

CLE ELUM LODGING TAX & EVENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2024

8:30 AM

**119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

1. Call to Order

Steven Cook - Committee Member present
Steven Harper - Committee Member present
Audrey Malek - Committee Member present

Debbie Lee - Clerk
Audrey Cassasa - Utility Clerk
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Amy Pridemore - Librarian
Aaron Barr - Public Works

Committee Chair Cook would like to add Eide Homes Beer Garden 2024 Event Application under New Business G.

2. Unfinished Business

a. Application Fee - Discussion - Yakima Special Event & Parade Permit (example)

Committee Chair Cook presented a sample code from the City of Yakima regarding charging permit application fees.

Discussion was had about what type of Event Applications would be exempt from the fee, public service or not a public service. The Committee also discussed charging the fee and if the Committee felt it fell under certain guidelines, the fee would be refunded. The Committee also discussed the importance of First Amendment Rights. The Committee decided that they will discuss this in the meeting in October and will have something ready to implement in the year 2025.

3. New Business

a. Potential Additional Staff Time (Events) - Discussion

Discussion was had that some applications take more staff time and possibly be able to pass this on to the applicant. For example, Pioneer Days takes quite a number of staff hours to attend all the meetings. The Committee would like Mayor Lundh to attend the next meeting to clarify what his exact thoughts were on having this discussion for further direction.

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b. Lodging Tax & Events Committee Meeting Minutes Dated May 13, 2024

MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to approve the Lodging Tax & Events Committee minutes dated May 13, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

c. Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce July 4th 2024 Lodging Tax Application

Discussion was had about the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce July 4, 2024 Lodging Tax Application and how it has historically been approved pending approval from the Fire Chief. Committee Member Cook had concerns regarding tracking attendance. Facebook shows the reach, Committee Member Harper stated, as long as it can be reasonably explained. The Committee talked about encouraging the Chamber to tighten up its attendance tracking and possibly use QR codes.

MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to recommend approving the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce July 4 Lodging Tax Application for 2024 in the amount of \$10,000; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

d. Cle Elum Downtown Assoc. Pioneer Days 2024 Lodging Tax Application

Discussion was had regarding camping and short-term rentals as being counted for overnight lodging. Committee Member Harper said that they count since they still bring economic development as they are doing commerce in the City of Cle Elum. The Downtown Association uses geofencing and QR codes for their data counting.

Chief Albo stated they have been working with the Downtown Association, and they will be hiring an outside source to do traffic control and the Cle Elum Police Department can focus on actual policing activities. Chief Albo will also be coming up with an Incident Operation Plan, so it can be used for all future events.

MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to approve funding the Cle Elum Downtown Association Pioneer Days 2024 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$11,168.00; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

e. Summer Reading at the Carpenter Memorial Library Thursday's at 11:00 a.m.

Amy from the library explained why she filled out two separate Event Applications, as two required insurance and one event was on a different day.

Fire Chief Albo stated that all departments had time to review the applications and approve them prior to this meeting.

Discussion was had about different amounts of insurance required for separate events.

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MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to approve both library Event Applications with one motion; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

- f. Summer Reading Program at the Carpenter Memorial Library "Meet the Reptiles & Sled Dogs"

- g. Eide Homes Pioneer Days Beer Garden 2024 Event Application

The application was submitted just this morning and not completed. The Committee did not want to set a precedent for an application that was not submitted in a timely manner and not completed.

Some of the concerns that were discussed were fencing, security, blocking entry, whether the neighboring business, (Stellas), was going to be open during this time, and food trucks that were licensed by the City. The other City departments did not have ample time to review the applications, so this application is being denied.

4. Other Committee Comments

The Committee discussed having a packet available to Event Applicants that outlines all the rules and definitions, so applicants will know what is expected. This will be discussed in October.

5. Adjourn

Committee Member Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.



Steven Cook, Chair

Debbie Lee, Clerk