

CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 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

Ken Ratliff

Beth Williams

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor

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)

There has not been an update from legal review yet.

b. Cle Elum Municipal Code — Chapter 2.15 — Fire Department

Chief Mills provided updates that identify certain changes that need to be removed and forwarded to the attorneys for review to ensure they align with the bylaws.

c. Title 8 — Health & Safety

At the last meeting, the Public Safety & Health committee began discussions on which specific outdated sections should be prioritized.

Television and radio antenna provisions were discussed, with a message sent to Rob Omans, City Administrator regarding how often these issues actually arise.

There was also conversation around the thought process of amending fees so they align with other existing fees and reference comparable fee structures, with the understanding that this topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Regarding the junk vehicle section, Chief Albo has not yet had the opportunity to review it or the e-bike provisions and plans to begin work on these early next year after completing the house bill.

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Section 8.16 was discussed with focusing on issues within the current code. The group agreed to revisit and review this section, as there are areas that could be tightened up, particularly by comparing junkyard and junk car provisions. Chief Albo suggested involving Jackie VonDongen, Code Enforcement Officer, would handle vehicles outside the right-of-way, while police enforce issues within the city right-of-way.

From a public works perspective, Matthew Bailey, Public Works Director, noted the development of a stormwater plan and an (NDS) Non-Domestic Source permit that includes language on illicit discharges. He suggested aligning language so that vehicles leaking fluids, damaged, or unlicensed are considered junk vehicles and removed at the owner's expense due to their impact on stormwater. Bailey will bring proposed language regarding ways to protect the environment and stormwater systems to the next meeting, and Buechle-Curtis will also connect with VonDongen on this matter.

Vehicles for sale in city rights-of-way were discussed and would generally be addressed under normal parking code enforcement. While grace and leeway are typically given, police noted that these situations should not be ignored. Additional areas of potential focus include false alarm reporting.

A reminder was made to send out a list of items to work on to all department heads and to ask if there are other areas the committee would like to prioritize, including camping on public property, to which Chief Albo noted that some language has already been added.

d. E-Bike — Discussion

Background information was discussed regarding when law enforcement began enforcing e-bike regulations and which RCWs are helpful in guiding enforcement. The RCWs provide clear examples of where e-bikes can be operated based on the class of device, clarifying where Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are allowed, while Class 3 usage depends on city code provisions that specify where they may be ridden.

Many people visit the area for recreation, while locals may hear updates, and visitors are likely to use e-bikes beyond city limits and recreate across multiple jurisdictions. It was emphasized that all jurisdictions should be considered when enacting this code. Chief Albo noted that Roslyn generally bans UTVs Utility Terrain Vehicles and focuses on education, with citations typically issued to repeat violators. While more reckless behavior complaints are less common, police have not received calls specifically related to e-bike issues.

Examples from an MRSC article were referenced, which included several municipal codes and offered considerations such as e-bike use in parks, and which classes should be permitted. The group also discussed e-motorcycles and e-bikes, noting the need to clearly identify and define e-motorcycle classes and determine appropriate regulations. Overall, there was agreement that any alignment on this issue would require further refinement of restrictions. A suggested starting point is to ask the city attorney for examples from other communities and build from there. Committee Member Ratliff questioned whether this is a high priority at the moment, while noting that awareness will likely increase as the community grows. Matthew Bailey, Public Works Director, expressed interest in getting

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ahead of the issue proactively.

3. New Business

- a. Cle Elum Public Safety & Health — Meeting Minutes — November 19, 2025

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve the Cle Elum Public Safety & Health meeting minutes dated November 19, 2025; seconded by Committee Member Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

4. Other Committee Comments

Chief Albo shared an email communication from Councilmember Cook regarding Flock cameras. Cook recently attended an online course about these cameras, with a focus on privacy and security concerns. Chief Albo informed the committee that his office clerks notify him when a Public Records Request (PRR) regarding Flock cameras is submitted, noting that only in-state agencies have access.

Graffiti was also discussed, particularly in relation to municipal code provisions for privately owned property. The committee expressed interest in supporting the community by addressing graffiti in the near future. Both the sign code and vandalism code reference graffiti, and there was concern about incidents involving multiple occurrences in a single night. The committee discussed learning from other cities, such as Ellensburg, which may have more effective strategies. Chief Albo will reach out to Ellensburg for recommendations to share with the committee.

Concerning graffiti enforcement, he noted that misdemeanors depend on the damage caused, with cases exceeding \$1,000 referred to the prosecutor. Ellensburg focuses heavily on prosecution, which could serve as a model for the city. Mayor Lundh added that enforcement is permitted on private property, with a 72-hour rule for abatement. The city has authorization to address nuisances directly if property owners do not act. Promptly covering graffiti improves the city's ability to manage the issue effectively, and the City of Auburn's code was cited as a concise example.

Regarding House Bill 2015, related to the Public Safety Tax, the submission is scheduled for tomorrow, and the city should receive confirmation of compliance within 180 days.

Chief Mills reported that the fire department is moving to AT&T for improved data coverage via First Net and to integrate with the new reporting system. The proposed changes would adjust current costs from \$97 per month for a cell phone and two tablets to an additional \$54 per month for three phones and seven tablets. Committee Member Ratliff noted that the budget has been approved by the treasurer and mayor, and if these changes are within the budget, they are allowable. The committee agreed that this would be an acceptable adjustment.

5. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.



Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair



Debbie Lee, Clerk