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CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

NOW DISPLAYING:

[WELCOME](#)[ITEM](#)[VOTE](#)[SPEAKE](#)

City Council Regular Meeting

JULY 23, 2024

PRESENT 6:00 PM ABSENT 0

NOT VOTING 0

EXCUSED 0

ROLL CALL

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

[VIEW: MINUTES PREVIEW](#)

IN PROGRESS

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

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

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Dean Smith - HLA

a. [July 23, 2024, Sign In Sheet](#)

2. Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(i) Potential Litigation

- a. Executive Session under the authority of RCW 42.30.110(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence for the agency.

The Council went into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation RCW 42.30.110(i) at 6:04 p.m. and will return in 30 minutes at 6:34 p.m. The Council is not expected to make a decision.

b. [Executive Session Script](#)

3. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Frances Gonzalez has been a property owner for 16 years and has issues with the City vacating

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attached report.

The City has hired a new Cemetery Worker, Beau Kretschman. He will start tomorrow.

- b. Public Works - Aaron Barr

See attached report.

- c. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

The Council inquired if any current officers have their FAA license to fly drones. Chief Albo stated that two officers have their licenses.

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

- a. Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

See attached report.

Jordan Peterson reported that the Cle Elum Downtown Association is a non-profit that works with the local municipality and there are two people that run day-to-day operations. Jordan reported that recently they have been receiving negative comments.

9. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

10. **Unfinished Business**

11. **New Business**

- a. Storm Water Inspection List - Dean Smith HLA

Dean Smith of HLA is asking the Council if they will approve the request for an additional \$330,000 for the Storm Water Inspection List. You have to put in the request to the Department of Ecology first and then see if the funding is 50% grant, 50% loan or entirely a loan. The City does not have to accept the full amount but, it is best to ask for the complete amount and see what happens.

There was discussion with the Council about why Public Works could not do the work as

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**Grant Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

e. [Non-Union Employee Contracts - City Administrator Rob Omans](#)

The General Government Committee had a special meeting to discuss the Employment Agreements for the Department Heads. The Union bowed out as long as the Department Heads felt protected by the Employment Agreements. The General Government Committee recommends the Council to approve these contracts.

The Librarian and Rob worked on the job description and were able to get it completed.

Some of the highlights are:

100% medical coverage by the City.

VEBA increased.

Exempt employees have no overtime.

There is a no-fault termination clause with a severance package.

There is a provision in the contract to waive the requirement that the City Administrator must live in the city limits.

Discussion was had about creating a new position in the 2025 budget to request an additional employee at City Hall.

**MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Employment Agreements; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

[Finance Director](#)

[Fire Chief](#)

[Police Chief](#)

[Librarian](#)

[City Administrator](#)

f. [Ordinance 1674 Salary Ordinance - Mayor Lundh](#)

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approved for that event.

Council would like to see the banning of all signs at Flagpole Park.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-020 striking the work sacred and replacing with solemn and fixing the one scribners error; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

12. Report of Committees

a. Public Safety & Health Committee

Cle Elum Municipal Code - Camping

Public Safety & Health Chair Glondo reported to the Council that they met and recommended the Flock Camera grant to be approved. The Committee also discussed the Camping Ordinance and Chief Albo spoke regarding that. He told the Council that there was a Supreme Court decision that bans camping in public places. Chief Albo would like to have the attorney draft a code for the City of Cle Elum that closely mirrors the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County's current codes, so the County can be uniform. The Council agreed this would be good. This will be enforced first by education and conversations.

Discussion was had regarding the legality of camping in public spaces and in private spaces. It is against the city code to camp in private spaces, but not criminal. There is a lot of confusion regarding camping. The Council also discussed the address issues and Councilmember Williams would like to see it kept the way the addresses currently read. Chief Mills is taking the lead on this.

Councilmember Harper stated that the General Government Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow is canceled due to them having a special meeting a couple of days ago.

Councilmember Williams said that Kittcom is interviewing 2-3 people for the manager position.

The COG meeting was canceled due to not having a quorum. They will be having CWU do a presentation on grants from the economic development plan.

13. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Ratliff stated that he would like to see some sewer lines that are jetted regularly be repaired before the winter.