

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2025

6:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET

CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis - present

Ken Ratliff - present

Beth Williams - present

Steven Harper - present

Jerred Weis - absent

Steven Cook - present

Audrey Malek - present via zoom

Matthew Lundh - Mayor

Rob Omans - City Administrator

Debbie Lee - Clerk

Colleda Monick - Planner

Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

Ed Mills - Fire Chief

Rich Albo - Police Chief

Joseph Calhoun - HLA

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. March 11, 2025, Sign-In Sheet

2. Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(i) Potential Litigation

- a. Executive Session under the authority of RCW 42.30.110(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence for the agency.

The Council went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for 30 minutes, and is expected to take final action upon returning.

The Council returned at 6:35 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the payment of

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\$50,000.00 to City Heights, contingent upon City Heights agreeing to participate in mediation with Al Smith. Mediation expenses shall be capped at \$10,000. The \$50,000.00 payment will be issued upon receipt of a signed mediation agreement involving the mediator and both parties. The mediation costs will be split equally between the parties; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

3. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Brian Tate - Discussed the Boy Scout Law and how it could be useful to the City of Cle Elum. Brian also spoke about the Grant Street Alley vacation.

Kris Sullivan - Would like to see the City of Cle Elum clean up its air quality by banning wood stoves. He stated he is working with the Department of Ecology.

a. Kris Sullivan - Smoke Complaint 2025

4. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

5. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to amend the agenda by adding under New Business - Cultural Resource Contract with Historical Research Associates; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

6. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

a. City Council Special Meeting/Executive Session Meeting Minutes Dated February 25, 2025

b. City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes Dated February 25, 2025

c. City Council Meeting Minutes Dated February 25, 2025

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- d. Payroll Vouchers Dated March 5, 2025 \$348,577.18
- e. Payables Dated March 11, 2025 \$374,503.82
- f. Engagement of VAN NESS FELDMAN, LLP to Provide Legal Services

7. **Department Head Reports**

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

2025 February Budget Position - FYI

- b. Planner - Colleda Monick

See attached report.

- c. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

Mathew Bailey informed the Council that a request for Sealed Bids for the Cemetery Irrigation went out and is due by March 19, 2025.

Public Works has been doing general maintenance, which includes street sweeping, cleaning of parks, etc.

The Public Works Department is also completing some training on gas and electrical safety.

- d. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

- e. Fire Chief - Ed Mills

See attached report.

Councilmember Harper wanted to thank the Fire Department for the quick response to a possible gas leak.

- f. Water/Wastewater Manager - William LaRuc

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See attached report.

8. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

- a. Work Plan/Public Engagement - Comp Plan - Joseph Calhoun HLA

Joseph Calhoun from HLA informed the Council that the Growth Management Act Periodic Update was approved by the Planning Commission. This is funded by a grant from the Department of Commerce and is due by June 30, 2026. The draft is being presented to the Council for final approval. There was a Climate Element public hearing today at the Senior Center. With the Council's approval, this part of the update can be sent to the state for reimbursement.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis noted that there was an error with the spelling of the Facebook link. This will be corrected.

MOTION: Councilmember Buechle-Curtis made a motion to approve the Work Plan/Public Engagement - Comp Plan Update; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

9. Business Requiring Public Hearings

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration for Consolidation - FYI

11. New Business

- a. Certified Acceptance (CA) Agreements for Federally Funded Projects with Kittitas County - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

The Council agreed to approve all four projects with one vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve all four Certified Acceptance CA Agreements for the Federally Funded Projects with Kittitas County which include: Stafford Ave Sidewalk & SR 903 Speed Camera, Park Street Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study, First Street & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing and Signalization Intersection Safety Improvements at W. First Street & Hartwig Blvd;

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seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

Stafford Ave Sidewalk & SR 903 Speed Camera

Park Street Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study

First Street & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing

Signalization Intersection Safety Improvements at W. First Street & Hartwig Blvd.

- b. Historical Research Associates - Scope of Work: Bullfrog Flats - Phase 1 Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan - Colleda Monick - Planner

Colleda explained that the City is requesting approval of an agreement with Historical Research Associates to provide construction monitoring for Phase 1 of the Bullfrog Flats Development Project. This agreement outlines the scope of work necessary to ensure compliance with cultural resource conditions during construction activities. The request includes authorization for the Mayor to sign a professional services agreement with Historical Research Associates when it is finalized.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Mayor signing a professional service agreement with Historical Research Associates; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

12. Report of Committees

Steven Cook, Committee Member of the Public Works Committee, reported that they discussed the banning of artificial flowers at the cemetery and will continue this discussion at the next meeting in April.

Councilmember Harper, Chair of the General Government Committee, reported that they have a draft of Title 5 changes and will be working on Title 6 at the next meeting on March 26, 2025. This title is in regard to animals and the Committee would like the public's input.

13. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis wanted to thank the Planning Commission for their work on the Climate Element Project.

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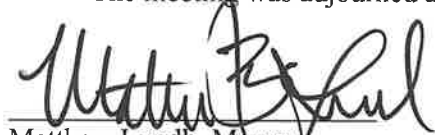
14. Mayor's Report

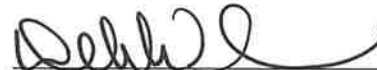
Mayor Lundh reported:

- Mayor Lundh and Cassidy Buechle - Curtis attended the Elected Essentials Forum in Tacoma.
- Literacy night was held at the school and was attended by the Police Department, Fire Department and the Mayor.
- The Safe Streets for All Survey is on Facebook and the City Website, and Mayor Lundh encourages the community to take part in the survey.
- Stafford Street is closed until May 25, 2025. The contractor is making improvements to the street and water main.
- The Horse Park will have a presentation at the next Council meeting. They will talk about a recent economic study that they did with Central Washington University CWU. The Horse Park opens April 1, 2025, and this is one of their busiest years yet.
- On Friday, Mayor Lundh will testify in front of the House Committee on Senate Bill 5040.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk