

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2024

6:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET

CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

John Glondo - Councilmember
 Ken Ratliff - Councilmember
 Beth Williams - Councilmember via zoom
 Steven Harper - Councilmember
 Jerred Weis - Councilmember absent
 Steven Cook - Councilmember
 Audrey Malek - Councilmember

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Rich Albo - Chief of Police
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief
 Aaron Barr - Public Works
 Colleda Monick - HLA
 Ben Annen - HLA
 William LaRue - Veolia

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. [March 12, 2024, Council Meeting Sign In Sheet](#)

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Sean Northrup updated the Council on the Town Hall type meetings that he has been having. The last meeting's topic was water. Sean stated that since the state was updating their building codes, phase 2 of his project could increase due to the price of permits. If anyone wants information on his development, you can email them at info@cityheightscleelum.com.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. [Re-Appoint Gary Berndt to the Planning Commission Board Seat #1 Chair - Mayor Lundh](#)

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

Mayor Lundh would like to re-appoint Gary Berndt to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Gary Berndt to the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- b. Appoint Jaqualyn Johnson to the Library Board of Trustees - Mayor Lundh

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to appoint Jaqualyn Johnson to the Library Board of Trustees; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- c. Re-Appoint Chuck Wallick to Civil Service Commission - Information Only - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh notified the Council that he will re-appoint Chuck Wallik to the Civil Service Commission. This position does not need approval from the Council.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to amend the agenda by moving item D. under New Business to Item A and also moving the Council Meeting minutes from February 27, 2024, to New Business E; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- a. Approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes Dated February 27, 2024
- b. Approve Accounts Payable Dated March 12, 2024 \$624,995.81 -As Approved by the Budget Committee
- c. Approve February 2024 Payroll \$273,505.68 - As Approved by the Budget Committee

6. Staff Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

See attached report.

Councilmember Cook asked about getting the minutes from the Town Hall Feasibility Study for Railroad. Colleda Monick stated she would get those notes for the Council.

b. [Planning - Colleda Monick Planner HLA](#)

See attached report.

c. [Public Works - Aaron Barr](#)

See attached report.

The injector went out on the street sweeper, so it is being repaired.

Aaron Barr reported that the GovDeals auction site is going well, there are still a couple of days left and, to date, roughly \$18,000.00 is the total bid.

d. [Police Chief - Rich Albo](#)

See attached report.

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

See attached report.

f. [Veolia - William LaRue](#)

See attached report.

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

a. [KITTCOM Proposition No. 1 KITTCOM Emergency Communications Systems & Facilities Sales and Use Tax - Rich Elliott](#)

Interim Director of KITTCOM Rich Elliott gave a presentation on the state of the infrastructure. This is in need of approximately 20 million dollars in upgrades over the next ten years. This is a result of not upgrading towers, radios etc. over the years. The current infrastructure is analog and needs to be fiber. The state of Washington used to fund these upgrades at 100%, but in the last few years they have made cuts. This upgrade would also add repeaters and fix known dead spots in the Ryegrass and Blewitt Pass areas. Thirty-four (34) of thirty-nine (39) counties have already enacted this sales tax. The revenue raised from this sales tax will fund this project for 10 years. The system is very vulnerable. They have looked at the cost of outsourcing dispatch services, but it is cost prohibitive. Regardless, if the dispatch services are outsourced, the infrastructure still needs updating. There would also be an onsite radio tech to repair radios. KITTCOM is currently understaffed and also looking for a new director. KITTCOM is also going to educate the public on how to make

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

sure their 911 fees are going to the right jurisdiction. This tax will be placed on the April 23, 2024, ballot measure.

b. **UKC - CRCA - Update - Claire Nicholls**

Claire Nicholls presented an update on the Upper Kittitas Country Rec Club.

See attached report.

c. **UKC Skate Park Presentation COAF Presentation 2024**

Melissa gave a presentation to the Council. See attached report.

Melissa explained that the grant they want to apply for the City of Cle Elum will need to be the project sponsor as the City owns the property where the skate park is located. She would like to have the consent of the Council to move forward with the grant request and the group would manage the grant. This grant has zero match required.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Cle Elum Skate Park Committee & Rotary Club of Upper Kittitas County and continue to submit the grant as the City of Cle Elum being the sponsor and or senior sponsor and use their best judgment; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

The public hearing opened at 7:18 p.m. and closed at 7:23 p.m.

Councilmember Ratliff was not in favor of raising taxes. He would rather lobby to raise the phone tax. He does not think a government entity should promote raising taxes.

Councilmember Cook felt this tax was an equitable way to get all users to help with this issue.

Councilmember Harper does not feel it is appropriate to endorse this tax at the city level.

Mayor Lundh stated that currently the City of Cle Elum has an inter-local agreement with KITTCOM and if this tax is not enacted it could potentially increase the amount of this inter-local agreement, that would in turn increase expenses to the general fund considerably.

- a. **2024-005 Resolution Supporting Proposition No. 1 KITTCOM Emergency Communications Systems & Facilities Sales & Use Tax - Mayor Lundh**

9. **Unfinished Business**

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

a. [Ordinance 1667 ROW Vacation Grant Street Alley - Colleda Monick HLA Planner](#)

Discussion was had about having the property surveyed at the corners. A letter would be drafted to the adjacent property owners that there may be possible structures, fences, etc. on someone else's property, and they may need to be removed. Mayor Lundh will go and deliver these notices to the property owners.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Ordinance 1667 ROW Vacate Grant Street Alley; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. [USDOT Agreement for Safe Streets & Roads for All SSFA- Grant - Ben Annen HLA](#)

Ben Annen of HLA informed the Council that this agreement is with USDOT. This will inventory all ADA compliance within the City of Cle Elum. This grant is for \$172,520.00 and requires a \$43,130 match. The City of Cle Elum was unsuccessful in the grant for the match. Ben Annen of HLA talked with TIB this morning, and they were able to use \$43,130.00 of the unused portion for the Complete Streets Funding and TIB will be writing an agreement that states this.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve for the Mayor to sign the USDOT Agreement and the TIB Agreement that will be coming; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

10. New Business

a. [Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States Coast Guard Academy and the City of Cle Elum - Mayor Lundh](#)

Paul Kantwil presented the City of Cle Elum with a commemorative Coast Guard Douglas Munro jersey. This jersey has many significant meanings behind it.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Mayor Lundh signing the MOA Agreement with the Coast Guard; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. [2024-005 Resolution Supporting Proposition NO. 1 - KITTCOM Emergency Communications Systems & Facilities Sales and Use Tax - Mayor Lundh](#)

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to table Resolution 2024-005; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION FAILED: 3 yes 4 no.

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to oppose Resolution 2024-005; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION FAILED: 3 yes 4 no.

Discussion was had that this would be on the ballot and citizens can decide at that time if they want to impose this sales tax.

Councilmember Cook stated that the citizens will either vote for it or not, regardless of what the Council thinks. With the Council endorsing this resolution, it signals the Council's recognition and the consequences of not doing anything. That is why he supports this resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-005; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 yes 3 no.

- c. [Progress Estimate No. 5 Ascent Foundation & More Second Street Rossetti Way Water Main Improvements - Ben Annen HLA](#)

Ben Annen of HLA updated the Council on the project and how it is progressing.

Councilmember Ratliff is concerned about compaction.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Progress Estimate No. 5; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- d. [Surplus Resolution 2024-006 - Fire Department Equipment - Chief Mills](#)

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the surplus Resolution 2024-006; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Chief Mills reported that all the items are outdated and have been replaced. He will have these listed on the Gov Deals website. This is old SCBA equipment.

- e. [Approve the Council Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024](#)

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Harper would like the three words "in S. Cle Elum" removed from the sentence in the Council Comment Section.

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

11. Report of Committees

a. Public Works & Community Development Committee

I. Leak Forgiveness - Stanley Smith

Councilmember Malek gave the report to the Council from the Public Works & Community Development Committee since Chair Jerred Weis was absent.

The Committee recommended the full amount of \$500 be refunded due to the question of when and how the water was turned on. This house has been vacant for years.

II. Leak Forgiveness - Don Owens

The Committee recommened approving the \$500 for Don Owens as it fell within the code for forgiveness.

III. Leak Forgiveness - Kayleen Gordon

The Committee felt that this was partially the homeowners' responsibility, since the location of the leak was questionable. The Committee agreed to 1/2 of the requested amount, which is \$124.65.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve all recommendations for leak forgiveness by the Committee; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

IV. Sewer Rate Study Recap & Next Steps

Discussion was had that this change in sewer rate structure would even out the share of sewer rates between residential and commercial.

The Council felt it would be best to have a Study Session prior to the next Council Meeting on March 26, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

V. Water Fill Station - Recap

Councilmember Malek reported that the Public Works & Community Development Committee discussed the use of the water fill station and recommended having staff look at the current code and make changes as to what type of use will be allowed for the fill station.

Councilmember Harper would like to send a strong message that the water should only be

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

used within City limits.

Councilmember Ratliff stated that it appears that some users are using this for potable use when it is non-potable water only.

VI. Tractor Replacement - Public Works

Councilmember Malek reported that the Committee recommended this purchase as the tractor would be beneficial in the winter time on sidewalks, summer mowing and use at the cemetery.

Councilmember Harper is concerned about misuse and mishandling of new equipment.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of the tractor; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

VII. Loader Purchase - Public Works

Councilmember Malek reported that the Committee recommended the purchase of a new loader. This will assist Public Works in clearing alleys in the winter, removing snow, and various water projects. This loader is a CAT 950 and has a 7-year warranty. Aaron Barr reported that this type of loader is a dependable piece of equipment. There is a potential to add a blade which would enable the city to possibly do away with the old graders.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the purchase of a new loader; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. General Government Committee

I. Public Works Director Job Description

Councilmember Harper stated that these were minor edits and give greater control to the Mayor and City Administrator. They did add Water One and Water Distribution Manager Certificates to the job description, allowing someone to have one year to acquire these if needed. They would prefer an engineer but would take experience in exchange.

Councilmember Cook is in support of this updated job description.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Public Works Director job description; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 yes 1 no 1 abstention.

City Council Agenda March 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

c. Lodging Tax & Events Committee

I. 2024 Independence Day Event Application - Lodging Tax & Events Committee

Councilmember Harper reported that the Lodging Tax & Events Committee recommended approval of this event. There are provisions for fireworks and a few other details need to be ironed out between the police and fire departments.

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the 2024 Independence Day Event Application; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

II. National Night Out 2024 Event Application - Lodging Tax & Event Committee

Councilmember Harper reported that the Lodging Tax & Event Committee recommended approving this event.

MOTION: Councilmember Malek made a motion to approve the 2024 National Night Out Event; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

III. 3 On 3 Basketball Tournament 2024 Event Application - Discussion Road Closure - Lodging Tax & Events Committee

Councilmember Harper stated that the Lodging Tax & Events Committee brought this to the Council to see if they were in favor of possibly closing down 2nd Street for all parking. This would maybe alleviate traffic issues that they have had in the past.

The Council discussed all options, like moving to Dru Bru, the school or a different street. Aaron Barr stated they would possibly be getting more barricades and have flaggers at intersections that were problems in the past. They also discussed having one person in charge of barricades and intersections.

First Street will be active with the Downtown Revitalization project, so some of this street may not be accessible. Aaron Barr suggested Harris Street. He looked at the crown of the street and the pavement, and he thought this might be a better option. They will take this back to the Lodging Tax & Event Committee for further discussion.

Councilmember Harper would like to see the City give the tournament another year by trying new strategies to see if this improves the safety issues.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

**City Council Agenda
March 12, 2024**

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 9922

a. Mayor & Council Member Handbook MRSC

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that there will be a special meeting to discuss Stafford Street, Thursday, March 14, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Collective Bargaining will begin next week for a couple of days.

Mayor Lundh would like the Public Safety & Health Committee to set a monthly date for their meetings as there are items that need to be discussed.

Mayor Lundh asked the Council to stay for an additional 5 minutes after the meeting for a Closed Session regarding Collective Bargaining.

14. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk