

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

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

8:30 AM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Steven Cook - present
Ken Ratliff - present
Jerred Weis - absent

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
William LaRue - Water Manager
Debbie Lee - Clerk

2. Unfinished Business

a. Flag Pole Park Proposal - Gary Berndt, Rotary

Gary Berndt reported that Rotary has an interest in renaming Flag Pole Park to possibly Rotary Flag Pole Park. Gary provided information (see attached) regarding improvements and maintenance that Rotary would be interested in helping the city with. This could be electrical upgrades, seating, replacing flags, etc. The mowing and watering would be the City of Cle Elum's responsibility. This could either be through a contract or a resolution. Gary will talk with Rotary of Ellensburg and see what their agreement with the City of Ellensburg is regarding having their name attached to Rotary Park. Gary will meet with the Rotary of Cle Elum and brainstorm with a couple of the committee members to come up with an agreement.

b. UKC Baseball Further Discussion - UPDATE

Rob Omans, City Administrator, reviewed the comments regarding scheduling. Rob will work on the fees, scheduling and insurance requirements and come back to the committee with a clean copy for review.

Discussion was had regarding whether there needed to be some sort of oversight of park use times by Little League, so if anyone else wanted to schedule an event, it would not interfere. The committee talked about the UKC Baseball charging for parking for their tournaments. This revenue would be used for improvements and maintenance of the field.

3. New Business

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- a. [August 6, 2025 Cle Elum Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

MOTION: Committee Member Cook made a motion to approve August 6, 2025 Public Works & Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes; seconded by Committee Member Ratliff.

MOTION : 2 yes 0 no.

- b. [Calvary Chapel - Water/Sewer Classification Discussion - Dan Renshaw](#)

Dan Renshaw has concern over the increase in his water bill, due to the fact that the church is considered commercial and not residential, so the water that he uses for landscaping is being charged through the sewer. Discussion of possibly adding a sewer deduction meter was had, but the cost is high for a not-for-profit. He was hoping maybe the code could be changed to exclude churches from the sewer use billing. Church income usually decreases in the summer also. His church does not have a commercial kitchen and usually the food served is brought in and not prepared at the site.

The committee will bring this item up for discussion during committee reports at the next Council Meeting.

- c. [Water Waste Water Contract/Staffing Decision - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director](#)

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, presented job descriptions to the committee for having the city staff maintain the water and wastewater plants. A spreadsheet was presented (see attached) and Mathew projects the city could save about \$300,000 per year by doing this. The Council needs to make a decision whether to either staff and maintain the plants or sign another agreement with Veolia in December. The city owns the water and wastewater plants. Discussion was had about giving the city enough time to hire and get employees on board prior to December. Mathew felt there was enough time to do this.

It was explained that most plants are operated and maintained by the municipality, not contracted. The benefits of having a contract is buying power, but there is a percentage added to all purchases. Also, staffing is an asset as they have employees at hand. Mathew stated the city would make sure that the city employees maintain certification and succession built in is the goal. Also, since the city belongs to Evergreen Rural Water, it is a resource that can be used.

- d. [Stormwater Billing - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director](#)

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, explained to the committee that the city has a loan/grant for a survey of the stormwater system. They are currently in the investigative phase where they are determining the condition of the system, mapping the system and problem sites. The city will need to recoup the cost to cover the loan portion. The initial suggested cost would be \$10 per month for residential customers and there would be a commercial calculation, vacant land would possibly have an exemption. Discussion was had regarding roof drains and how that would not burden the sewer plant. The funds that are

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collected can be used to expand the stormwater system and maintenance and operation. New developments are contributing to the stormwater system when they develop.

Mathew will work on the stormwater impacts on the sewer plant and encourage the committee to discuss this further. They discussed coming back to the committee with a draft stormwater plan.

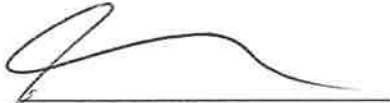
- e. NW Natural Water - Utility Inquiry - Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, reported that NW Natural Water recently met with the city and HLA regarding the possible purchase of the water and wastewater treatment plants. The committee stated they did not want staff wasting time on this topic. This is not a route the city would want to take.

4. Other Committee Comments

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.


Ken Ratliff, Chair

Steven Cook
Acting Chair
10/1/25


Debbie Lee, Clerk