

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**MARCH 25, 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 - present via zoom  
 Steven Cook - present  
 Audrey Malek - present via zoom

Matthew Lundh - Mayor  
 Rob Omans - City Administrator  
 Debbie Lee - Clerk  
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

- a. March 25, 2025, Sign-In Sheet

**2. Executive Session**

- 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 returned at 6:35 p.m.

**MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the Mayor, Council Representatives, and legal representatives to continue mediation, to be scheduled for April 17, 2025, with the following provision: authorize an additional payment of \$10,000 to CHH and to compensate the mediator up to an additional \$10,000 for their services; seconded by Councilmember Williams.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

March 25, 2025, Executive Session Script

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### 3. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Brian Tate talked about what it means to be an expert and how to run a household, business, commerce and lawsuits. He also thought the City of Cle Elum should consider un-incorporating.

John Newton stated that the City of Cle Elum should exhaust all possibilities before filing for bankruptcy.

### 4. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. Appoint Rusty Henrichsen to the Historic Preservation Commission - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh would like the Council to recommend appointing Rusty Henrichsen to the Historic Preservation Commission. He owns a business and is vested in the community.

**MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to appoint Rusty Henrichsen to the Historic Preservation Commission; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

### 5. Approval of Meeting Agenda

**MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to amend the agenda as presented by adding under New Business 2025 Seal Coat Multiple Locations TIB; seconded by Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

### 6. Consent Agenda

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes Dated March 11, 2025

- b. City Council Special Meeting Minutes Dated March 21, 2025

- c. Payables Dated March 25, 2025 \$255,566.96

### 7. Department Head Reports

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- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

Report attached to agenda.

- b. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

- Public Works has been busy cleaning parks and sweeping streets.
- They have completed some training. All Public Works employees are certified for AC water main repair.
- They attended an all-day power and gas safety training with PSE.
- Contractors are working on the Stafford Hill project, working on the retaining wall and water main replacement. The contractor had asked for some additional days due to the amount of rain in the last few days.
- The Cemetery Irrigation Bids came in over budget. Public Works is going to reevaluate their options and try to come up with an effective solution.
- Councilmember Williams asked if the Vac Truck was back from being repaired. Owens Equipment flew in a specialist, and they now think the problem is fixed.
- Councilmember Buechle-Curtis thanked the Public Works crew for taking the time for training as it is important.

### 8. **Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit**

- a. Washington State Horse Park Update - Wendy Hensley

See attached report.

The Washington State Horse Park is going to have a holiday lighting display that will run from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

Councilmember Harper noted that in the survey it was stated that 92% of the participants were women.

- b. The Wall That Heals - Ellensburg Downtown Rotary - Russell Colmore

See attached report.

This presentation will be at Rotary Park from September 4, 2025, to September 7, 2025. Russell Colmore would like any Councilmembers who are available to help set the wall up on September 2, 2025.

There will be a procession of the wall arriving in Ellensburg on Umptanum Road.

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Councilmember Buechle-Curtis thanked Russell Colmore for his service.

c. [Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson](#)

See attached report.

The Downtown Association has gotten alot of interest in people inquiring about job opportunities within the City. Jordan Peterson explained the footprint of the Downtown Association to the Council.

d. [Carpenter Memorial Library Update - Amy Pridemore](#)

See attached report.

Amy Pridemore stated that the Fish lunch programs will be back during the summer. Amy would like to acknowledge the Friends of the Library as they fund the puppet show, magician and art supplies.

9. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

10. **Unfinished Business**

11. **New Business**

- a. [2025 Seal Coat - TIB Project Number 2-E-930\(007\)-1 - Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director](#)

**MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2025 Seal Coat TIB Projects; seconded by Councilmember Williams.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

12. **Report of Committees**

- a. [Lodging Tax & Events Committee Chair Cook](#)

[Independence Day & Christmas Fireworks Management and Funding Discussion](#)

Discussion was had about the Chamber of Commerce wanting the Cle Elum Downtown Association to take over the fireworks on the 4th of July. The Council thought was in favor

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of having fireworks two times per year, the 4th of July and Christmas. Discussion was had about not having the bomb type and lower ones so as not to scare the animals. This expense would come from the lodging tax account. The cost of the fireworks for the 4th of July is \$12,000 and Christmas is \$7,500. Jordan Peterson explained that the fireworks after the parade help clear the roads sooner. Jordan stated that the Downtown Association has the capacity and the desire to do both events. The Cle Elum Downtown Association will submit an application to the Lodging Tax for the 4th of July fireworks.

### CEDA, Visitor Center & Tourism Website Discussion

There is currently a website for tourism in place. The City of Cle Elum inherited the website from the Chamber of Commerce. It is called Discover Cle Elum. The Downtown Association and the Tourism/Visitor Center are not ready to make a decision regarding updating the website or sundowning the existing website. The City will look at how to accomplish the goals that the Visitor Center wants to set. The cost would be about \$2,000 to rebuild the website.

### CEDA Christmas in Cle Elum Parade & Fireworks - 2025 Lodging Tax Application

**MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve CEDA Christmas in Cle Elum Parade & Fireworks Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$7,750; seconded by Councilmember Williams.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

### CEDA Christmas In Cle Elum Holiday Lighting - 2025 Lodging Tax Application

**MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the CEDA Christmas in Cle Elum Holiday Lighting 2025 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$67,719.61; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

Discussion was had about the cost and that it was an increase of 5% from the previous year. They have similar plans as they had last Christmas. The Downtown Association is looking at a softer white light and maybe red lights on the trees. The City would like to see the Public Works building lit up this year. There is power at Y Park, so that will be helpful and there will be more trees to decorate as the First Street Revitalization Project is completed.

### Cle Elum Downtown Association - Cle Elum Visitor Center - 2025 Lodging Tax Application

Discussion was had about the Lodging Tax request for \$27,973.23, which is dedicated to a staff a part-time employee for the Tourism Center adjacent to City Hall.

**MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the CEDA Cle Elum Visitor Center 2025 Lodging Tax Application for \$27,973.23; seconded by Councilmember Harper.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

### CEDA Pioneer Day Parade & Dock Diving Dogs - 2025 Lodging Tax Application

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**MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the CEDA Pioneer Day Parade & Dock Diving Dogs 2025 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$30,879.00. This includes the amount for fireworks that they will be submitting a Lodging Tax application for; seconded by Councilmember Williams.**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

Pioneer Queen Coronation Meet & Greet - 2025 Lodging Tax Application

**MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Pioneer Queen Coronation Meet & Greet 2025 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$2,400; seconded by Councilmember Williams.**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.**

### 13. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Cook reminded everyone that there is a Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting on April 2, 2025.

COG is distributing their .09 distressed sale tax similar to how the County distributes the lodging tax. They changed their model plan to be project-based. The County obligated one million to the City of Kittitas and some funding to S. Cle Elum for a water project. They will set aside smaller pots of money for smaller projects or seed money to help grant-funded projects.

Councilmember Harper informed the public that there is a General Government meeting tomorrow morning and encouraged people to attend as they will be going through the Cle Elum Municipal Code titled Animals.

### 14. Mayor's Report

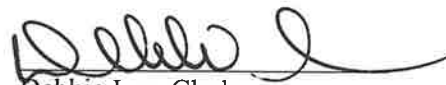
Mayor Lundh reported:

- Mayor Lundh attended the Mayor's Meeting with Representative Schrier. There was a loss of federal funds due to appropriations that amounted to one million.
- Mayor Lundh attended the Fireman's Ball last Saturday. It was well attended and awards were presented.
- The AWC Annual Conference is in June and Mayor Lundh encourages the Council to attend. It is located this year in Kennewick from June 24 to June 27, 2025. You can select the number of days you wish to attend.

### 15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

  
Matthew Lundh, Mayor

  
Debbie Lee, Clerk