

CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

1:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET

CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Members Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis via zoom
Ken Ratliff

Absent:

Beth Williams

Staff Present:

Debbie Lee - Clerk
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Rich Albo - Police Chief

2. Unfinished Business

a. [Municipal Code — Addressing \(Fire/Police\)](#)

No major updates on Items A and B. Both remain with the City Attorney, and we are currently awaiting their responses.

b. [Cle Elum Municipal Code — Chapter 2.15 — Fire Department](#)

3. New Business

a. [Cle Elum Public Safety & Health Committee Study Session — Meeting Minutes — October 15, 2025](#)

MOTION: Committee member Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Committee Study Session Minutes; seconded by committee member Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 2 yes 0 no.

b. [Cle Elum Public Safety & Health Committee — Meeting Minutes — October 15, 2025](#)

MOTION: Committee member Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Committee Meeting Minutes; seconded by committee member Buechle-Curtis.

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MOTION CARRIED: 2 yes 0 no.

c. Title 8 — Health & Safety

The committee noted that the Health and Safety Title contains a substantial amount of material. Members were asked if there were any items they wished to address first.

Committee member Ken Ratliff suggested that the committee review and edit any items needing updates, regardless of age, and retain provisions that still apply. He noted that some sections have received more recent attention (e.g., garbage, last updated in 2003). He recommended identifying items that should be removed and those that should remain. The committee agreed to begin working on this title at the next meeting.

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, identified outdated sections, including fireworks, junkyards, and junk vehicles, although junkyards still exist within city limits and will need to be addressed. He also stated that the section on television and antennas is outdated. He proposed consulting Rob Omans, City Administrator, regarding antenna regulations. Bailey agreed that leaving outdated sections in place may cause issues, and fees must be updated to reflect current costs.

Ed Mills, Fire Chief, stated that the fire department deals with recurring false alarms. This results in unnecessary use of time, fuel, and resources. The current chapter only states that false alarms are not allowed, but does not address related fees. Mills recommended reviewing Ellensburg's code, which has addressed similar problems. For police-related false alarms due to equipment issues, the suggested process includes issuing a notice and providing time for correction, with fines assessed for continued alarms. Consistency between police and fire procedures was emphasized. Mills also recommended reviewing the Fire Protection section, which dates back to 1955, and updating it to be applicable to 2025.

The committee acknowledged that penalties and fees throughout the title will need revision to align with recent updates. Members will review the code and return to the next meeting with comments, concerns, and recommended updates.

d. E-Bike — Discussion

Committee member Buechle-Curtis initiated discussion on the need for a code addressing e-bikes. With winter approaching, the committee agreed this is a timely and important topic that should be addressed. The group suggested revisiting the issue at the beginning of next year, gathering examples from other cities, and preparing for future needs. Ed Mills, Fire Chief, also noted concerns related to e-bike storage, particularly the increased number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. The committee agreed this issue should be evaluated as part of the broader discussion.

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, commented that many regulations will ultimately depend on city preference. He referenced classification categories for e-bikes (Classes 1, 2, and 3), which distinguish them based on wattage and whether they should be treated similarly to bicycles or classified closer to motorcycles.

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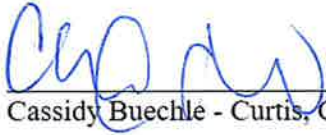
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The Committee agreed to conduct additional research and resume work on this topic in the new year.

4. **Other Committee Comments**

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.


Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair


Debbie Lee, Clerk