

**CLE ELUM PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**MAY 7, 2025**

**12:00 PM**

119 W FIRST STREET  
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Steven Cook - present via zoom  
Ken Ratliff - present  
Jerred Weis - present via zoom

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

**2. Unfinished Business**

**a. Cemetery Code Amendment Ordinance - Mathew Bailey Public Works Director**

The Cemetery Committee is working on guidelines and needs more time to get recommendations to the Public Works & Community Development Committee. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Letter Re: Cemetery Rules - Elaine Rustvold

**b. Cemetery Irrigation - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director**

Matthew Bailey, Public Works Director, informed the committee that the cemetery irrigation went out for bid and the bids came back quite high, and these bids were for 1/2 of the cemetery. Matt put together a list of materials, equipment rental and the hiring of a temporary worker to assist one Public Works employee to install the irrigation system for the entire cemetery. He has a total cost estimate of \$122,208. This may require a budget amendment, but most of this would come from the \$100,000 that has been set aside for this project.

The committee felt this was a reasonable request. Mathew Bailey will notify the council in his staff report that Public Work will be moving forward with his project.

**MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve Public Works Staff to install the irrigation system at the cemetery; seconded by Committee Member Cook.  
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

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### c. Proposed Amendment to Sewer Rates - Mike Heit

Scott Lien with Bullfrog Flats Apartments would like to see a different fee structure for multifamily housing. Possibly consider different price tiers, housing types, etc.

Mike Heit from HLA explained that the City of Cle Elum does have a type of tier pricing structure but with ERU's. At the waterside, the rate is .9 in the Cle Elum Municipal Code. There is no definitive structure for sewer pricing. This rate is hard to compare apples to apples with since there are so many variables. A section of the code allows developers to use their own calculations to see if they might come up with a different calculation and present that to the City for consideration.

Discussion was had about re-establishing the code to include a sewer rate for multi-families.

**MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to recommend re-establishing the municipal code to include a rate of .7 for multifamily housing on the water and sewer side; seconded by Committee Member Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

### d. UKC Baseball Further Discussion

Discussion was had regarding UKC Baseball and the use of the park. Points of interest were:

- The City Attorney reviewed the draft agreement. Allowing the public to be in control of the park without a lease in place is not a good idea.
- The current contract with UKC has expired.
- UKC would like to see a relined version of the agreement that they had previously sent to the City.
- Possibly have the City Attorney at the next meeting.
- It is hard to raise funds for UKC without an agreement in place.
- The Public Works & Community Development Committee is discussing possibly charging a fee to use the parks with reservations.
- Irrigation at the park needs some repairs. Public Works has been busy with repairs since the irrigation was turned on.
- More communication needs to happen between UKC and the City.
- Discussion was had about who is currently mowing the park.

## 3. New Business

### a. Meeting Minutes Dated April 2, 2025

**MOTION: Committee Member Weis made a motion to approve the Public Works & Community Development Minutes dated April 2, 2025; seconded by Committee**

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**Member Ratliff.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

b. [Dena Glondo - Request for Leak Adjustment](#)

Audrey Casassa, Utility Clerk, reported that the leak was reported to Dena Glondo's and, within 3 days, they had the leak repaired. This leak fell within the guidelines of the Cle Elum Municipal Code for leak relief.

**MOTION: Committee Member Cook made a motion to recommend the leak relief request by Glondo's in the amount of \$228.13; seconded by Committee Member Weis.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

c. [Federal Local Bridge Program - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director](#)

Tabled until the next meeting.

d. [Signage at Laurel Hill Cemetery - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director](#)

Tabled until the next meeting.

e. [Kittitas Conservation Trust MOU Hanson Ponds](#)

Tabled until the next meeting.

f. [Paid Parking Review - Mayor Lundh](#)

Mayor Lundh reported that he received a letter regarding paid downtown parking that was signed by several business owners. He reported that \$8,000 had been collected so far this year. This was implemented late last year, and is a work in progress. The funds that are collected are used for sidewalk maintenance, flower bed care, and to take care of the infrastructure that is a result of the Downtown Revitalization Project. Mayor Lundh had some suggested alternatives.

1. Add stickers to the sign that states 15 minutes free parking.
2. Have a structured rate increase starting at \$2.00 per hour and increasing every hour.
3. The City now has a Code Enforcement Officer that could potentially do some spot enforcement.

Hilary Jensen, a business owner, is open to ideas and would like to see the first 30 minutes as free parking. She also noted that this has had an impact on her business as people see they have to pay to park and then get back in their vehicles and leave. Hilary also had concerns regarding the public bathrooms and that they are always closed. Her type of business requires bathrooms, and she has seen people come in and use them even though they are not customers of her shop. Hilary is in favor of shutting down the paid parking signs and is willing to volunteer time to gather data.

Travis of 509 Bake House would like to see the signs removed as he feels it is bad for business. He would like to see 1 hour's free parking available. The City is potentially losing sales tax revenue with these signs. He would like Mathew Bailey, Public Works

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Director, to put together what it costs to maintain First Street and then possibly have the businesses help with this cost. He suggested having an RFID card for the public bathrooms.

Charlie Glondo stated he had seen cars pull in and then leave due to the paid parking signs.

Tino Rizo stated his business has lost money due to these signs.

Desirea from 509 Bake House has noticed that some business owners are parking in front of the signs, so people don't notice them. She stated that recently someone came through Cle Elum and reviewed businesses with food and the Bake House got a 4-star review due to there being no bathroom available. She also wondered if the City could work with the Downtown Association regarding bathrooms, weeding and parking issues.

Nora Cantwell asked what the role of the Downtown Association would be. The business owners thought possibly more ideas and input.

Mathew Bailey stated he had time set aside for weeding and fixing the irrigation on First Street. Mathew said that as soon as the bathrooms are repaired from the most recent vandalism, they are vandalized again within days. He is talking with the Mayor about ways to fix this. Other agencies have the same issues.

The Committee discussed modifying the time for free parking. Ken Ratliff would like to see the signs removed.

The Committee will bring this to the Council for discussion.

### **g. Sewer Usage Reimbursement - Sanjay**

Sanjay would like some forgiveness for his water usage for his hotel as he has had alot of personal issues. He is in the process of installing a sewer deduct meter, and feels this will help solve the issue going forward. He talked about whether hotels and motels should be exempt, as he is the only hotel that has a pool and hot tub. He also has a sprinkler system installed for his landscape. The increase has made it hard to sustain his business.

Mathew Bailey stated he needs to install the deduction meter and there is not a current municipal code that allows giving credit for personal reasons.

Committee Member Ratliff thinks the committee should consider his request for a refund and will discuss it at the next meeting but is not making any promises.

### **h. Veolia Contract Extension - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director**

Mathew Bailey would like to see this extension to the Veolia contract signed. Both the water and sewer contracts with Veolia would expire on the same date in December. This will allow the Public Works & Community Development Committee to do its due diligence, to negotiate another contract, or see if the City can manage the system themselves.

**MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to recommend the Veolia**

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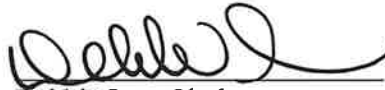
**Contract Extension to the Council; seconded by Committee Member Weis.  
MOTION CARRIED: 2 yes 0 no.**

4. **Other Committee Comments**

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

  
Ken Ratliff, Chair

  
Debbie Lee, Clerk