

# CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

1:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET  
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis  
Beth Williams - via zoom  
Steven Harper

#### **Staff Present:**

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

### 2. Unfinished Business

- a. Establish Regular Meeting Day & Time

The meeting is currently held on the third Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

The new meeting date and time will be the second Thursday at 9:00 a.m., beginning March 12.

The February regular meeting will remain on the 18th at 2:00 p.m.

### 3. New Business

- a. Graffiti

In December, several instances of graffiti were reported, occurring on both public and private property. Chief Albo expressed support for a cleanup-focused approach rather than criminal enforcement. Graffiti that is on private property should fall under Code Enforcement rather than the Police Department. A new example code was presented to the committee that included possession of graffiti materials should be prohibited. The committee felt this should be removed. Overall, Chief Albo believes the proposed code is sound.

Discussion followed regarding enforcement authority and appeals. Clarification is needed from the city attorney. Questions were also raised about who would serve as the appeal

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authority—whether the Public Safety Committee or another body. Language for appeals would mirror that used for leak adjustments, and eliminating the Hearing Examiner was recommended.

Timing for graffiti removal and appeals was also discussed. Maintaining a 10-day removal requirement, with the option to approve extensions upon request, was recommended. Mayor Lundh emphasized that quicker removal helps prevent repeat tagging, a point Chief Albo supported, suggesting language that clearly outlines the extension process when additional time is needed.

It was recommended that the code be placed in Title 8 under Nuisances, specifically Section 8.12, to align with related topics and the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9A.48.090.2C.

Committee Chair Buechle-Curtis will draft revisions, send them to legal for review, and the goal would be for council to review by the end of February.

Committee Member William joined the meeting in progress at 1:15 p.m.

### b. Consideration of a Fireworks Study Session

The committee discussed whether to hold a fireworks study session. However, when this was presented to the council, they were not open to changes to the code. The committee members confirmed they were comfortable with the current code.


Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, explained that while the code prohibits the use of fireworks, it allows for the sale of fireworks and includes safety provisions. The recent amendment addressed only the transportation of fireworks, which prompted the update. The committee decided no further changes to the code are needed.

### 4. Other Committee Comments

The committee thanked Chief Mills for the information regarding the volunteer firefighters.

### 5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

  
Cassidy Buechle-Curtis, Chair

  
Debbie Lee, Clerk