

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 26, 2026
6:00 PM
119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

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

Councilmembers Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis
Ken Ratliff
Beth Williams (Zoom)
Steven Harper
Audrey Malek
Steven Cook (Zoom)

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Rob Omans - City Administrator
Erica Krum - Assistant City Administrator
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
Shannon Johnson - Planning Director
Amy Pridemore - Library Director

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:
Lucy Temple (Zoom)

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

- a. Steven Harper — Certificate of Advanced Municipal Leadership

Mayor Lundh presented Councilmember Harper with the Certificate of Advanced Municipal Leadership during the meeting.

- b. Proclamation — Commemorating the Service of Councilmember Jon Cornelius

Mayor Lundh read a proclamation honoring the service of former Councilmember Jon Cornelius and formally presented it to him.

- c. Appointment of Council Position No. 4

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Two candidates applied for the City Council position: Jessie Campbell and Sarah Hubbard. Jessie Campbell presented her motivations for seeking a position on the Council, followed by Sarah Hubbard. Councilmembers engaged both candidates with several questions. Each candidate articulated their commitment to community involvement, the future of Cle Elum, and their approaches to making difficult decisions and collaborating with others.

The Council entered into executive session at 6:42 PM and returned at 6:52 PM. The Council unanimously voted to appoint Sarah Hubbard to City Council Position 4.

Jessi Campbell

Sarah Hubbard

An executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) may be held to evaluate the candidates' qualifications for appointment to elective office. However, any candidate interviews and the final action of appointing a candidate to the vacant position shall be held in a meeting open to the public.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda, with an amendment to move Payables from item 5 B in the consent agenda to item 10 H under New Business ; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended ; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

a. Council Meeting Minutes — May 12, 2026

b. Special Meeting Minutes — April 20, 2026

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- c. Ratify Mayor's Signature — Rental Agreement

6. Department Head Reports

- a. Rob Omans — City Administrator

See attached report.

The City Council meeting originally scheduled for June 23, 2026, has been rescheduled to Monday, June 22, 2026.

- b. Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

See attached report.

The Public Works Director reported that between June 1 and June 5, 400 plants will be restored on First Street. Additionally, the sewer lining project was completed last week.

- c. Rich Albo — Chief of Police

See attached report.

- d. Amy Pridemore — Library Director

See attached report.

7. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

- a. Cle Elum Downtown Association — Kaylee Thompson

See attached report.

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

- a. Continuation: Right-of-Way Vacation, Habitat for Humanity — Shannon Johnson —

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Planning Director

Re-opening of the Public Hearing commenced at 7:30 PM. The agenda for this session is attached.

Shannon Johnson, Planning Director, recalled that this meeting pertains to the Right-of-Way vacation for the Habitat for Humanity property. Stephanie Bohman from Habitat for Humanity presented the attached PowerPoint. Skylar Bison-Rapp of Manastash Architecture Planning and Development further articulated the need for Habitat for Humanity in the community, continuing from where Stephanie concluded in the presentation.

Councilmember Harper expressed concerns regarding both options for the Right-of-Way Vacation, indicating a preference to explore an alternative option. Stephanie Bohman responded, emphasizing that funding possesses a time constraint and cannot be delayed; direction is needed urgently. Councilmembers acknowledged potential impacts associated with either option, noting that the visuals in the presentation clarified the implications for the alleyway.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Shanna Morarity
Tracy Taylor
Nick Nelson

Public hearing closed at 8:21 PM.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Ordinance 1729 — Right-of-Way Vacation, Habitat for Humanity — Shannon Johnson — Planning Director

MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1729 ; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- b. Ordinance 1728 — Atlas Networks Franchise agreement (Second Reading) — Shannon Johnson — Planning Director

Shannon Johnson, Planning Director, conducted the second reading of the Atlas Networks Franchise Agreement.

MOTION: Councilmember Malek made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1728 ; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION : 5 yes 1 no. 1 abstain

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10. New Business

- a. Signalized Intersection Safety Improvements Supplemental Agreement — HLA

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the Safety Improvements Supplemental Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- b. First Street and Oakes Avenue Resurfacing Supplemental Agreement — HLA

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve the First Street & Oaks Avenue Resurfacing Supplemental Agreement; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- c. Resolution 2026-020 — Cemetery Rate Schedule — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Public Works Director Mathew Bailey presented Resolution 2026-020. Councilmember Harper noted that maintaining competitive rates is essential for managing overcrowding and commended the committee for developing the resolution. Councilmember Cook inquired whether this change is associated with the staffing adjustment at the cemetery, which has transitioned from one employee to a full crew and includes additional equipment. Mathew Bailey highlighted that Public Works now operates more professionally, utilizing tents, chairs, and casket lowering devices, while also ensuring the site is restored with sod after the ceremony by moving dirt as needed and that this now reflects in the new pricing. Councilmember Ratliff stated that there is a specific rate for Cle Elum residents, a slightly higher rate for non-residents within the school district, and a higher rate for those outside the district, which all remain reasonable.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-020 concerning the cemetery rate schedule; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- d. Upper Kittitas County Youth Baseball and Softball Association (UKCYBSA) Park Use Contract — Councilmember Cook

Councilmember Cook presented the contract to grant the Upper Kittitas County Youth Baseball and Softball Association preferential use of Cle Elum Memorial Park. In return, the Association will enter into maintenance agreements, ensuring a balance between their needs and the public's use of the park.

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MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve Upper Kittitas County Youth Baseball and Softball Association (UKCYBSA) Park Use Contract ; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- e. Criminal Justice Training Commission 2026 Wellness Grant Contract— Rich Albo — Chief of Police

See attached report.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to ratify Rich Albo, Chief of Police signature on Criminal Justice Training Commission 2026 Wellness Grant Contract; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- f. Criminal Justice Training Commission HB 2015 Grant Contract — Rich Albo — Chief of Police

See attached report.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to ratify Rich Albo, Chief of Police signature on Criminal Justice Training Commission HB 2015 Grant Contract; seconded by Councilmember Ratliff.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- g. Victims Advocate Services Contract — Rich Albo — Chief of Police

MOTION: Councilmember Malek made a motion to ratify Rich Albo, Chief of Police signature on the Victims Advocate Services Contract; seconded by Councilmember Buechle-Curtis.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- h. Payables — May 26, 2026 — \$573,220.00

MOTION: Councilmember Malek made a motion to approve Payables; seconded by Councilmember Cook.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no. 1 abstain

11. Report of Committees

Councilmember Malek discussed the Coal Mines Trails that there will be a 75% design review Zoom meeting coming up on June 2nd. This can be accessed on the Roslyn Heritage Museum

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website, which is RRCHC.com.

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis indicated that Kittcom is hiring, highlighting it as a reputable workplace and an exemplary 911 center.

Councilmember Williams reported that the AED boxes have been installed, and Councilmember Harper is currently working on programming the radios associated with them. Councilmember Harper clarified that this project is independent of City Business and was initiated by a third party to assist in programming the AEDs, with hopes to commence work Thursday and complete it shortly thereafter.

The Mayor mentioned ongoing efforts at the Conference of Governments to finalize the contract for a new position. Also that Cle Elum intends to apply for the capital grant that was successfully secured last year.

a. [Public Works & Community Development](#)

Councilmember Cook has no report but states that he is excited to have a full committee now.

b. [Public Safety & Health](#)

Councilmember Cassidy Buechle-Curtis noted significant progress with Title 8, identifying items for removal and compiling a list of questions for further discussion.

c. [Lodging Tax & Events](#)

Councilmember Malek expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming summer events and noted the importance of ensuring that event submissions are complete. She acknowledged that the prevalence of incomplete event proposals has been a challenge in the past.

d. [General Government](#)

Councilmember Harper indicated that the upcoming General Government meeting is expected to be uneventful. Additionally, he requested that the Council consider recommending his involvement in financial matters moving forward.

12. **Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes**

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis recognized Jessi Campbell and Sarah Hubbard for applying for the

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city council position. She commended their willingness to engage with the community and encouraged others to be inspired by their actions. Councilmember Hubbard expressed her enthusiasm for joining the council and her eagerness to connect with everyone.

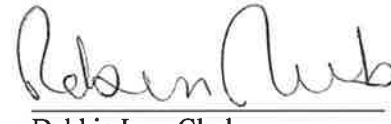
13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh acknowledged both candidates and expressed gratitude for their initiative in applying for the position. He personally thanked Jessi Campbell for her applying for the council position. He emphasized the significance of community participation in the Board of Commissions, highlighting the numerous vacancies available. He wants to inquire if Jessi Campbell would be interested in joining any of these vacancies, noting that these bodies play a crucial role in advising the council on important decisions.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


Debbie Lee, Clerk
