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CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

NOW DISPLAYING:

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

City Council Regular Meeting

OCTOBER 22, 2024

PRESENT 5:00 PM ABSENT 2

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 absent
 Steven Harper - Councilmember present
 Jerred Weis - Councilmember present via zoom
 Steven Cook - Councilmember present
 Audrey Malek - Councilmember absent

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Robin Newcomb - Finance Director
 Rich Albo - Police Chief

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Williams and Malek; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- a. October 22, 2024, Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

None.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. Planning Commission - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh would like to appoint Cassidy Buechle-Curtis to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to approve the appointment of Cassidy Buechle-Curtis to the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis

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b. Shadow Box Presentation to John Storch - Chief Albo

Chief Albo presented a shadow box to Officer John Storch who has served the city since 2011 as a reserve officer. John has helped with many different aspects of law enforcement. He completed the physical fitness test every year even though he was not required to test. John Storch has improved the Cle Elum Police Department and his absence will leave a big void in the community.

c. Moment of Silence for Brad Page

Mayor Lundh asked for a moment of silence for former Council Member Brad Page who recently passed away.

4. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

5. **Consent Agenda**

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the agenda as amended by moving items B & D under the Consent Agenda to New Business G & H; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

a. Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes Dated October 8, 2024

b. Approve the Special Meeting Minutes Dated October 17, 2024

6. **Staff Reports**

a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

b. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

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Chief Albo stated that he attended training for the Flock Cameras. There is security in place within the program, and Chief Albo believes this will be a good investigative tool.

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

- a. Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

Not in attendance.

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

- a. Ordinance 1681 - 2025 Property Tax Levy

Mayor Lundh opened the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m. and closed the Public Hearing at 6:23 p.m. with no public comment.

9. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Sidewalk Winter Care Flyer - Discussion

Councilmember Ratliff thanked Whitney for putting the Sidewalk Care Flyer together.

Discussion was had about magnesium chloride being safe on sidewalks. It is safe, melts and is most effective and also available locally.

City Administrator Omans stated that for new concrete they don't recommend putting anything on it.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Sidewalk Care Flyer as presented; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

Councilmember Ratliff withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Sidewalk Care Flyer with the change of "consider only using calcium magnesium acetate or magnesium chloride"; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 5 yes 0 no.

10. **New Business**

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a. **Ordinance 1681–2025 Property Tax Levy - Finance Director Robin Newcomb**

Finance Director Robin Newcomb informed the Council that there is a good article on the MRSC website that explains the Property Tax Levy Process. There is a 1% per year maximum increase that is allowed for cities to levy every year.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1681–2025 Property Tax Levy; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

b. **Ordinance 1684–2024 Budget Amendment - Finance Director Robin Newcomb**

Finance Director Robin Newcomb explained that the budget needs to reflect what was adopted. You have to do budget amendments if needed to be compliant with the RCW. The City of Cle Elum budgets at the fund level.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1684-2024 Budget Amendment No. 1; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

c. **Ordinance 1685 - Amending the 2025 Garbage Rates - Mayor Lundh**

Mayor Lundh explained that the tipping fees were increased and a 10% increase is a meager amount that is left for overhead costs. Recycle will be added as an optional service for citizens who would like to have curbside recycling.

Discussion was had about whether Waste Management fees would be different if the City of Cle Elum did not mandate garbage service. The costs for the city to do its own garbage service would be very high. The City would also potentially lose the 2 times per year clean up that Waste Management offers and other incentives. If garbage was not mandated, some felt that you would see an increase in illegal dumping, not to mention the health threats.

Mayor Lundh stated the contract would be on the next council agenda, and he would invite Waste Management to come and answer any questions.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1685 Amending the 2025 Garbage Rates; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

d. **Resolution 2024-027 - Surplus Police Vehicles - Police Chief Albo**

Chief Albo stated that two of the vehicles are past their useful lives and the other two were seized for drug-related issues. The surplus vehicles will be put on govdeals.com for auction. The revenue from these sales will go to the drug fund.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-027 Surplus Police Vehicles; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

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e. [Ordinance 1686 - Relating to the City of Cle Elum Criminal Code - Police Chief Albo](#)

Chief Albo stated that he and the Public Safety & Health Committee have been working on this update along with the attorneys. If an RCW changes the language in this Ordinance, it will allow those changes to be updated without updating the Ordinance.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Ordinance 1686 Relating to the City of Cle Elum Criminal Code; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

f. [Ordinance 1687–2025 Salary Ordinance - City Administrator Rob Omans](#)

City Administrator Omans informed the Council that, per the union agreements, the 2025 wages are already agreed upon. There are no changes to the library and parks positions as these were just updated, and they are in line with current wages for that type of position.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1687-2025 Salary Ordinance; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.
MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

g. [Approve the Payables Dated October 22, 2024 \\$996,790.76](#)

Councilmember Harper stated that since two of the General Government Committee members were absent, he would like all the Council to approve the payables.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Payables dated October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$996,790.76; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.
MOTION : 5 yes 0 no.

h. [Progress Estimate No. 7 Downtown Revitalization - Active Construction \\$522,969.19 - Ben Annen HLA](#)

Councilmember Harper questioned why this was listed under the Consent Agenda. Mayor Lundh explained that typically these are approved in the payables and HLA. The Mayor and Finance Director all double check them for accuracy and rarely is there an issue with pay requests, so he would like to see them on the Consent Agenda moving forward. Councilmember Harper is in support of this.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve placing Pay Requests on the Consent Agenda moving forward; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 4 yes 1 no. (Councilmember Ratliff)

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Pay Request No. 7 Downtown Revitalization Active Construction \$522,969.19; seconded by Councilmember Cook.
MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

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11. Report of Committees

Councilmember Ratliff reported that the Public Safety & Health Committee has been working on issues within the City of Cle Elum regarding assigned addresses. They will be coming up with a standard addressing policy.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Cook thanked Chief Albo for letting him know about attending the Flock Training. Next week Chief Albo will be speaking to the CWU students and Councilmember Cook will be attending.

Councilmember Harper reminded everyone that there is a General Government Committee Meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m.

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported:

- The Historic Preservation Committee met for the first time last Tuesday and the meeting went well.
- Interviews are set for November 12, 2024, for the Public Works Director position.
- November 12, 2024, is the next Council Meeting, which will be the first public hearing for the 2025 Budget. The Committee of the Whole will need to meet before that time to get a preliminary budget together. The clerk will reach out for a date that will work with everyone.
- Watch your calendar next month as there will be a meeting with the City of Cle Elum, S. Cle Elum and Roslyn regarding merging the fire departments. This will be a time for all entities to ask questions and there will be several options presented for consideration and what that would look like. Mayor Lundh thinks this will be a two-year process.

14. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.



Matthew Lundh, Mayor



Debbie Lee, Clerk