

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

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

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Colleda Monick - HLA
William La Rue - Veolia
Aaron Barr - Public Works
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Ben Annen - HLA
Robin Newcomb - Finance Director via zoom

a. November 12, 2024 Council Meeting Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Russ Weaver - Owner of Mike's Tavern and Senor' Bones would like to get a waiver for municipal code 17.9 with regard to outdoor dining from November 1st through April 1st.

Christine Heimbigner Simpson - gave a timeline of her house flooding and the treatment she received when at City Hall.

Larry Stauffer - Concerns regarding Hanson Ponds.

Dave Bridgman - Stated he was a business owner and did not trust the City of Cle Elum. He has issues with his garbage service, and had some questions regarding the water that comes off of his roof. He also liked the Christmas lights that were being installed around town.

Sean Northrup - Owner of City Heights. Sean wanted to tell everyone that he had reached out to the Council and Mayor and would like to discuss payment options regarding the recent settlement.

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

3. **Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

4. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to amend the agenda as presented by moving item E. out of the Consent Agenda and moving it under New Business G; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. **Consent Agenda**

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- a. Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes Dated October 22, 2024
- b. Approve the Special Meeting Minutes Dated October 29, 2024
- c. Approve the Payables Dated November 12, 2024, \$1,017,362.87
- d. Approve the Payroll Vouchers Dated November 12, 2024 \$282,032.13

6. **Department Head Reports**

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

- b. Planning - Colleda Monick

See attached report.

- c. Public Works - Aaron Barr

They will be installing the antennas for the new meter reading system tomorrow.

The Council asked Aaron Barr if he had concerns regarding the rocks near the pathway

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

being a problem. Aaron did not think they would be.

See attached report.

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

Councilmember Cook stated that Police Chief Albo represented the City of Cle Elum well in his recent presentation at CWU.

See attached report.

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

Council member Harper would like an update on the last controlled burn, near Roslyn. He had heard that there was possibly another fire started in the area. Chief Mills stated he would get him that information.

See attached report.

f. [Veolia - William LaRue](#)

See attached report.

Councilmember Ratliff had questions about the plant production being down from last year at the same time. He asked if this was due to replacing some of the aging lines. William LaRue said that was a possibility, but the flow of the river is also lower.

g. [January–October 2024 Summary Council Report - Informational Only](#)

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

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

a. [Resolution 2024-028 Water Rate Increase 3% 2025 - Mayor Lundh](#)

Mayor Lundh opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m. and closed at 7:12 p.m. There was no public comment.

b. [2025 Preliminary Budget - Finance Director Robin Newcomb](#)

Mayor Lundh opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m. and closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m. with no public comment. City Finance Director Newcomb commented that she included all the updates that the Council had recommended in all previous meetings.

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business

- a. Ordinance 1688 Amending the CEMC 13.12.069 and 13.12100 Related to Rates and Charges - Mayor Lundh

City Administrator Rob Omans reported that the City is trying to get all fees out of Ordinances and into Resolutions/fee schedules, so when a rate increases you don't always have to update the Municipal Code.

The Council also discussed what auxiliary services were; water trucks, irrigation systems, etc.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1688; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- b. Resolution 2024-028 Water Rate Increase 3% 2025 - Mayor Lundh

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-028 Water Rate Increase 3% for 2025; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- c. 2025 Waste Management Agreement - Public Works & Community Development Chair-Jerred Weis

Committee Chair Weis stated that the Public Works and Development Committee stated that this contract added recycling services as optional.

Discussion was had about the reasoning behind the annual rate increase within the contract if it is based on the CPI or something else. It was explained that it is the water/sewer/trash index that Waste Management uses to get the percentage rate. The Council was concerned that it was a higher increase than expected and wanted this to go back to the Committee for more negotiations.

MOTION: Councilmember Weis made a motion to approve the 2025 Waste Management contract; seconded by Councilmember Glondo.

MOTION CARRIED: 0 yes 7 no. MOTION FAILED

This contract will be sent back to the Public Works & Community Development Committee for further review on getting a set percentage rate that is more reasonable.

- d. 2024 Coal Mines Trail Commission Interlocal Cooperation Agreement - Mayor Lundh

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

This is still under legal review and will be placed on the agenda for a later date.

- e. Resolution 2024-030 Surplus Public Works Sterling Vac Truck/Fire Department Support Rig 1999 Ford Explorer/Misc. Sets of Tires - Aaron Barr Public Works-Fire Department - Chief Mills

Public Works Aaron Barr stated that the Vac Truck has two motors and one has been rebuilt three times. It is currently taking up much-needed space in the shop and the new Vac Truck is working well. Aaron also went and got tires from the police department and will be placing them in sets to sell on govdeals.com. Fire Chief Mills stated that the 1999 Ford Explorer has served the City well but needs to be surplus also.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to amend the surplus list by adding sets of tires to the previous two vehicles listed; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- f. Cle Elum Ranger District Recreation Letter of Support - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh reported that the Council in previous years had supported the Cle Elum Ranger District Recreation with letters of support to apply for RCO Grants.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the letter of Support to the Cle Elum Ranger Station; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- g. Second Street Pathway Safety Stabilization - Progress Estimate No. 1 \$172,118.68 - Ascent Foundation & More

Councilmember Harper appreciates the work that Ascent is doing on this project.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Second Street Pathway Stabilization Project Progress Estimate No. 1 \$172,118.68; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

- a. General Government - Councilmember Harper

City of Cle Elum Agreement with Upper Kittitas County Senior Centennial Center

Discussion was had about this document being broad but the General Government Committee wanted a contract in place by January 1, 2025. The General Government Committee recommends the Council to approve this document. The City can also donate in

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

kind costs as a means of donating more revenue to the Senior Center. For example, repairing the parking lot asphalt with cold patch and man power. If the Council wants to amend this document for in kind services or more revenue donated, it can be amended at any time.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Agreement between the City of Cle Elum and Upper Kittitas County Senior Center; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

b. Public Works & Community Development Committee

Jerke Rental Leak Forgiveness

Committee Chair Weis stated that the Public Works & Community Development Committee recommended approving this leak forgiveness as the homeowner got on the fix right away.

MOTION: Councilmember Weis made a motion to approve the Jerke Rental Leak forgiveness of \$500.00; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

c. Lodging Tax & Events Committee - Steven Cook Chair

Downtown Association 2024 Holiday Lighting Lodging Tax Application

Discussion was had about how much the Council wanted to commit to Holiday Lighting each year. It increases each year and there might be ways to cut this cost some. Jordan Peterson from the Downtown Association stated that over 6,000 people attend this event, which brings in about \$1.6 million in revenue. Reflection of Perfection does throw in some extra signs at no charge. The Council is in favor of making this a sustainable event and will try to come up with solutions in the next year.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the 2024 Holiday Light Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$63,799.73; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

d. UKC AAU Basketball Club Mountain Madness AAU Basketball Tournament - 2024 Lodging Tax Application

The Lodging Tax & Event Committee recommends the Council to approve the request of \$10,000 for the UKC AAU Mountain Madness Basketball Tournament. This will bring about 500 athletes and all the final games are played at the school. The Committee encouraged the group to look at the other entities for funding for the Lodging Tax as games

City Council Agenda November 12, 2024

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

are played in Roslyn, Easton, and the City of Ellensburg too.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the 2024 UKC AAU Mountain Madness Basketball Tournament Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$10,000; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.
MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Cook reported that the Consolidate Lodging Tax Group will meet November 22, 2024, to grade applications.

Councilmember Harper inquired as to when the manufactured homes from Sun Communities will be removed. Mayor Lundh did not have an immediate answer but will find out what the answer is.

Councilmember Ratliff informed the Council that the Vice President from Veolia came to the Public Works & Community Development Committee meeting and gave a presentation that was very informative. It does not cost the city to look into getting solar panels or looking at bio mass to lower city power bills. This is a service that Veolia can provide.

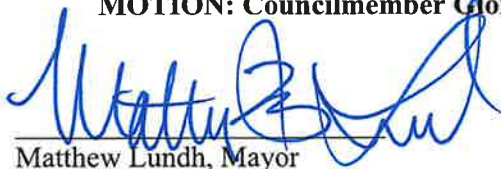
13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported:

- Parking signs are being ordered.
- He attended the shared legislative meeting. This would be a better way for all municipalities to advocate. This issue will move forward to COG.
- Mayor Lundh attended the Veterans Day Assembly at the school, and it was a great celebration.
- There is a joint meeting Monday night at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. regarding fire consolidation.
- The City interviewed for the Public Works Director position that is open, and they are moving through the process of hiring. The Council will have to confirm the hire in the near future.

14. Adjournment by Motion

MOTION: Councilmember Glondo made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk

