

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 10, 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 via zoom at 7:11 p.m.
Councilmember Steven Harper - present
Councilmember Jerred Weis - present
Councilmember Steven Cook - present
Councilmember Audrey Malek - present

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

Absent:

**MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Williams; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.**

- a. September 10, 2024 Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Dave Bridgeman has concerns about the increase in the sewer rates for businesses and the failing sewer system.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

Mayor Lundh stated he has heard concerns from the Council that all voices are not being heard. He would like the Council to leave their microphones turned on the entire meeting and, when a Councilmember wants to speak during discussion, raise your hand so you can be called on, so everyone can be heard.

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4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the agenda allowing Kieko Walsh to speak during the HopeSource presentation; seconded by Councilmember Weis.
MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Harper.
MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Discussion was had about the amount that was paid to the attorneys. These were retainers paid for the upcoming litigation and if all the funds are not used the money will be returned to the City.

- a. Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes Dated August 27, 2024
- b. Approve the Payables Dated September 10, 2024 \$832,871.89
- c. Approve the Payroll Vouchers Dated September 5, 2024 \$317,204.59

6. Staff Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

Councilmember Harper was suprised to hear about the City purchasing a Public Records Program and has concerns about creating another vector for public records.

- b. Planning - Colleda Monick HLA

See attached report.

Discussion was had regarding a pharmacy that wants to establish a business with a drive-through. Currently, there are not a lot of locations available that would suit this use. City alley doesn't currently allow this type of use. This would be a benefit to the community and there are potential variance options the owners could apply for.

- c. Public Works - Aaron Barr

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See attached report.

d. Fire Department - Chief Mills

See attached report.

e. Police Department - Chief Albo

See attached report.

Councilmember Harper asked if a handheld scope would be useful. Chief Albo stated not if there is a canopy cover.

f. Veolia - William LaRue

See attached report.

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

a. Local Chamber of Commerce Day - Katie Schepker

Katie spoke regarding the Local Chamber of Commerce Day and the benefits of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Lundh stated that the proclamation will be on the agenda for September 24, 2024 and considered for signature at that meeting.

b. HopeSource 2025-2027 Funding Request - Keiko Walsh

Keiko Walsh spoke at the Lodging Tax & Event Committee Meeting, and they recommended to the Council that they think this is a good cause. It promotes tourism and helps with economic development. It is also a connector to Yakima as well. Customers can catch the commuter bus from Yakima to Ellensburg and then take the Community Connector to Upper County. HopeSource is requesting \$24,000 per year for a total of \$48,000 for the 2025–2027 budgets.

The Council asked for a letter of support presented at the September 24, 2024, Council Meeting, and they will vote on signing it.

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

9. **Unfinished Business**

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- 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 said that the Utility Billing Clerk, Audrey Cassasa, did a good job in gathering all the commercial users and grouping them into the 4 categories. An Excel formula is on the City website where a customer can put in their monthly consumption and see what their bills will be for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026. Some small changes were made to the Ordinance regarding a customer or the city requesting a sample and clarifying that the rate could increase or decrease due to the results of the testing. Ben Annen of HLA commended citizen Craig Sill on his work regarding the equity check on total flows. Ben Annen produced an equity flow check also.

Discussion was had regarding postponing the adoption of this Ordinance tonight and having another public hearing and also allowing the public a chance to use the calculator that is on the city website. Councilmember Harper stated that there have been public meetings regarding the sewer rate classification and ample time for the public to be aware of these changes since they have been discussed since 2021. This would also delay the need for the much-needed revenue to help with replacing the failing infrastructure within the City of Cle Elum. The regional partners pay their share to this fund also.

The Council discussed how the categories were selected. They are from the City of Yakima, and they have a bigger pool of restaurants and small businesses to get more of an average. Discussion was also had about irrigation water and that it does not all go to the treatment plant, the Council talked about getting separate meters for irrigation only. Water conservation was discussed and this would help reduce some of the extra charges.

A poll vote was taken:

Councilmember Glondo - yes
Councilmember Ratliff - no
Councilmember Williams - yes
Councilmember Harper - yes
Councilmember Weis - yes
Councilmember Cook - yes
Councilmember Malek - yes

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1677; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 1 no. (Ratliff)

10. New Business

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- a. Ordinance 1680 Amending CEMC 8.05.050 Related to Noise - Mayor Lundh

The Lodging Tax & Events Committee will look at the Noise Variance Application at their next meeting in October.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1680 CEMC Related to 8.05.050 Related to Noise; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- b. Pangrazi Award Committee - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh would like to form a Committee for the 2024 Pangrazi Award. This committee would decide on the advertising and the selection process. Councilmembers Glondo, Harper and Cook all volunteered. The clerk will be emailing them for the details to get this advertised and opened for applications.

11. Report of Committees

- a. General Government Committee-Committee Chair Harper

- b. Noise Waiver Application - Committee Chair Harper

Committee Chair Harper stated that the General Government Committee will be going through the code chapter by chapter to find changes that need to be made.

Councilmember Malek reported that the Coal Mines Trail is discussing art installation at the park. There is also an interest in hosting events, so the Commission is working on how the permitting process works.

Councilmember Cook reported that the Lodging Tax & Events Committee met and discussed HopeSource funding, updating the Event Application so it is clearer, a yearly commitment from the Lodging Tax Funds to the Upper Kittitas County Recreation Center of 35% of the previous years annual revenue paid in the first quarter of each year. The Council was on board with these ideas.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Ratliff stated that Cle Elum is a unique place and, as Councilmembers, they represent the community and the Council needs to speak up.

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported:

- The city has advertised for the Public Works Director position on several different

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platforms, and the Northern Kittitas County Tribune.

- There is also a Heavy Equipment Operator Maintenance position that is being advertised.
- The US Coast Guard will be having the annual Douglas Munro Event on September 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Laurel Hill Cemetery. There could be a possible fly over with a Coast Guard helicopter.
- The Historic Preservation Commission is going to be starting again. Some local citizens have expressed interest.
- There is a joint Coal Mines Trail meeting at the Senior Center on October 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- Salon 2120 has vacated the space they were renting from the city. The Downtown Association's current lease is going to expire, so Mayor Lundh has been talking about them possibly using the front of the office space and having a joint Visitor Center.

14. Adjournment by Motion



Matthew Lundh, Mayor



Debbie Lee, Clerk