

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
6:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Council Members Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis
Ken Ratliff
Beth Williams via zoom
Steven Harper
Jon Cornelius
Audrey Malek
Steven Cook

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Whitney Prosek - Office Assistant
Colleda Monick - Planner
William La Rue - Utilities Operations Manager
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Rich Albo - Police Chief

- a. February 10, 2026, Sign In Sheet

2. **Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker**

Rushton Weaver, representing Señor Bones, requested the contract that is on the agenda under New Business to ensure that the lease is secured for the future, thereby maintaining the opportunity for the best pricing to continue providing affordable food.

Brian Tate provided public comment regarding concerns about safety in Cle Elum and issues related to mismanagement.

3. **Announcements, Appointments, Awards, and Recognition**

- a. Cle Elum Downtown Association — Jordan Peterson

Jordan Peterson formally submitted her resignation. She expressed her gratitude and

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extended her best wishes.

See attached letter.

b. Appointment of Special Committee — Council Rules of Procedure

Mayor Lundh proposed updating the rules and procedures for the Council and requested the formation of a committee to facilitate this process. Council Members Buechle - Curtis, Harper, and Cornelius were appointed to work on the updates and are to report back to the Council following their meetings.

c. Celebrating the World Champion Seattle Seahawks — Proclamation — Mayor Lundh

Mayor Lundh read the Proclamation Celebrating the World Champion Seattle Seahawks on winning the Super Bowl.

Mayor Lundh announced that there is an opportunity to meet with the Mayor every week. Residents are encouraged to follow along on social media or through the newsletter for updates. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 PM at Mike's Tavern.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Councilmember Cook would like to move item 5 e from the Consent Agenda to New Business 10 d.

Councilmember Ratliff would like to move items 5 f, g, and h from the Consent Agenda to New Business.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes — January 27, 2026

b. Council Meeting Minutes — January 27, 2026

c. Payables — February 10, 2026 — \$221,345.46

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- d. Payroll Vouchers — February 5, 2026 — \$368,316.96

6. Department Head Reports

- a. Rob Omans — City Administrator

See attached report.

- b. Colleda Monick — Planner

See attached report.

Councilmember Cook wanted to thank Colleda Monick, HLA, for her planning work that she has done for the city.

- c. Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

See attached report.

- d. Rich Albo — Police Chief

Rich congratulated Jordan Peterson for her dedication and the legacy she left.

See attached report.

- e. Ed Mills — Fire Chief

See attached report.

- f. William LaRue — Utilities Operations Manager

See attached report.

7. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

- a. Coal Mines Trail Signage Project — Update — Roslyn Heritage Club — Maria Adams

See attached presentation.

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Maria Adams from the Roslyn Heritage Club gave a presentation to the council regarding the project's current funding status, which is now at 50%. The next open house is scheduled to occur when the project reaches the 75% funding threshold. Additionally, Kittitas County will be involved in establishing the permits and construction of the Kiosk structures.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

Mayor Lundh read the public hearing script.

- a. Public Hearing — Text Amendments — Ordinance 1721 — Colleda Monick — Planner

Colleda Monick, HLA stated that changes in three sections in Chapter 17 regarding non-conforming use and the table of permitted uses were presented, including the permitting of sports facilities as requested by several business owners.

Amendments to non-conforming uses were discussed, specifically addressing residential houses in other zones that face limitations due to their non-conforming status. This aims to reduce restrictions for residents affected in these zones.

Mayor Lundh inquired if any public comments were received, to which Monick responded that there were none.

Councilmember Harper expressed gratitude to the commission for a thoughtful amendment.

Councilmember Cornelius raised a clarifying question regarding a sentence about a damaged building and suggested an adjustment for "more conforming."

MOTION: Councilmember Cornelius made a motion to approve Ordinance 1721 Text Amendments and correct the scrivener's error; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business

- a. Señor Bones New 5-Year Lease — Rob Omans — City Administrator

This lease is recommended for consideration and approval by the General Government Committee.

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Councilmember Cook asked for clarification on the drive-through changes.

Rob Omans, City Administrator, discussed that the business must be responsible for managing the line of cars and ensuring that the second vehicle does not block pedestrian pathways.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to authorize the mayor to approve the 5- year lease; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

b. [Resolution 2026-005 — 2026 Water Rates — Customers Outside City Limits](#)

Public Works Director Mathew Bailey presented the ordinance to the council for consideration from the Public Works & Community Development Committee.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-005 and approve item #5 shall not affect the 20% Owens discount; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

c. [Resolution 2026-006 — Renaming of Flag Pole Park — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director](#)

This item is presented by the Public Works & Community Development Committee for approval regarding the Rotary's dedication to the park.

Councilmember Cook commented that Gary Berndt has agreed to assist with the park in various capacities.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-006 with the following correction: The title would read: Rotary Flag Pole Park, and it would be resolved that the area be named Rotary Flag Pole Park; seconded by Councilmember Cornelius.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

d. [Resolution 2026-004 — Surplus City Hall and Public Works Items](#)

This resolution will be moved to the February 24, 2026, agenda, rewording the language to state that the small tools and inventory items are being removed from inventory as they currently do not fit the current inventory policy.

e. [Planning Director — Employment Agreement — Shannon Johnson](#)

Councilmember Cook inquired about the division of labor within the department.

Rob Omans, City Administrator, provided clarification, stating that Colleda Monick, with

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HLA, will continue to be involved in projects eligible for reimbursement, particularly long-standing initiatives. He noted that the inclusion of an in-house planner will provide full-time support, thereby reducing costs for the city related to non-reimbursable work. Furthermore, Omans highlighted that this position has been included in the budget for several years, thereby not introducing a new line item for additional expenses.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion approving the employment agreement for Planning Director Shannon Johnson; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

f. Request for Leak Adjustment — Terra Hicks

Discussion was had regarding the breakage in the crawl space. Director Bailey confirmed that it was located underground and recommended that the leak request be approved.

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to accept the staff recommendation and approve the request for adjustment in the amount of \$680.75; seconded by Councilmember Cornelius.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

g. Request for Leak Adjustment — Tom Pepito

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to accept the request for the Tom Pepito leak adjustment in the amount of \$356.60; seconded by Councilmember Cornelius.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

a. Public Works & Community Development

Councilmember Cook reported that the Upper Kittitas County Youth Baseball and Softball Association contract is with the attorneys for a final review.

b. Public Safety & Health

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis informed the council that they are working on the graffiti code and that they will not be pursuing any additional changes to the established fireworks code.

c. Lodging Tax & Events

Councilmember Malek reported that the regular meeting day and time is set for the 2nd

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Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

An update from the Coal Mines Trail Commission indicated that the water fountain was located. Councilmember Malek expressed gratitude to Virgil Amick, Permit Technician, for his assistance.

d. General Government

Councilmember Harper informed the council that there are currently four outdated codes that should be repealed. They are currently being reviewed by city legal. Once in ordinance form, it will be presented to the council for consideration.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Harper expressed appreciation for the resources provided by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and noted the significance of the certificate of municipal leadership. Harper proposed that the city consider hosting watch parties at City Hall to enable Councilmembers to earn credits and enhance their skills. Councilmember Buechle-Curtis concurred, stating that she had also been discussing this initiative.

13. Mayor's Report

Earlier in the meeting, Mayor Lundh announced that two federal appropriations were recently awarded by Congress. He indicated that the process has successfully resulted in the reallocation of funds to Railroad Avenue for the development of a truck route. Additionally, Representative Shrier reported that a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriation for the Second Street pathway has also been awarded.

In the Association of Washington Cities legislative bulletin, a letter was presented opposing the Governor's proposed sweeping of funds from the Public Works assistance loans fund, and the council is encouraged to express their opposition by sending an email to the State Representatives.

Additionally, it was noted that a craft night will be held at the library tomorrow evening.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk

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