

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
6:00 PM
 119 W FIRST STREET
 CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Cassidy Buechele-Curtis - present
 Ken Ratliff - present
 Beth Williams - present
 Steven Harper - present
 Jerred Weis - present
 Steven Cook - present
 Audrey Malek - present via zoom

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Colleda Monick - Planner HLA
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
 Rich Albo - Police Chief
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief
 William LaRue - Veolia

- a. February 11, 2025, Sign in Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

- a. Recording Public Comment - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh cited the rules for Public Comment and what is considered official public comment per Cle Elum Municipal Code.

Brian Tate informed the Council that he was the first one in Kittitas County to receive a HOPE card. He stated he was a protected person and was a victim of a crime when he first moved to Cle Elum.

Darcie Correa would like to see the Public Works & Community Development Committee reconsider the ban on artificial flowers at the cemetery.

Clinton Knight spoke to the Council regarding Whole Health Pharmacy and the Drive-Thru how they propose to have in Cle Elum and appreciates all the support from the community.

Patricia Garriss is happy that the pharmacy will offer delivery service to its customers.

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Patricia suggested forming a task group to help with alternatives to bankruptcy. Patricia also opposes Resolution 2025-005, which is on the agenda.

Barry Brunson stated that he feels Resolution 2025-005 serves no purpose and is an embarrassing statement from the City.

Lucy Temple stated she thinks the pharmacy is a good idea and then spoke about Resolution 2025-005, stating she has never seen the City of Cle Elum turn people away.

Courtney Starbird is afraid of the economic ramifications of bankruptcy and that the City of Cle Elum needs tourism to survive.

Carl stated that there are many ethnicities in the City of Cle Elum and that the proposed Resolution should be removed from the agenda as it could create fear.

Karl Ohleman read a letter from Lace Lawrence opposing Resolution 2025-005. It is harmful and is a waste of city resources.

Letter from Sophie McVickar Public Comment Resolution 2025-005

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to amend the agenda by removing Resolution 2025-005; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

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

Councilmember Harper would like a poll vote:

Councilmember Buchele-Curtis - yes

Councilmember Ratliff - yes

Councilmember Williams - yes

Councilmember Harper - No

Councilmember Weis - yes

Councilmember Cook - yes

Councilmember Malek - yes

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

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- a. Special Meeting Minutes Dated January 28, 2025
- b. Payroll Vouchers Dated February 5, 2025 - \$317,855.95
- c. Accounts Payable February 11, 2025, \$613,858.73

6. Department Head Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

- b. Planning - Colleda Monick

See attached report.

- c. Public Works - Mathew Bailey

- There is a WSDOT grant opportunity for bridge repairs. There is only one bridge in Cle Elum that is eligible and that is the bridge on First Street towards Safeway Hill. This bridge has had a recent inspection and there was some spalling noted and sediment under the bridge. Mathew Bailey stated he will work with HLA and apply for this grant. Discussion was had about other bridges needing repair and Mathew explained that Public Works is always looking for funding opportunities.
- Due to the weather the Public Works crew has been working on cleaning the yard and facility.
- Public Works, is also doing inventory of all materials/supplies on hand.

- d. Police Chief - Rich Albo

- Officers are working on completing their training as each officer is required to complete 24 hours of training a year.
- Chief Albo will be giving the Council an update at the next meeting on a program called Handle with Care. This is a resource available to kids at school.
- The flock cameras proved their worth as it was able to solve a crime that crossed state lines.
- Chief Albo stated that he would be leaving early to close the ballot boxes and encouraged everyone to vote.

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e. Fire Chief - Ed Mills

- For the month of January there were 37 calls, 3 fire calls, 20 EMS calls, 9 others and 5 false alarms.
- Breakdown of the fire reports. A burnt belt and overheated dryer at the Laundry Mat.
- Standby for a mobile home fire at Mountain River Trails. Five units responded.
- There were 2 engines an aid car and command car.
- Eight firefighters were on scene, auto aid was paged on standby or canceled.
- There were 6 people and an engine who responded from District 6.
- Four people and an engine from Roslyn were also on standby.
- The tender is out of service. Dave noticed that the wrong front end was placed on this vehicle and makes it unsafe to drive.
- The command vehicle is back and waiting for some final touches and in house items that need to be installed. This unit is in service and working great. Plans to organize equipment, and there is a need to research and purchase a type of water supply for the back.
- The Fire and Life Safety binder helps the Chief with inspections and pre fire plans.
- Chief Mills thanked Colleda for doing her due diligence in code compliance. They will now be meeting monthly to make sure follow up is happening.
- The fire department is available to come and complete inspections and do pre fire plans. This could be tall grasses, debris, brush, excess trash or ground cover.

Councilmember Cook wanted to know if the tender was purchased with the wrong front end or how it got the wrong front end installed. Chief Mills reported that it was purchased in 1992 and there are not any records on it.

f. Veolia - William LaRue

See attached report.

g. January 2025 Budget to Actual Position - FYI

See attached report.

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

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

9. **Unfinished Business**

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10. New Business

- a. Second Street Pathway - Safety Stabilization Project Acceptance - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to accept the Second Street Safety Stabilization Project as complete; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- b. HLA Task Order No. 2025-01 - Fourth Street Right of Way Vacation Research & Ownership Review - Rob Omans, City Administrator

Rob Omans explained that this task order will allow HLA to research this ROW Vacation. It is on private property, and it may just be an interpretation issue, but it needs to be clarified as Hope Source could benefit from this as it would allow a secondary access for their proposed development. Hope Source will cover 1/2 of this research cost.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Task Order No. 2025-01; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- c. Rebuild the Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor - William LaRue, Veolia

Discussion was had about a new surge suppressor costing twice as much as rebuilding one. This is coming before the Council as it is over the \$10,000 threshold.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the rebuilding of the Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- d. Ordinance 1693 - Amendment to CEMC Title 13.08.370 Wastewater Rates, Charges & Fees - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey informed the Council that he and the Public Works & Community Development Committee have been working on this resolution. For residential customers they will average the winter months use for a base sewer rate during the summer. Commercial users will have the option of purchasing a deduct meter to help with accounting for water that does not go down the sewer, like irrigation, ice machines, etc.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1693 Amendment to the CEMC Title 13.08.370; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- e. Kittitas County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue Lease Extension - Rob Omans, City Administrator

This lease is a 3-year extension to the existing lease of the Old Public Works Shop, KCSO

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is a good tenant, so Rob Omans recommends the Council to approve this lease.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the 3-year lease extension for the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

f. Resolution 2025-007 - Adopting the 2025 Fee Schedule - Rob Omans, City Administrator

Rob Omans explained that all fees are now adopted by a Resolution. The staff have been working on updating the fees, and it is a fair document, he recommends the Council to approve this Resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-007 Adopting the 2025 Fee Schedule; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

g. Kittitas Conservation District - Task Order 02 City Streets & Alleys - Ed Mills, Fire Chief

Chief Mills explained that the Kittitas Conservation District received a grant from Community Wildfire Defense and are able to do these task orders at no charge to the City of Cle Elum. Chief Mills also wanted to thank Phil Hess for his consultation work.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Task Order 02 City Streets & Alleys; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

h. Kittitas County Conservation District - Task Order 03 City Wastewater Treatment Area - Ed Mills, Fire Chief

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Task Order 03 Wastewater Treatment Area; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Chief Mills wanted to thank Tony Craven for his help with this project.

i. Resolution 2025-005 - Declaring the City of Cle Elum is not a Sanctuary City and Expressing Its Intent to Cooperate with Federal Law Enforcement - Steven Harper, Mayor Pro Tem

This was removed from the agenda by vote.

11. Report of Committees

a. Public Works & Community Development Committee - Ken Ratliff, Chair

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Turpen Leak Adjustment Request

The Public Works & Community Development Committee recommends this for approval it falls within the Cle Elum Municipal Code.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Turpen Leak Adjustment Request in the amount of \$627.48; seconded by Councilmember Williams.
MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Schiffner Leak Adjustment Request

The Public Works & Community Development Committee stated this leak request was not submitted in a timely manner. This was a leak in November that was not submitted until the end of January. So it does not qualify for an adjustment as it does not fall within the municipal code.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Cook would like to see the Department Heads talk to City Staff regarding posting on Facebook, there was one comment posted but removed right away. City staff should be mindful of emotions and think before posting.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis is encouraged by all of the public comments and letters submitted as these do have an impact.

Councilmember Ratliff also had people state they appreciated his previous comments from the last meeting.

13. Mayor's Report

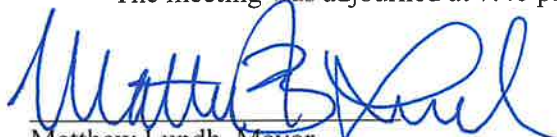
Mayor Lundh reported that there was a joint meeting with the fire departments regarding consolidation. It was a constructive conversation. At the February 25, 2025, Council meeting, the Council will be able to see the presentation that was played at that meeting and then Council can discuss their thoughts.

Rob Omans and Mayor Lundh went to the monthly Mayor's meeting. This month it was hosted by Kittitas, and it was a good conversation and it gets all of the communities together.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis and Mayor Lundh will be attending the AWC Action Days next week in Olympia. Mayor Lundh encouraged others to sign up and attend.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk

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