

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

MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2025

8:30 AM

**119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Members Present:

Ken Ratliff

Steven Cook

Jerred Weis via zoom

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor

Rob Omans - City Administrator

Debbie Lee - Clerk

Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

Mike Heit - HLA

2. Unfinished Business

a. Flag Pole Park Proposal — Gary Berndt — Rotary

Gary Berndt requested a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to rename Flag Pole Park to Rotary Flag Pole Park. His intention is for Rotary to purchase flags for the park and add additional furniture to create a more welcoming space. As a long-term goal, he also hopes to coordinate efforts to clean up trash along West First Street between the park and Safeway. Although Berndt does not yet have full approval from the Rotary Board, he asked whether this level of support would be sufficient for the committee to recommend the renaming. He emphasized Rotary's long-standing history of volunteerism and partnership with the city, as well as the club's pride in maintaining the community's entrance and improving an area that many residents enjoy, especially with the addition of Christmas lights.

The committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the City Council for consideration, and Berndt will prepare a budget to present at a future meeting. The park's electrical system also needs to be updated, and Rotary may be able to assist with that project. In addition, a hawthorn tree on the site will need to be removed.

b. UKC Baseball Further Discussion — (UPDATE)

There is no update at this time; the matter is still with the attorney.

c. Draft Storm Water Plan — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

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Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, presented a draft of the stormwater plan, noting that it is the same version reviewed at the last committee meeting, with some edits sent to HLA. The primary goal is to determine a funding mechanism for the stormwater fund and prepare at least a recommendation for the council.

The committee revisited previous discussions in which Options 4A and 4B were considered the most equitable, with Option 4B accounting for undeveloped land. Under Option 4B, the rate would be \$10.75 per month per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), with undeveloped land charged at 10% of the ERU rate—roughly the equivalent of one acre's worth of fees. Because Option 4 is based on square footage, ERUs and square footage generally align, making this method more equitable overall. Charging undeveloped land would apply only to parcels within city limits, and both 4A and 4B exclude forested lands.

Bailey explained that the city has a list of stormwater-related issues that require attention, and establishing this fund is necessary to address them. The challenge is to set a rate that is reasonable for the public while generating enough revenue for project matches and future needs. If sufficient funds are not collected, projects will be delayed. Rate targets were based on raising a specific revenue amount, with the difference between options being who is impacted. The committee discussed rounding the rate to \$10 and applying a 10% charge for undeveloped land. They also discussed whether to add the charge to utility bills or property taxes, with the committee favoring the utility bill. If Option 4B were chosen, undeveloped land could be billed separately for stormwater; alternatively, Option 4A would exclude undeveloped land entirely and result in a rate closer to \$11.

Bailey noted that adding the charge to property taxes would not be possible until 2027 due to certification timelines. The city must begin making payments this year on the stormwater loan associated with the plan—a \$250,000 package consisting of both grant and loan funding—and the stormwater fund currently lacks sufficient revenue to cover these payments. One approach would be to bill the fee through utility bills for one year and then shift it to property taxes the following year so that undeveloped land can be included.

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to recommend that the council adopt a rate of \$10 per ERU with a 10% charge for undeveloped land, collected on the utility bill for the first year and then moved to property taxes thereafter. Under this approach, undeveloped land would not be billed during the first year. This recommendation is based on Option 4B. Questions regarding whether undeveloped but cleared land versus forested land is included will be clarified by Mike Heit at the council meeting; seconded by Committee Member Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

d. Cle Elum Youth Art Project Overview — Shasta Marion — Cle Elum Visitor Center

Shasta Marion from the Cle Elum Visitor Center introduced the Youth Art Project, which focuses on youth engagement and enhancing downtown through public art. The Visitor Center would oversee the project, which includes four statues and fifteen banners, with a total estimated cost of \$43,000 to be fully covered by grants. Fabrication will not begin until full funding is secured, and the project is planned for 2025–2026. The next step is to bring

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the proposal to the City Council for consideration.

The committee expressed support for the project. Members were fully in favor of the banners and discussed setting parameters to help shape the overall concept. The statues prompted additional discussion, particularly regarding potential impacts on snow removal. Mathew Bailey noted that, based on the proposed size and placement of the statues, snow removal should not be an issue, as they would be strategically located near planters and securely mounted.

3. New Business

- a. Cle Elum Public Works & Community Development Committee — Meeting Minutes — November 5, 2025

MOTION: Committee Member Cook made a motion to approve the Public Works & Community Development Committee meeting minutes; seconded by Committee Member Weis.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

4. Other Committee Comments

Jerred Weis was thanked for his service as this was his last Public Works Committee meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Ken Ratliff, Chair
Steven Cook



Debbie Lee, Clerk