

**CLE ELUM PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2024
12:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Jerred Weis - Committee Member absent
Ken Ratliff - Committee Member present
Audrey Malek - Committee Member absent

Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Aaron Barr - Public Works
Audrey Casassa - Utility Clerk

2. Unfinished Business

a. Cemetery Clean Up - Discussion

Committee Member Ratliff went over the minutes from the last meeting.

Discussion was had about creating a policy to not allow artificial flowers in the cemetery. Aaron Barr of Public Works thought this might be the best approach. Aaron Barr explained that it is hard to tell when the artificial flowers were placed on sites, and then they inadvertently get thrown away. Also, the wind blows them around. They discussed what type of language to use in the code. Aaron would go talk to Henry to see what he suggested. The Committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

b. Veolia Contract

Discussion was had about anything moving forward with this topic, but that it is an important topic to keep discussing. Committee Member Ratliff does not see the City of Cle Elum in a position to take over the water and sewer treatment plant. Ken is in favor of a 5-year contract and keeping the budget as lean as possible. He also likes the idea of Veolia having buying power and the expertise that they bring. Committee Member Ratliff would like to direct the staff to pursue a 5-year contract with reasonable pricing.

c. Waste Management Contract

Waste Management is still working on the contract. They did say that the rates would be increased to the usual 4%. They will give the option to customers who would like to add recycling services to their account. It will cost approximately \$16.33 per month. This includes the proposed markup.

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Utility Clerk Casassa reported that the garbage fund has decreased in the last couple of years. Discussion was had that the city should increase garbage and recycling to cover administrative costs. They discussed 4%, 5%, and 6%. The consensus was to add a 5% increase to garbage and recycling services. When Waste Management presents the final contract, it will be brought before the Council to vote on. They will also have fliers to educate the public on what recycling materials are allowed.

Citizen Gary Berndt stated he was involved when the City started requiring garbage service and there were health issues as people would not take their garbage to the dump, a lot of skunks etc. He discourages any thought of doing away with mandatory garbage requirements. Committee Member Ratliff feels the same way.

3. New Business

a. Salt on City Sidewalks

Committee Member Ratliff does not like to see the new sidewalks being damaged by salt. Public Works also supports the idea of banning salt on the sidewalks. There are other alternatives to salt, there is sand and other mixtures that won't damage the cement. Discussion was had regarding how Public Works gets rid of the snow on the city streets. The key to keeping the ice down is staying on top of shoveling the snow. The Department of Transportation only plows from fog line to fog line. Public Works has a new tractor that will help with keeping the sidewalks clear of snow in specific areas up the hill towards Safeway, The Y park and around City Hall.

The current municipal code requires homeowners and business owners to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice in front of their adjacent property.

The Public Works Committee will take this to the council meeting to see what their recommendation is, either encourage the use of other ice melting alternatives or consider banning the use of salt.

b. September 12, 2024, Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve the September 12, 2024, Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED: 1 yes 0 no.

c. Request for Leak Adjustment - Orville Taylor

When construction was happening on 2nd Street, some stakes went through the form boards and punctured Orville Taylor's irrigation lines. The city crew repaired the irrigation lines since they were responsible for damaging them. The leak was not noticed until the irrigation season. Committee Member Ratliff is in favor of approving the leak adjustment of \$136.51 to Orville Taylor's account. This will be on the next council meeting agenda.

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d. Department of Ecology Stormwater Grant/Loan

The city has applied for a \$330,000 Department of Ecology Stormwater Grant/Loan, 50% of this is forgivable. Other than the City workers, there is additional work that will need to be done by contractors that will require more money. The city can ask for an additional \$330,000 with the same terms of 50% being forgivable with a low interest rate. Discussion was had about how to proceed. Committee Member Ratliff wanted to know how much work has been completed so far. City Administrator Omans stated Dean Smith from HLA would attend the next council meeting and give the details.

4. **Other Committee Comments**

Gary Berndt reported that the work on the trees in Flag Pole Park is almost complete and encourages staff to go drive by the park and take a look.

Gary Berndt talked to the committee about renaming Flag Pole Park to Rotary Flag Pole Park. Gary stated that the Rotary would work on an agreement about improvements that they would like to see the club accomplish. They discussed benches, more electricity and supplying flags. The City of Cle Elum would be in charge of watering and mowing the park.

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.


Jerred Weis, Chair


Debbie Lee, Clerk