

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 23, 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 - absent
 Beth Williams - present
 Steven Harper - present
 Steven Cook - present
 Jerred Weis - present
 Audrey Malek - present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Colleda Monick - Planner
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
 Curtis Chambers - City Attorney
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief via zoom

- a. June 23, 2025, Sign-In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Bill Hinkle stated he felt that the permitting environment with the city is good, and he hoped that his suggestions for the Text Amendments would be heard. Bill also stated that Hope Source will not be managing the two housing projects next year.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

- a. Appoint Amanda Hahnemann to Planning Commission Position #2

Mayor Lundh introduced Amanda Hahnemann who is a local real estate agent and a business owner in Cle Elum. He would like the Council to appoint her to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the appointment of Amanda Hahnemann to the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

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4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the consent agenda and move Item D. Progress Estimate to G. New Business; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- a. City Council Study Session Meeting Minutes Dated June 10, 2025
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes Dated June 10, 2025
- c. Payables Dated June 23, 2025 \$525,016.15
- d. Progress Estimate No. 03 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements Excavation West \$155,535.95

6. Department Head Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

Rob also wanted to thank the Council for thinking of the citizens when they make their decisions.

Budget Report/Treasurer Report

See attached report.

- b. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

- The county has completed the crack seal and will begin the chip seal on July 9, 2025.

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- Dura patching is complete.
- Public Works has been street sweeping to get all the loose gravel cleaned up.
- The punch list for First Street is being worked on and then will be given to the contractor to finish the project.
- Stafford Hill is almost complete. They will have a punch list also.
- Second Street Roundabout is on schedule, and they are scheduled to pave this week.
- Bullfrog Flats has installed 2,000 lineal feet of water main and installed side sewers.

Councilmember Cook was concerned about the code updates regarding outdoor seating and the snow melt use guidelines. He wanted to make sure that there was plenty of information given to the public regarding keeping the new concrete looking nice.

c. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

d. Fire Chief - Ed Mills

Chief Mills informed the Council that the weather has been windy and dry and that the fire season is about 3 weeks ahead of schedule. With the Fourth of July Fireworks Display coming up, Chief Mills wants to provide a safe environment for the community. The County Fire Marshall does not think we will hit the threshold of having a burn ban in place by the 4th. The surrounding departments are in full support of the show, and they will be making their equipment and staff available to the City of Cle Elum. Chief Mills feels comfortable with the coverage. The pyrotechnics that are putting on the show stated the show would be canceled if the wind was above 14-15 mph or gusts up to 20 mph. The mortars they are using this year are bigger, so they will go higher, which will make for a safer show.

Mayor Lundh stated that Cle Elum has already had two fires in the last month. This will be the only fireworks show in the County, so it has the potential to draw alot of people.

The Council discussed the fire danger and liability but felt that Chief Mills could make the final call. But as of now, they are in support of the fireworks show on the 4th of July.

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

a. Visitor Center - Shasta

See attached report.

Mayor Lundh suggested putting some brochures at the PSE Wind Farm.

b. Downtown Association - Jordan Peterson

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See attached report.

There will be no street fair this year and no parking at the Memorial Park ball fields due to the fireworks show.

- c. 2025 MouseAbout Foundation Softball Event - Overnight Camping Variance - Donna Costello

This group asks for a camping variance every year during the MouseAbout Foundation Softball Event.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to give provisional approval once the event is approved by the Fire Chief and Police Chief; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

- a. Ordinance 1698 CEMC Text Amendments - Colleda Monick, Planner

Colleda informed the Council that the Planning Commission had had 18 meetings to come up with the proposed changes. They made changes to title 17.14 of the Table of Permitted Uses. These changes were passed unanimously by the Planning Commission. Additional guidance could come with the Comprehensive Plan Update. This is available with a grant from the Department of Commerce.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:56 p.m. and closed at 6:58 p.m. with one comment from Bill Hinkle stating that he appreciates all the work that the planning commission did with adopting the language, and he was happy with the language change that was made regarding brick buildings.

- b. Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program - Mike Heit, HLA

Mike Heit of HLA stated that this is the annual 6-year TIP that gets submitted to the state. This list is similar to last year. They deleted a couple of projects, added some, renamed one project, and revised others. There are a total of 17 projects.

The projects listed are:

1. First Street & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing
2. Signalized Intersection Safety Improvements at W. First Street & Hartwig Blvd.
3. Stafford Avenue Sidewalk and SR 903 Speed Camera
4. Pine Street and First Street Intersection Improvements
5. Chipseal, major street locations: 4-year cycles
6. Citywide Active Transportation Connector
7. Stafford Avenue Sidewalks
8. Railroad Street Rehabilitation and Truck Route

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9. Roslyn CR-W First Street Bridge Replacement
10. Chipseal, local access streets: 8-year cycles
11. Second Street Resurfacing Reed Street to Pennsylvania Ave.
12. Second Street Resurfacing Pennsylvania Ave. to Short Ave.
13. Ranger Station Road and Miller Avenue and Second Street Intersection Improvements
14. Railroad Street Truck Route Extension
15. Second Street Pathway Phase 3
16. Third Street Reconstruction
17. Pine Street and Second Street Intersection Improvements

The Public Hearing opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:03 p.m. with no public comment.

9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business

- a. Ordinance 1698 CEMC Text Amendments - Colleda Monick, Planner

Discussion was had regarding religious worship and why it is excluded in the Public Use District. The Public Use District is mainly properties owned by the city, like parks, green areas, horse parks etc. Colleda explained that previously, religious worship was only allowed in three areas. They also discussed whether Civic Organizations might use the Public Use District, like the Boys and Girls Club, Eagles, etc.

Colleda stated that the outdoor seating and sidewalk code be moved to Title 12 as this is easier to change. When something is in the zoning code, these changes need to go to the Department of Commerce and the Planning Commission. This is a 60-day process.

Discussion was also had regarding short-term rentals in a residential area and the Type 3 and Type 2 permit processes.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1698 CEMC Text Amendments and to change 17.50.010. The purpose and intent of the Public Use district is to provide for and protect areas for government and civic functions. Such uses include parks, government buildings, hospitals, educational institutions, non-government, civic, or service organizations, libraries and museums, recreation uses and schools; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- b. Resolution 2025-015 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program 2026-2031 - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Mike Heit of HLA recommends the Council approve Resolution 2025-015 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

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Discussion was had regarding the priority of the projects and this resolution lets the public know what projects are important to the City. There are some grants that are in the process associated with some of the projects listed.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-015 with the projects in this order

- 8. Railroad Street Rehabilitation and Truck Route**
 - 2. Signalized Intersection Safety Improvements at W. First Street & Hartwig Blvd.**
 - 3. Stafford Avenue Sidewalk and SR 903 Speed Camera**
 - 1. First Street & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing**
 - 5. Chipseal, major street locations: 4-year cycles**
 - 6. Citywide Active Transportation Connector**
 - 9. Roslyn CR-W First Street Bridge Replacement**
 - 4. Pine Street and First Street Intersection Improvements**
 - 7. Stafford Avenue Sidewalks**
 - 10. Chipseal, local access streets: 8-year cycles**
 - 11. Second Street Resurfacing Reed Street to Pennsylvania Ave.**
 - 12. Second Street Resurfacing Pennsylvania Ave. to Short Ave.**
 - 13. Ranger Station Road and Miller Avenue and Second Street Intersection Improvements**
 - 14. Railroad Street Truck Route Extension**
 - 15. Second Street Pathway Phase 3**
 - 16. Third Street Reconstruction**
 - 17. Pine Street and Second Street Intersection Improvements;**
- Seconded by Councilmember Williams.**
MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- c. Ordinance 1694 Amending Title 5 CEMC Business Licenses, Taxes, and Regulations - Steven Harper, Chair

The General Government Committee recommends the Council approve this update to Title 5.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1694 Amending Title 5; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- d. UKC Senior Center Spaghetti Western - 2025 Lodging Tax Application - Steven Harper Chair

Councilmember Harper was the only member in attendance for the Lodging Tax & Events Committee, so he wanted the Council as a whole to make the decision.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the UKC Senior Center Spaghetti Western 2025 Lodging Tax Application in the amount of up to \$2,500 in allowable expenses; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

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- e. MouseAbout Softball Tournament 2025 Event Application - Steven Harper, Chair

Councilmember Harper wanted the Council to approve this after the camping accommodations were discussed.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the MouseAbout Softball Tournament 2025 Event Application; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

- f. Letter of Support for Fire/Medical Services Standard of Cover Assessment Process - Mayor Lundh

This item was deleted as the Council of Governments has already moved forward with this letter.

- g. Progress Estimate No. 03 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements Excavation West \$155,535.95

The Council had a question regarding whether the percentage is more than 100%. Does that mean they spent more than what was budgeted on that line item? That is correct. They also discussed the 5 feet of asphalt from the curb to parking, if the contractor was still planning on doing this work as it would make plowing of the snow easier. Matthew Bailey stated that, yes, they are still planning on completing this.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve progress estimate No. 3 Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 6 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

Beth Williams stated that the Fire Advisory Board is preparing a letter to District 6 regarding fire consolidating and hiring a consultant to help with the process.

Councilmember Harper informed the Council that there is a General Government Committee meeting on Wednesday, and they will be discussing Title 6 animals.

Mayor Lundh informed the Council that COG Council of Governments is doing an analysis of standards of fire coverage to make sure there are no holes in fire coverage.

A letter was sent to the DOT regarding the litter on I90.

The Council of Governments is also requesting RFQ's for a lobbyist to advocate for the County as a whole.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis informed the Council that the Public Health and Safety Committee met twice last week to discuss addressing and looking at the fire code to make it align with the fire department by-laws.

Also, the Planning Commission is going to start working on the Comprehensive Plan.

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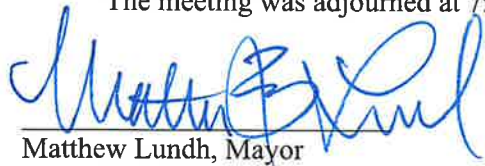
12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

13. Mayor's Report

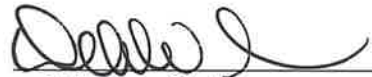
Mayor Lundh introduced the new city attorney, Curtis Chambers, with Inslee Best.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Matthew Lundh, Mayor



Debbie Lee, Clerk