

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

AUGUST 27, 2024

6:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Present:

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

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Colleda Monick - HLA
Ben Annen - HLA
Aaron Barr - Public Works
Rich Albo - Chief of Police

Absent:

Jay McGowan- Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Police Chief

- a. August 27, 2024, Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

John Ahlers was asking if the City explored other options for the Railroad Feasibility Study.

Craig Sill would like to see a more uniformed sewer rate and would like the Council to postpone this decision.

Kris Sullivan had concerns about the Grant Alley Vacate and if it was recorded.

Brian Tate stated the Grant Alley Vacate has been challenging for everyone but, now he has now been named in a lawsuit. He also wanted to thank the police department for how they handled the situation.

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Dave Bridgeman has lived in Cle Elum for 50 years, and he likes the upgrade of First Street but has concerns about the weeds, sewer rates and meter sizes.

Lisa French has concerns about the Grant Alley Vacate regarding firewise issues, property disputes and if there are survey pins in the ground.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Discussion was had about postponing the sewer rate Ordinance until the next meeting. The Council agreed to leave it on the agenda and discuss the issue when it come up.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Ratliff would like to remove the Payables from the consent agenda for Item E. Under New Business.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the amended agenda by removing the Payables from the consent agenda to Item E. Under New Business and approve the remaining items on the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 1 no. (Councilmember Harper)

a. Approve the Special Meeting Hanson Ponds Study Session Minutes Dated August 12, 2024

b. Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes Dated August 13, 2024

6. Staff Reports

a. Public Works - Aaron Barr

See attached report.

Aaron Barr reported that Public Works pulled weeds today and will pull weeds tomorrow as

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well.

b. [Police - Chief Albo](#)

See attached report.

7. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

a. [Cascade Prevention Coalition/Medication Take Back Event - Jessica Cranefield](#)

Jessica Cranefield informed the Council that the Cascade Prevention Coalition represents Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald. She works with the students in the School District but also the community as a whole. The Coalition focuses on mental health, vaping, emergency shelters and different issues that face the community. The prevention program provides support for students. The Coalition has many events for the community throughout the year. They will be having a drug take back day on September 19, 2024.

b. [Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson](#)

See attached report.

Shasta, the 2023-2024 Intern for the Cle Elum Downtown Association, asked if the Council would proclaim October 23rd - October 31st as Red Ribbon Week that promotes a drug-free lifestyle. They will hand out swag bags in the last week of October. Mayor Lundh will sign the proclamation.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business

a. [Ordinance 1677 Repealing and Replacing Cle Elum Municipal Code Sections 13.08.370 and 13.10.050 and Establishing CEMC 13.08.430 and 13.05.500 - Ben Annen HLA](#)

Ben Annen of HLA informed the Council that this has been in the making for 3+ years. They have had public meetings, study sessions and many meetings to try and get the best outcome for equity in billing commercial and residential accounts. The goals were a phased implementation, simplifying the rate structure and basing it on actual water usage. The

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reserve portion will be based on the base rate and not an ERU structure. The usage rate incorporates waste strength. The testing will be available to those customers who would like to improve their rating.

There was concern about not presenting a spreadsheet with the Ordinance, so customers would have an idea how this increase would affect them. The Council was concerned that testing might take additional staff time. Mayor Lundh reported that William LaRue from the treatment plant felt that given a 90-day window for testing, the current staff would be able to handle this. The language will be clearer regarding testing and moving between categories.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to table Ordinance 1677 and have HLA & the Utility Clerk prepare the spreadsheet and a place calculator on the City Web Page for customers to project their rates until the next Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- b. [Ordinance 1678 An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 17.80 of CEMC Related to Conditional Use Permits - Colleda Monick HLA](#)

Colleda Monick explained this was a housekeeping issue and this was duplicated in another section of the Cle Elum Municipal Code and this Ordinance will repeal the duplication.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1678; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- c. [Ordinance 1679 An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 17.85 of the CEMC Related to Variances - Colleda Monick HLA](#)

Colleda Monick explained this was a housekeeping issue and this was duplicated in another section of the Cle Elum Municipal Code and this Ordinance will repeal the duplication.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1678; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- d. [Railroad Feasibility Study - Colleda Monick HLA](#)

Colleda Monick from HLA reported that this feasibility study addressed the need for a safe crossing on the east end of Cle Elum. Currently, the only other route over the active railroad tracks that does not have a notification system is a private road. This private road serves 18 parcels. This was a Quadco grant. This study had to happen for safety reasons and the City of Cle Elum did it's due diligence to look for a cost-effective solution. Discussion was had regarding putting up an overpass, but that was not feasible. Colleda Monick asked if the Council was ready to formalize the Railroad Feasibility Study. The council agreed that it was complete. This will be posted to the City website once it has been formalized.

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- e. Approve the Payables Dated August 27, 2024 \$1,272,482.82

Councilmember Ratliff was concerned about the attorney fees that were being paid. The attorney fees are being paid with funds from the city's insurance company.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve August 27, 2024, payables; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

Councilmember Glondo reported that the Public Safety & Health Committee met and discussed the criminal code, camping ordinance, addressing issues and creating a process for addressing them in Cle Elum. Chief Mills and Committee Member Ratliff are working on the addressing process.

Councilmember Williams reported that Kittcom has a potential lead for the position of Director of Operations for Kittcom.

Councilmember Williams also reported that Dr. Horsley is retiring as Medical Program Director. His retirement date is September 1, 2025.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

No comments.

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported:

- There are property markers on Grant Street Alley.
- The City has terminated their contract with McCann Trucking on the Second Street Pathway Project. The bonding company is now working on solutions to get the project complete.
- There is a joint meeting with the County, Roslyn and the City of Cle Elum on October 2, 2024, at 5:30.

14. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m; seconded by None.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk

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