

Public Safety & Health Committee

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT OMANS

CITY CLERK
DEBBIE LEE

FINANCE DIRECTOR
ROBIN NEWCOMB

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
MATHEW BAILEY

POLICE CHIEF
RICH ALBO

FIRE CHIEF
ED MILLS

PLANNER
COLLEDA MONICK

Agenda
August 20, 2025
2:00 PM



119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

MAYOR
MATTHEW LUNDH

MAYOR PRO TEM
STEVEN HARPER

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH
COMMITTEE
CASSIDY BUECHLE-CURTIS -
CHAIR
KEN RATLIFF
BETH WILLIAMS

CITY ATTORNEY
CURTIS CHAMBERS

Join Virtually with Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7573184018?pwd=dERndjBJVC9GdVQ1d2ISRExwZFhXZz09>
Meeting ID: 757 318 4018 Passcode: 98922

Join by Phone: 1-(253)215-8782, Meeting ID: 757 318 4018, Passcode:98922

TextMyGov

Receive city text alert notifications: text CLEELUM to 91896

DISCLAIMER: The City does not guarantee that virtual or telephonic access to the City Council meeting will be available and the City does not warrant audio quality. Attendees are encouraged to attend in-person.

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Municipal Code - Addressing (fire/police)
3. **New Business**
 - a. July 23, 2025 Cle Elum Public Safety & Health Committee Study Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. July 23, 2025, Cle Elum Public Safety & Health Committee Meeting Minutes
 - c. Fire Hydrant Inspections
4. **Other Committee Comments**
5. **Adjourn**

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Council Meeting: August 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

General Government Committee Meeting: August 27, 2025 @ 8:30 a.m.

Coal Mines Trail Commission Meeting: September 1, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting: September 2, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting: September 3, 2025 @ 8:30 a.m.

Lodging Tax & Events Committee Meeting: September 10, 2025 @ 8:30 a.m.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting: September 16, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.

Public Safety & Health Committee Meeting: September 17, 2025 @ 12:00 p.m.

Public Safety & Health Committee Agenda

August 20, 2025

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CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 23, 2025
2:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis - present
Ken Ratliff - present
Beth Williams - present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Ed Mills - Fire Chief

2. Unfinished Business

a. Municipal Code - Addressing (fire/police)

Points of discussion:

- The authority is the City Council.
- The committee went through the entire address chapter.
- Use the first method as a grid method and the second method as the Kittitas County method.
- Odd numbers are on the left side and even numbers on the right side.
- When addressing an ADU there is a difference between exterior addressing and interior addressing.
- Add the language for multifamily housing to match the previous language.
- Also check to make sure the code aligns with the building code language.
- Living units above a commercial business will be addressed in accordance with the multifamily complex section of the municipal code.
- The address needs to be displayed on a proper door, porch or front gate, with 4-inch signage.
- Code Enforcement will include anyone that is named the designee.
- Cassidy will check on the language of the last two paragraphs. There was discussion about whether a 10-day notification was too short of time.

3. New Business

4. Other Committee Comments

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July 23, 2025

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair

Debbie Lee, Clerk

CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 23, 2025
3:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis - present
Ken Ratliff - present
Beth Williams - present

Matthew Lundh - present
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Ed Mills - Fire Chief

2. Unfinished Business

a. Cle Elum Municipal Code Chapter 2.15 Fire Department

The committee has made some progress on Municipal Code chapter 2.15 Fire Department to reflect the Fire Departments By-laws. The by-laws were last updated in 2019. Chief Mills will do a poll to schedule a study session as this would be more effective. The committee would like to see everyone come to the meeting with suggestions.

b. Cle Elum Flammable Vegetation

This suggested code addition was brought to the attention of Chief Mills from the Fire Advisory Committee. It speaks to common hazards that are in the area. A flammable vegetation municipal code would help with compliance. The first page of this would be code language and the second page would be more informational. The committee will send this to legal and ask for guidance on the enforcement portion that describes the violation penalty amount and how the appeal process would work. Also, make sure the language is consistent throughout the code. After legal review, this will be brought to the council for consideration.

3. New Business

a. Public Safety & Health Meeting Minutes Dated June 18, 2025

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Meeting minutes dated June 18, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Williams.
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

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b. Public Safety & Health Meeting Minutes Dated June 20, 2025

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Meeting minutes dated June 20, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Williams.
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

c. Unmarked Police Vehicles Discussion - Rich Albo, Police Chief

Chief Albo explained that previously he had unmarked police vehicles added to the municipal code so it would be legal for the Police Department to use them. The intent is to keep marked police cars for daily use primarily by chiefs and sergeants.

Sergeant Venera wanted to inform the committee of some benefits and insight into the use of unmarked vehicles.

- Designed for an admin role with a police light package, people yielding to traffic is not an issue. The police car has good visibility from the front, not as good from the side and rear of the vehicles as far as police lighting.
- You have better access to hide/blend in for pursuits as it does not have graphics. It has enabled the department to not chase subjects but apprehend them in previous experiences.
- You can park a block or two away from the incident and not be so obvious.
- Benefits more at night. There is more of a tactile flexibility. Unmarked vehicles are not a daily vehicle that would be used for routine stops.
- Visibility is better as the windows are not tinted.
- It is more common for supervisors to use unmarked vehicles.
- From a safety standpoint, the vehicle still needs better performance tires. Decals and tires are about the same amount of money. Being diligent about money, the department would prefer safer tires.
- Supervisors carry a significant amount of equipment and the unmarked vehicles are more readily accessible, and these vehicles usually have more room.
- There are a lot of positives to the department and community, and it's not as costly to outfit unmarked vehicles.

4. Other Committee Comments

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair

Debbie Lee, Clerk