

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 13, 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 - absent
 Steven Harper - present
 Jerred Weis - absent
 Steven Cook - present
 Audrey Malek - present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Colleda Monick - Planner
 William La Rue - Water/Wastewater Manager
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief
 Rich Albo - Police Chief

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- a. May 13, 2025 Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Hilary Jensen would like the Council to consider covering up the Park Mobile signs until more research is done. She feels that paid parking drives customers away.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. National Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Lundh read aloud the National Police Week Proclamation.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented;

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seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- a. Special Meeting Cle Elum City Council Meeting Minutes Dated April 22, 2025
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes Dated April 22, 2025
- c. Payables Dated May 13, 2025 \$874,120.05
- d. Payroll Vouchers Dated May 5, 2025 \$314,886.12
- e. Revised Progress Estimate No. 1 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements \$93.59 (previously approved sales tax percentage was incorrect. \$93.59 is the difference not approved). Excavation West
- f. Progress Estimate No. 2 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements Excavation West \$317,139.19

6. Department Head Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans
See attached report.
April 2025 Treasurer's Report - FYI
See attached report.
- b. Planner - Colleda Monick

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There was discussion about why there was work done on Grant Street Alley Vacate. Colleda explained that there was some research done to make sure everything was recorded correctly.

See attached report.

c. [Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey](#)

- Spring clean up brought in 36 tons of garbage. This is trending down, so having the annual clean-up is doing its job. Same number of users but less garbage.
- 100 cubic yards of brush and limbs were dropped off at the yard waste site.
- On May 22, 2025, Kittitas Conservation Trust will be having a street brush clean up. Cle Elum residents will need to sign up on the city website.
- All irrigation is turned on in the parks. The Public Works crew has done a good job troubleshooting and repairing all the leaks and issues that appeared when the water was turned on.
- The Public Works crew is working on the First Street irrigation issues before the flower baskets arrive.
- The project is progressing on Stafford Avenue. The utilities are in, the retaining wall is being worked on, and they are about ready for asphalt.
- Councilmember Harper would like to see more signage on Stafford Ave. as it should not be driven on during construction.
- Councilmember Harper also let Public Works know that there is an abrupt edge on the city sidewalk in the 300 block of East First Street.

d. [Police Chief - Rich Albo](#)

Police Chief Albo stated he would have the officers patrol Stafford Ave. more in the evening hours.

See attached report.

e. [Fire Chief - Ed Mills](#)

See attached report.

f. [Water/Wastewater Manager - William LaRue](#)

See attached report.

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

- a. [Kittitas County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Letter - Jessica Karraker & Roylene Crawford](#)

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Jessica Karraker informed the Council that the Loding Tax Strategic Plan has been completed.

See the attached reports that Jessica referenced.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

9. Unfinished Business

a. Kittitas County Sheriff's Office - New Lease Agreement - Rob Omans, City Administrator

City Administrator Rob Omans explained that this lease was originally signed a few months ago, but then Kittitas County sent it to their legal team and they had some changes. This lease went back and forth between all attorneys. Originally it was a 3-year contract with a 30-day notice, and now it is a 2-year contract with a 120-day notice.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the New Lease Agreement with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

10. New Business

a. Ordinance 1697 - Updating the May 2025 Salary Schedule - Rob Omans, City Administrator

This Ordinance updates the Code Enforcement Officer's salary.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1697 Updating the May 2025 Salary Schedule; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

b. Resolution 2025-010 - Policy Limiting the Number of Hours the City Spends on Responding to Public Records Requests - Rob Omans, City Administrator

This Resolution meets all the Public Records requirements; it just limits the number of hours per month that will be spent due to the city's recent legal issues.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-010 limiting the number of hours spent on Public Records Requests; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

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c. 2024 Annual Report Submittal - Rob Omans, City Administrator

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Finance Director to submit the 2024 Annual Report; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Harper wanted to thank Finance Director Newcomb for the hard work that she put into getting this report completed.

d. Kittitas Conservation Trust - MOU Hanson Ponds - Mayor Lundh

Discussion was had about this MOU and that it is not a binding agreement. It just shows that the City of Cle Elum is still working with Kittitas Conservation Trust. City Legal has reviewed this MOU.

Councilmember Ratliff does not want it considered at this meeting. He thinks that the Public Works & Community Development Committee needs to discuss it further before the Council votes.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the MOU regarding Hanson Ponds and Kittitas Conservation Trust; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 4 yes 1 no. (Councilmember Ratliff)

e. Resolution 2025-011 - Police Vehicle Surplus - Rich Albo, Chief of Police

Police Chief Albo discussed with the Council that the police department has done a good job replacing its aging fleet, but there are still a couple of vehicles that are failing. The white Ford F150 and the Black Interceptor have transmission and electrical issues. These vehicles also have high mileage. Councilmember Harper likes the idea of surplussing these vehicles while they still have value.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-011 Police Vehicle Surplus; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

f. Veolia Contract Extension - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Public Works Director Mathew Bailey stated that this extension would align both the water and treatment plant contracts to expire at the same time in December 2025. It will help with either renegotiating or if the City decides to manage the plants.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Veolia Contract Extension; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

g. Asbestos Training - Public Works - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

This contract would enable an on-site supervisor if Public Works had to repair more than 5 lineal feet of asbestos pipe. Currently, all the Public Works Staff are trained to work on 5

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feet or fewer of asbestos pipe. To become a supervisor, it is a 40-hour class and requires 8 hours a year of continuous education. This would not be feasible for the City of Cle Elum as it is a lot of hours to obtain and something that might not be utilized very often.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Public Works to sign the Asbestos Training Contract; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

a. Public Works & Community Development - Ken Ratliff, Chair

Mayor Lundh asked the Public Works & Community Development Committee to inform the Cemetery Committee (that was recently formed) that they will need to be appointed by the Council and Mayor.

Chair Ken Ratliff reported to the Council that Public Works got an estimate on material to replace the entire cemetery's irrigation system, which came in at about \$80,000. Public Works will hire two temporary workers to assist one current Public Works employee. He thinks this will take about two months to complete. They will start this project soon.

There is bridgework that needs to be done on the Crystal Creek Bridge. Mathew Bailey stated HLA felt that the City could apply for a grant since it meets the criteria to cover the cost of \$3 million dollars.

The UKC Baseball Contract was also discussed. It is currently expired and Chair Ratliff would like to see the expired contract resigned.

The Best Western Hotel has recently asked for forgiveness regarding their sewer rates. There is nothing in the Municipal Code that would allow this.

Utility Installation Fee for Multi-Family Units

Discussion was had about the sewer category factor of Multi Family water and sewer rates. HLA did a thorough review of these fees and felt they were reasonable. The Multi-Family ERU is currently .9, which means they use 90% of what the average household uses. The developer can submit a worksheet to calculate if their percentages came up different if they wanted to contest the current rate. Councilmember Harper felt this was a slippery slope if the Council were to grant a lower rate to a developer. This current project will be selling units at fair market value. There is a cost for the city to keep up with maintenance and repairs to the infrastructure.

Dena Glondo - Request for Leak Adjustment

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Dena Glondo's request for Leak Forgiveness in the amount of \$228.13; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

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MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

Paid Parking Review

Discussion was had about Park Mobile and paid parking. The City of Cle Elum has collected \$8,000 to date compared to Roslyn's \$4,000. Councilmember Ratliff believes that there was not a lot of thought that went into this originally and would like to see it postponed until more studies can be done. There is a different traffic pattern in Cle Elum. It was suggested that if people understood where the funds collected would go to, they might understand the issue better. Funds are collected to help with the upkeep of the Downtown Revitalization Project. Mathew Bailey estimated that it costs the City about \$65,000 yearly to plow, salt, water and maintain gardens, which would come out to about \$1.00 per lineal foot if the business owners were to pay for the amount of lineal feet in front of their business every year.

It was decided that the first half hour would cost \$1.00 and then \$2.00 every hour after that. The Mayor and City Administrator will re access in a couple of months.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis reported that:

- The Affordable Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee met and is moving forward with two projects and one project is in Cle Elum.
- Kittcom is making progress in their operations.
- The Planning Commission will be approving the Text Amendments
- The Historic Preservation Commission is doing great work.
- The Public Safety & Health Committee met, and the police would like the Council to discuss the purchase of two vehicles.

Police Chief Albo reported that by surplussing the two aging vehicles, it would generate about \$18,000, and they could use the line item for the mini-splits of \$32,500, and a newly established repair and maintenance line item of \$27,000. This would be enough to purchase and update two vehicles that are currently available at FCI, where the City has purchased their vehicles from in the past. With some shuffling of vehicles, this would give all the patrol officers dependable vehicles.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to authorize the Chief of Police to utilize funds derived from the sale of used department vehicles, as well as other appropriated department funds, to purchase two used vehicles for official use by the Cle Elum Police Department, with such purchases to be conducted in accordance with applicable city procurement policies and procedures; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Malek reported that the Coal Mines Trail Commission discussed the interpretive signs that will be added to the Coal Mines Trail. The general theme of these signs is cultural and history in nature. The City of Cle Elum at some point will need to issue some sign permits for this

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project.

Councilmember Harper informed the Council that former Councilmember Art Scott had passed away. He was a great asset to the community.

Councilmember Cook reported:

- He has signed up to help construct the Wall that Heals. He noted that the time zone is not correct and to keep that in mind when signing up online.
- Dru Bru recently won an award at the 2025 World Beer Cup Event.
- Councilmember Cook will miss the next two Council Meetings and any Committee Meetings during the month of June.

a. The Wall That Heals - Sign-Up Genius

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh reported:

- This Saturday is the Grand Opening of the Skate Park.
- The Washington State Capital Budget passed with \$11.4 million going into the local community, \$7.8 million to Teanaway Court, \$103,000 for the Local Boys and Girls Club, \$155,000 towards the Recreation Center, \$3.1 million to Teanaway Ridge just to name a few.
- The Arbor Day celebration went well with the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.
- Mayor Lundh recently traveled to Washington D.C. which was a personal trip. He met with Senator Cantwell, Murray and Shrier and had some good conversations.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk