

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 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 via zoom
 Steven Harper - present
 Jerred Weis - present via zoom
 Steven Cook - present
 Audrey Malek - present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Colleda Monick - Planner
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief
 Rich Albo - Police Chief

- a. August 12, 2025 Sign-In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Dawn Bass opposes the smoke shop across from the Teen Center.

Leslie Ditsworth opposes the bong smoke shop in downtown.

Hillary Jensen understands that filling the space is challenging, but a smoke shop goes against family-friendly values, and they should look at the community as a whole.

Jessica Cranefield is the prevention specialist for the Cle Elum School District and opposes the proposed location of the smoke shop.

Ethan Horton believes that a smoke shop will amplify the problem of teens and vaping and was happy to hear there was an ice cream shop in town.

Claire Faucher explained that kids become adults and the decision they make now will have an impact on their lives. We need to protect kids from addiction and there is not a place for a vape shop within the City of Cle Elum.

Megan Fluegge wanted to know what action the council could do to possibly revisit zoning

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restrictions and requirements.

Ethan Bainter stated he was not a smoker but with this new shop it would be easier to acquire products and become addicted.

Holly Robins agrees with opposing the smoke shop as it is a risk to the community and the health of residents.

Jordan Peterson is speaking on behalf of herself and is in opposition to this location as it does not fit the vision of the strategic plan.

See attached letters submitted via email by Monica Medalen, Jessica Cranefield and John Belcher regarding the location of the smoke shop.

- a. Monica Medalen letter to the Council Re: Vape
- b. Jessica Cranefield - letter Re: smoke shop harmful to youth
- c. John Belcher Superintendent Cle Elum School - Opposition to smoke shop

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

Mayor Lundh presented Councilmember Cassidy Buechle-Curtis with a certificate of Municipal Leadership. She attended classes to receive this award. Mayor Lundh encouraged the Council that they could get this award also.

Mayor Lundh asked for a moment of silence for former Police Chief Brennan Milloy, who served the City of Cle Elum for 17 years. His service is this Saturday at Johnston and Williams Funeral Home in Ellensburg.

- a. Cassidy Buechle-Curtis Certificate of Municipal Leadership

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Councilmember Harper would like to add #5 consideration of Ordinance 1703 Emergency Moratorium on selling vapes and smoking paraphernalia. Also adding EConorthwest professional service agreement under New Business H.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to amend the agenda by adding #5

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consideration of Ordinance 1703 Emergency Moratorium and adding under New Business EConorthwest professional service agreement to the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. **Emergency Moratorium - Relating to the sale of vaping products and smoking paraphernalia**

- a. Ordinance 1703 - Relating to the Sale of Vaping Products and Smoking Paraphernalia - Councilmember Harper

Councilmember Harper wanted to thank the Mayor, City Attorney and Colleda for getting this Ordinance drafted as it was a collaborative effort. Councilmember Harper would like to see this pass with a unanimous vote. This is to place a moratorium on vaping and tobacco products in the downtown corridor.

Mayor Lundh explained that 5 votes had to be in favor of the ordinance due to this being an emergency moratorium. The council will need to set a date and time for a public hearing within the next 6 months.

A poll vote was taken and all 7 Council members voted yes.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1703 Emergency Moratorium; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

6. **Consent Agenda**

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- a. July 22, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- b. July 22, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Payables Dated August 12, 2025 \$686,846.44
- d. Payroll Vouchers Dated August 5, 2025 \$318,535.75

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- e. Progress Estimate No. 2 Second Street Roundabout - Interwest Construction Inc. \$95,512.47

7. Department Head Reports

- a. City Administrator - Rob Omans

See attached report.

- b. Planner - Colleda Monick

See attached report.

The City of Cle Elum is assisting Hope Source/Frank Chop with their NEPA. This is not a city project.

The Planning Commission will need to review zoning changes regarding Ordinance No. 1703 Emergency Moratorium before it expires.

- c. Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

See attached report.

Blue Fern is working with the County regarding a roundabout on Bullfrog Flats.

- d. Police Chief - Rich Albo

See attached report.

Councilmember Harper would like to invite S. Cle Elum to National Night Out. Councilmember Buechle-Curtis stated it was a good time, and it was nice to see everyone.

- e. Fire Chief - Ed Mills

See attached report.

- f. Water/Wastewater Manager - William LaRue

See attached report.

The plant is producing 2.25 million gallons per day and running 19.5 hours per day.

8. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

- a. Mountain River Trail Update - Jason Brower President MRT Camping Association

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Jason Brower is the President of Mountain River Trails Camping Association. He has been working with the County and bringing the code issues up to date. He would like to see a better relationship with the community and neighbors. He has been meeting with the county code enforcement and fire marshal to come up with the solutions to some of the problems. Mountain River Trails is having an open house on August 23 and 24, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and invites the public to attend so they can see some of the changes and updates that have occurred. Fifty structures have been removed.

9. Business Requiring Public Hearings

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Amendment to Interlocal Agreement Consolidated Lodging Tax Grant Process - Councilmember Cook

Discussion was had regarding this agreement. It had been discussed previously and some of the wording was not clear. The Ellensburg city attorney asked Ellensburg to refrain from voting on the interlocal agreement until the language was clarified. The Cle Elum city attorney stated the language is not show stopping. There was some concern about getting this information at the last minute and not enough time to review the language, and Councilmember Cook would prefer to wait and vote on the final draft. The quorum requirement was removed, so there was some concern regarding the OPMA.

The committee has worked through the current language of the agreement, and the language can always be amended and voted on again.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for the Consolidated Lodging Tax Grant Process; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Harper called for a poll vote:

Buechelle-Curtis - yes

Ratliff - yes

Williams - yes

Harper - yes

Weis - yes

Cook - yes

Malek - yes

- b. Updated Cemetery Rules - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Matt Bailey wanted to thank Rebecca, Darcie, Ken and Henry for all the work that was put into the new rules. These rules will be placed on two sign boards, one at the main entrance

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and one at the other entrance. This is an internal policy and will set clearer guidelines for the cemetery. Volunteers and public involvement is vital to keeping the cemetery looking nice.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the new cemetery rules; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. New Business

a. Resolution 2025-016 Cle Elum Official Newspaper - City Administrator - Rob Omans

Rob Omans explained that this is a yearly RCW requirement to advertise for an official newspaper for the City of Cle Elum. This is where all notices, bids, etc. are posted.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-016 naming the Northern Kittitas County Tribune as the official newspaper for the City of Cle Elum; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

b. Ordinance 1702 - Amending Section 5.02.010 Update Minimum Business Threshold - Councilmember Harper

This is an update from the Department of Revenue increasing the threshold and raising the threshold every four years per the CPI. The General Government Committee recommends this for approval to the council.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1702 Amending Section 5.02.010 Update the Minimum Business Threshold; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

c. Resolution 2025-017 Surplus Police Vehicle/2 iPhones - Rich Albo, Police Chief

Chief Albo stated this vehicle will be sold at an auction as it is not a useful police vehicle any longer.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-017 Surplus of 1 police vehicle and 2 iPhones; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

d. Signalized Intersection Safety Imp - W First Street - Hartwig Blvd. Local Agency Consultant Agreement - Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

Matt Bailey stated the next four items are federally funded projects and these are certified agency agreements vetted by the county and Washington State Department of

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Transportation. These agreements would cover engineering services provided by HLA.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Signalized Intersection Safety Improvements Agency Consultant Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- e. First Street & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing Local Agency Consultant Agreement - Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the First & Oakes Avenue Resurfacing Local Agency Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- f. Park Street Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study Local Agency Consultant Agreement - Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Park Street Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study Local Agency Consultant Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- g. Stafford Avenue Sidewalk & SR 903 Speed Camera Local Agency Consultant Agreement - Public Works Director - Mathew Bailey

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Stafford Avenue Sidewalk & SR 903 Speed Camera Local Agency Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- h. Professional Service Agreement for the City of Cle Elum - EConorthwest Fiscal and Economic Consulting Services Bullfrog Flats Urban Growth Area - Mayor Lundh

This is a professional agreement with EConorthwest who will do fiscal and economic study on Bullfrog Flats Urban Growth Area.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Professional Service Agreement with EConorthwest Fiscal and Economic Consulting Services Bullfrog Flats Urban Growth Area; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

12. Report of Committees

- a. Public Safety & Health

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Unmarked Police Vehicles - Rich Albo, Police Chief

See attached report.

Discussion was had about the pros and cons of unmarked police vehicles. There was concern regarding state law, and the city of Cle Elum changed its Municipal Code in 2023 to allow the Chief of Police to have an unmarked car. There is also concern about using these vehicles as patrol vehicles. They could consider ghost-type decals that are not reflective but still say police on the vehicles.

The approximate cost of marking a police vehicle is minimal at about \$1,000-\$1,500 per car.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to require all city police vehicles to be marked; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION FAILED: 1 yes 6 no.

POLL VOTE:

Buechele-Curtis - no

Williams - no

Ratliff - no

Harper - yes

Weis - no

Cook - no

Malek - no

13. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis stated that the Public Safety and Health Committee had a study session regarding addressing, and they are still working on this.

Councilmember Williams has not heard any word on the progress of the AEDs.

The Homeless and Affordable Housing met, and they have a county-wide plan with Hope Source and the city will be voting on this soon.

The Lodging Tax & Events Committee will be meeting tomorrow morning.

The Council is encouraged to sign up to help install the wall that heals that is coming to Ellensburg.

There is a non-profit fair on the 17th of August at the city park. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Councilmember Harper wanted to thank Public Works for getting rid of the sandwich boards that have been all over town.

- a. The Wall That Heals - September 2, 2025, Volunteer Link
<http://www.thewallthathealsellensburg2025.com/>

14. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh announced that nominations are open for the 2025 Pangrazi Award and the application is located on the city website.

The Mayor attended two ribbon-cutting ceremonies this week - NW Audiology and Cascade

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Caldera Spas.

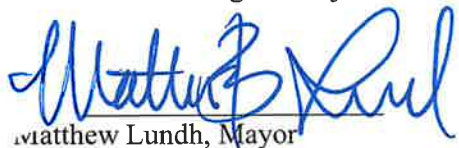
The city will be attempting a settlement with the bankruptcy judge and City Heights.

Usually the city cancels the 2nd meeting of August. Council members are encouraged to reach out and let the Mayor know if they are available for the meeting and if nothing is pressing, the meeting may be canceled.

The city was awarded two capital grants from the county that equaled about \$3 million. This is for the Horse Park and the Community Rec Center. This has been put on a 60-day hold, so the county could understand how this could affect the bankruptcy as it is on property that the city owns.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Matthew Lundh, Mayor



Debbie Lee, Clerk

