

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 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
 Steven Harper
 Jon Cornelius
 Audrey Malek
 Steven Cook

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
 Rob Omans - City Administrator
 Debbie Lee - Clerk
 Shannon Johnson - Planning Director
 William LaRue - Utilities Operations Manager
 Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
 Ed Mills - Fire Chief
 Rich Albo - Police Chief

- a. March 10, 2026, Sign In Sheet

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker

Brian Tate has been attending the weekly Meet the mayor events and has expressed a desire for the Mayor to resign.

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards, and Recognition

- a. Steven Harper — Certificate of Municipal Leadership

Mayor Lundh presented the Certificate of Municipal Leadership to Councilmember Harper, and encouraged all councilmembers to pursue this award.

- b. Reappointment of Gary Berndt to Planning Commission

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Mayor Lundh has reappointed Gary Berndt and Paul Kantwill to the Planning Commission. The City Council is required to confirm these re-appointments.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the re-appointments to the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- c. Reappointment of Paul Kantwill to the Planning Commission

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the re-appointments to the Planning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The Cle Elum Roslyn High School girls basketball team won the state championship, and a celebratory parade was held on March 9, 2026. The council will prepare and present a proclamation honoring the team's achievement at the next scheduled meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

The corrected meeting minutes are now available online, reflecting the necessary amendments.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- a. Special Council Meeting Minutes — February 24, 2026
- b. Council Meeting Minutes — February 24, 2026
- c. Payables — March 10, 2026 — \$296,795.38
- d. Payroll Vouchers — March 5, 2026 — \$357,239.08

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- e. Department of Revenue Business Licence Agreement

- f. Progress Estimate No. 1 — Zone 3 Booster Pump Improvements — Belsaas & Smith
\$92,882.51

6. Department Head Reports

see attached report

- a. Rob Omans — City Administrator
See attached report.
February 2026 Public Records Report

- b. Shannon Johnson — Planning Director
See attached report.

- c. Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director
See attached report.

Councilmember Williams inquired about the work in the alley between 2nd and 3rd Streets. Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, said that this work is a sewer lining project, on a service line requiring repair.

A request has been made to grade or gravel the unpaved portion of Grant Street; Public Works (PW) intends to assess all alleys and unpaved roads in the spring. Additionally, Public Works has communicated with Ziplly Fiber regarding their ongoing construction activity and confirms that they possess a current work in the Right-of-Way permit for approximately 19,000 feet of work.

- d. Rich Albo — Police Chief
See attached report.

- e. Ed Mills — Fire Chief
See attached reports

Chief Mills emphasized the importance of businesses having fire inspections.

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An email was received from the Washington State Rating Bureau expressing appreciation for the city's efforts regarding its fire protection rating. Last year, the city received a rating of 6, with expectations for an improvement to 5 this year.

Councilmember Cornelius inquired about the location of the planned burn, which will be in South Cle Elum.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis requested invitations for council members to the Rating Bureau meeting and other audits. Chief Mills has extended an invitation for any council members to attend the audits.

- f. William LaRue — Utilities Operations Manager

See attached report.

Councilmember Harper had questions about water capacity. The city currently operates eight wells. However, wells alone can not meet the increased demands during the summer months. Effective water conservation measures are essential to ensure the sustainability of our well field water system. Furthermore, the city should explore options for emergency electricity provision for the water system.

7. **Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit**

8. **Business Requiring Public Hearings**

9. **Unfinished Business**

10. **New Business**

- a. Interfund Transfer — Budget Amendment — Ordinance 1723

Rob Omans, City Administrator, stated when an interfund loan is executed, a budget amendment must be processed. The council will also receive an email notification upon the completion of a transfer.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1723, Interfund Transfer Budget Amendment; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

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- b. Resolution 2026-009 — Amending Fee Schedule — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, provided an update regarding staff and equipment time, including hourly rates as an annual housekeeping effort. Interlocal agreements are currently being reviewed by city legal.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-009 Amending the Fee Schedule; seconded by Councilmember Cornelius.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- c. Resolution 2026-010 — Accepting Certain Water, Sewer, Stormwater within Bullfrog Flats — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

A map has been provided, detailing all installations and inspections completed to date for water mains, sewer mains, and storm drains. The current assessment excludes street curb and gutter improvements, focusing solely on underground utilities.

The following tests have been conducted:

- Pressure testing
- Bac-T testing
- Infiltration inspection
- Mandrel testing for straightness

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-010 Accepting Certain Water, Sewer, Stormwater Within Bullfrog Flats; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

- d. Request for Leak Adjustment — Glondo Sausage Company

Councilmember Cook reported that the customer addressed the issue within the required timeframe for a maximum expenditure of \$1,000. He informed the Council that the committee did not reach a unanimous decision regarding the recommendation to the Council. Concerns were raised about the delay in reporting to the city while awaiting a response from the insurance company.

Councilmember Cornelius noted that Audrey Casassa, Utility Clerk, effectively identified the leak and communicated with the customer. The situation remained unresolved until February 11, resulting in a significant duration during which the city was responsible for repair costs. If the matter had been addressed earlier, it could have been resolved in 7 days rather than the 23 days taken, leading to additional water and sewer charges.

The sewer consumption charge amounts to \$634, based on the assumption that the water

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discharged into the sewer system.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Request for Leak Adjustment for Glondo Sausage Company in the amount of \$1,000.00; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 5 yes 2 no. (Councilmember Cornelius, Councilmember Buechle-Curtis)

e. Request for Leak Adjustment — Kerry Clark

Councilmember Cook reported that a leak was found outside the building and was repaired quickly, incurring a cost of \$405.74.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Request for Leak Adjustment for Kerry Clark in the amount of \$405.74; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION CARRIED: 7 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

a. Public Works & Community Development

Councilmember Cook announced that the Public Works & Community Development Committee meetings will now occur on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 1:00 p.m. A study session for the stormwater plan is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2026.

b. Public Safety & Health

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 9:00 a.m. A study session will follow immediately after the committee meeting.

c. Lodging Tax & Events

Councilmember Malek informed the Council of a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.

d. General Government

Councilmember Harper stated that the Hearing Examiner contract is under review by the

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legal department. Forte's third-party billing is likewise under review by the legal department.

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Ratliff inquired if the city had received updates regarding Teanaway Court. It was noted that no updates have been received yet, but they are expected imminently.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis welcomed Shannon Johnson, the newly hired Planning Director.

Councilmember Cook, who attended three "Meet the Mayor" events, emphasized the importance of participants bringing questions or topics to the meetings to derive value from them.

Councilmember Malek expressed enthusiasm regarding the ongoing fire wise initiatives.

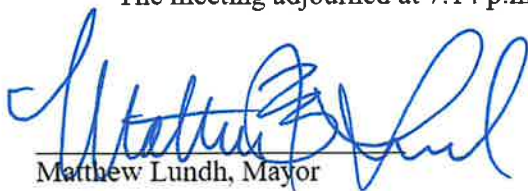
13. Mayor's Report

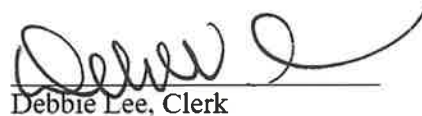
City Heights has filed an objection regarding the city's eligibility for Chapter Nine status. A conference on this matter is scheduled for tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. Timelines and next steps will be discussed at that time.

The Mayor will attend the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C., as the secretary of the board for the Association of Washington Cities. This trip is funded by the Association, providing the Mayor with a valuable opportunity to engage with members of the delegation.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk

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