

**CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2025
6:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Councilmembers Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis
Beth Williams
Jerred Weis
Steven Cook
Audrey Malek

Councilmembers Absent:

Steven Harper
Ken Ratliff

Excused:

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmembers Harper and Ratliff; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Colleda Monick - Planner
William La Rue - Water/Wastewater Manager
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Mike Heit - HLA
Rich Albo - Chief of Police via zoom

- a. Sign In Sheet — November 10, 2025

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards, and Recognition

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- a. Council Meeting Minutes — October 28, 2025
- b. Payroll Vouchers — November 5, 2025 — \$302,245.61
- c. Payables — November 11, 2025 — \$323,191.36

6. Department Head Reports

- a. Rob Omans — City Administrator

See attached report.

Public Record Request October 2025

October 2025 Building Permits

- b. Colleda Monick — Planner

See attached report.

Councilmember Cook inquired about the origin of the franchise agreement request. Staff reported that Inland Cellular submitted the request and is seeking use of city right-of-way for the installation of fiber.

- c. Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

See attached report.

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Councilmember Cook asked for an update on the 3rd Street service abandonment. Public Works reported that a different part was required for the service line and has been ordered.

Councilmember Malek requested an update on the Coal Mines Trail utility hole cover. Public Works noted that all the risers are ready and installation will begin soon.

d. Rich Albo — Police Chief

Chief Albo reported that work is ongoing to achieve compliance with sales tax requirements under HB 2015. A significant portion of the work has been completed, with additional tasks still remaining.

e. Ed Mills — Fire Chief

See attached report.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis wished Chief Mills a happy birthday.

f. William LaRue — Water/Wastewater Manager

See attached reports.

Councilmember Cook asked when the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) would be installed. Staff reported that the crew would need to come in to complete the installation.

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

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

a. Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements — Final Project Closeout Process — Mike Heit — HLA

See attached report.

Mike Heit from HLA introduced the staff report for the Public Hearing on the Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:31 p.m. and, with no public comment received, was closed at 6:31 p.m.

9. **Unfinished Business**

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10. New Business

- a. Kittitas County Economic Development Partnership Documents — Bryan Elliott — Kittitas County Auditor

Bryan Elliott, Chair of the Council of Governments, provided an update and referenced the attached report. He noted that the COG played a significant role in the project. Formal agreements are now in place, including an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) as the legal document and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing the partnership between the municipality and consultants.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement and the Memo of Understanding for the Kittitas County Economic Development Partnership Documents; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- b. Task Order No. 2025-04 — Bullfrog Flats Development Review — Mike Heit — HLA

Two task orders from HLA were presented. Mike Heit, HLA, introduced both task orders and noted that the Council may choose to vote on them either together or separately. The current task orders expire at the end of the year.

The City Heights task order also expires at the end of the year and is being renewed in anticipation of further development.

MOTION: Councilmember Williams made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign both Task Orders No. 2025-04 and 2025-05; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- c. Task Order No. 2025-05 — City Heights Development Review — Mike Heit — HLA

Councilmember Cook asked how amendable the task orders are. Mike Heit, HLA, states they are a general task order.

- d. Indian John Service Agreement — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, introduced the Indian John Service Agreement, which updates an existing contract that has been in place for 20 years. The primary updates include the removal of a designated rate, classification as a Commercial A user, and specification of monthly testing requirements. The agreement has been reviewed by the Public Works Committee, legal staff, and WSDOT, with four months of edits incorporated into this final version.

Staff provided additional context regarding the Williams trucked-in sewer connection. A

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sewer force main installed in 2014 included improvements and additional Equivilant Residential Units (ERUs) paid for by the property owner. Concerns regarding elevated black water concentrations from RV use were addressed: commercial users are classified within ranges under Commercial A, and if subsequent testing shows concentrations above the range, the account would be reclassified as Commercial B.

A meter is installed and tied into their pump station to measure gallons. While there is no testing port on-site, testing occurs at the lagoon. The facility pre-treats sewage in a four-chambered lagoon, resulting in somewhat diluted sewage that is pumped, typically, to the treatment facility between October and April.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Indian John Service Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

e. [Request for Leak Adjustment — Shirley Petrich — Steven Cook — Councilmember](#)

Councilmember Cook explained that an underground leak was identified and repaired in a timely manner, with all work performed in accordance with code. The Public Works Committee recommends approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the request for leak adjustment in the amount of \$493.27; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

f. [Ordinance 1714 — 2026 Garbage Rates — Steven Cook — Councilmember](#)

Councilmember Cook presented a 19% increase in garbage rates. He noted that the Garbage Fund has operated at a deficit for the past five years, the reserve is depleted, and the fund is now running negative. Current rates have been subsidized. The proposed increase would allow the fund to remain budget-neutral with a small reserve and is projected to generate approximately \$70,000. The reserve would provide a buffer against potential increases in tipping fees by the county or changes in the occupation tax. A 15% increase would only balance the fund temporarily. The committee recommended approval of the rate increase.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Ordinance 1714–2026 Garbage Rates; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

g. [Resolution 2025-024 — 2026 Water Rates — Steven Cook — Councilmember](#)

Councilmember Cook presented updates on both water and sewer rates. He noted that the rates are codified in the municipal code to increase by 3% in January, with resolutions formally adopting these adjustments.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-024 Water Rates and Resolution 2025-025 Sewer rates for 2026; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

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MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 0 no.

- h. Resolution 2025-025 — 2026 Sewer Rates — Steven Cook — Councilmember

11. Report of Committees

- a. Public Works & Community Development

Councilmember Cook provided updates on several items from previous discussions:

- The Upper Kittitas County (UKC) baseball agreement is under review with proposed revisions by the attorneys. The item will return to the committee and then to council for approval.
- Comments on the Blue Fern park proposal have been submitted to Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, and will be forwarded to Blue Fern.
- The stormwater plan was discussed at length. Councilmember Cook has additional comments and will submit them to Bailey.

- b. Public Safety & Health

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis announced an upcoming meeting on November 19th at 1:00 p.m. A long list of items will be discussed and brainstormed, including e-bikes. Buechle-Curtis encouraged council members to submit any comments they would like considered.

Regarding the Planning Commission, there is interest in reviewing allowable uses in the downtown area, specifically for sports and recreation facilities. Councilmembers were advised to watch the meeting or review the staff report. Community interest has been expressed in facilities such as martial arts studios, dance studios, and pickleball courts. Reviewing the meeting minutes will help Councilmembers become familiar with the topic.

- c. Lodging Tax & Events

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

Three committee members finalized scores for the consolidated process. The Consolidated Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (CLTAC) meeting will be held Friday this week, and Councilmembers Malek and Harper will be in attendance.

A local Spokane-based foodie show, which broadcasts in Eastern and Western Washington, has proposed doing a segment on Cle Elum restaurants. They inquired about eligibility for lodging tax funding and will be submitting a formal application.

- d. General Government

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Councilmember Weis reported that they are awaiting the animal code revisions from Jackie VonDongen, Code Enforcement.

e. Coal Mines Trail

Concerns regarding utility hole covers, including liability and other issues, remain. Public Works will continue to address these matters.

The Heritage Club is partnering to install signage along the Coal Mines Trail, including basic trail rules, leave-no-trace principles, guidance for pedestrians, equestrians, and e-bikes, as well as information on timber placement at the park. Virgil Amick, Secretary, will follow up on the timber locations. The Heritage Club plans to hold an open house in the spring to gather public feedback on the trail.

The December Coal Mines Trail meeting will be canceled.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Weis noted that he will conclude his Council service at the end of the year, with John Cornelius assuming Position 4 on January 1, 2026.

Councilmember Weis, currently representing Cle Elum on the Solid Waste Committee, noted that since he will no longer be on the Council, he recommends that another Councilmember volunteer to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Williams informed the council that Dan Morbacher will give a presentation to Rotary on November 19, 2025, regarding Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) made for the outdoors. She noted that cameras are installed on these outdoor installations.

Councilmember Cook recognized Veterans Day and Polish Independence Day.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis highlighted the upcoming Veterans Day event tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. at Flag Pole Park and thanked the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District for today's assembly, which was described as phenomenal.

13. Mayor's Report

The Mayor commented that the school assembly was excellent, with veterans participating in police vehicle rides and a parade.

Upcoming elected officials training is scheduled for December 6 in Union Gap, serving as a refresher for recently elected officials.

A regional water and sewer meeting was held on October 30, 2025; these quarterly meetings have been informative.

The Rotary Club will host a brief ceremony tomorrow to dedicate a new metal sign at Flag Pole

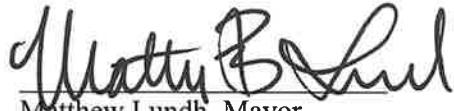
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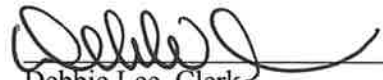
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Park, donated by Bill Pare. All were encouraged to attend.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 7:07 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk