

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 22, 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
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

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

MOTION FAILED: 3 yes 3 no. (no-Harper, Curtis and Cook) (yes-Ratliff, Williams and Malek) Mayor Lundh broke the tie vote by a no vote.

Discussion was had about giving notice of being absent and how important it is to communicate.

****NOTE****

After returning from the Executive Session, Mayor Lundh reported that he had received a text from Councilmember Weis that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

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

MOTION FAILED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. April 22, 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

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or financial consequence for the agency.

- b. Executive Session under the authority of RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) Performance of a public employee

The Council went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for 45 minutes and returned at 6:50 p.m. with no decisions being made.

3. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Kent Verbeck utilizes the Community Garden near the Senior Center and would like the Council to consider changing the municipal code regarding the turning on of irrigation water from May 1 to an earlier date.

Brian Tate stated he wanted to be positive and liked listening to Rob's reports and thought the amount of public records requests that the City of Cle Elum receives is interesting.

4. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. Arbor Day Proclamation 2025 - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh read aloud the 2025 Arbor Day Proclamation and invited everyone to attend the planting of a tree at the Flag Pole Park on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

5. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

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 Meeting Minutes Dated April 8, 2025
- b. Payables Dated April 22, 2025 \$827,885.95
- c. Progress Estimate No. 1 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements \$317,045.60 Excavation

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West

- d. Office Lease Agreement Downtown Association - City Administrator, Rob Omans

7. **Department Head Reports**

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

- b. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

Matthew reported:

- The Stafford Ave. project is progressing. They are at about 50% completion. They are doing the water tie-in in the next few days.
- The brush dump will be accepting debris for another week.
- The mowing season is starting, and they are already working on the cemetery and parks.
- Public Works has been repairing potholes and water leaks.

- c. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

- d. Quarterly Report - Finance Director, Robin Newcomb

See attached report.

Robin presented this at the Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. right before the Council Meeting.

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

- a. PSE Wildfire Presentation - Carryn Vande Griend

See attached presentation.

- b. Cle Elum Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

See attached report.

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9. Business Requiring Public Hearings

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- a. Ordinance 1695 Repealing and Re-Enacting CEMC Section 13.12.080 Relating to Collection of Water Utility Charges - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey reported that this proposed Ordinance is to help fix the collection process on delinquent water and sewer accounts by eliminating the certified mailings and 30-minute shut-off time. This was not a reasonable amount of time for Public Works to complete the task. The Public Works & Community Development Committee recommends that the Council approve this update.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Ordinance 1695 Repealing and Re-Enacting CEMC Section 13.12.080; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- b. Ordinance 1696 Adopting a New Chapter 12.10 of the CEMC "Trespass Warnings on City Property" - Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh explained that a similar Ordinance was passed recently by the City of Roslyn. This will allow the City of Cle Elum the authority to trespass someone from City Hall if staff is threatened or their work impeded. This will allow the Mayor or his designee to make this decision.

There was discussion regarding the Mayor and his designee language.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1696; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- c. Code Enforcement Job Description - City Administrator, Rob Omans

Rob Omans explained that this would help our Contract Planner, Colleda Monick, be able to concentrate on planning items. This would be a part-time position and advertised internally at the City of Cle Elum.

Discussion was had about the cost, and if it would be a wash to take a task off of Colleda's plate. They thought it would be close. This position would cover all building code violations and code violations.

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MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the part-time Code Enforcement job description; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

12. Report of Committees

a. Lodging Tax & Events Committee - Chair, Steven Cook

Steven Cook informed the Council that the Lodging Tax & Events Committee has updated the Event Application. It is more comprehensive and is being implemented soon.

Steven Harper wanted to thank Steven Cook and Whitney for all of their help with the updates.

Boulet Theater Productions - Spring Production 2025 Lodging Tax Application

Steven Cook explained that the Boulet Theater had presented their application at the last meeting and the committee had asked for a few items to be clarified regarding advertising. The Boulet Theater did provide this information. The committee recommends the Council approve the \$2,500 request.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Boulet Theater Spring Production 2025 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$2,500; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

b. EMS & Trauma Care Council - Beth Williams

Beth Williams shared that the EMS & Trauma Care Council is having some upcoming training for CPR, Babysitting, and First Aid training. Yakima Heart Safe is working on a grant to put AEDs where they are needed most. They have some that can be placed outside where they take a picture of the person who is going to operate it, in the case of vandalism. The batteries are good for about 300 discharges. Mayor Lundh also stated that Rotary and possibly Hotel Motel Tax could help with this project.

See attached notices.

HSI Adult CPR/AED & Stop the Bleed Classes

First Aid/CPR/AED

Child and Babysitting Safety

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c. Kittcom Advisory Committee - Cassidy Buechle-Curtis

Kittcom is continuing to do work to improve operations and create a separate area for fire calls. She also informed the Council that if you want to shadow a 911 dispatcher there is that opportunity.

d. Planning Commission - Cassidy Buechle-Curtis

Cassidy informed the Council that there is an upcoming Public Hearing regarding Code Changes. This is a lot of information, and she recommends the Council to review it if they can, since this will be coming to them for a vote in the near future.

e. Public Safety & Health - Cassidy Buechle-Curtis

The Public Safety & Health Committee recently had a study session regarding addresses within the City and how to ensure the City is consistent with addresses moving forward.

13. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Steven Cook reported that a citizen from Easton attended the COG meeting and would like support from surrounding cities and the County to draft a letter to State Representatives addressing the amount of garbage along the freeway and, hopefully, this would put some pressure on the state.

The next COG meeting will be May 21, 2025, in Cle Elum at 5:30 p.m. They are alternating the hosting sites.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis thanked Robin Newcomb for taking the time to sit with her and help her understand the budget. She said it was very helpful.

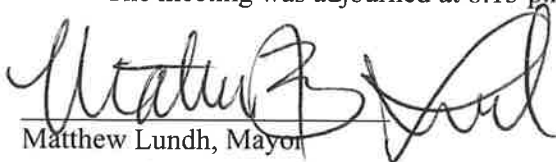
14. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported that the Arbor Day Celebration is at 5:00 p.m. at Flag Pole Park, not 5:30 p.m.

The City had another day of mediation with City Heights and they have not reached an agreement.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk