travel policy of the Employee Handbook.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-004; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

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12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Malek, as a business owner herself, would like to make sure that the City will communicate with businesses on a weekly basis on relaying important updates on the Downtown Revitalization project. This will help businesses in planning.

Councilmember Weis appreciates the Council listening to the request of the citizens and would like to make sure that someone reaches out to them and follows through.

It was asked if the city has provisions for grease like traps. Businesses are required to put them in, but currently there is not a routine inspection schedule.

Councilmember Harper would like to get a committee together to design a city flag. He thinks the city should have one. The Mayor thought this was a good idea also.

Mayor Lundh reported that he attended the monthly COG meeting. They focus on the .09 sales tax and how funds are allocated. COG is now a regional planning body. They created their 2024 work plan and passed several items.

1. Town of S. Cle Elum water main replacement.
2. Kittitas Sewer Extension.
3. Cle Elum/Roslyn Brownfield.
4. Fire Service Consolidation Committee.
5. Regional Planning and Implementation

City Administrator Omans and Mayor Lundh attended the Mayor's meeting and had good discussion.

Mayor Lundh encourages the Council to attend the AWC Small City Connector Event being held in Roslyn on May 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Lundh reported that there is a construction company that is storing their equipment on City property and that previously a verbal contract was made that the City would get the grindings in trade for allowing them the storage space. Mayor Lundh will be formalizing this agreement as it has been found that they are also using City electricity. This is where Active Construction will also be staging their equipment for the Downtown Revitalization project.

13. Adjournment by Motion

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk