

CLE ELUM SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2026

4:00 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

Steven Harper

Jon Cornelius

Steven Cook

Absent:

Audrey Malek

Excused:

Staff Present:

Matthew Lundh - Mayor

Rob Omans - City Administrator

Debbie Lee - City Clerk

Ed Mills - Fire Chief

2. New Business

a. Discussion with the Fire Advisory Committee

Gary Berndt serves as a member of the Fire Advisory Committee. Attached documents contain relevant information presented during committee discussions.

Request Chief Mills for the fire ratings and equipment list to include in the packet.

Council should reflect on this matter and refrain from making a decision today.

Continue the study session swiftly to maintain progress in discussions.

Determine if the Fire Advisory Committee has a preferred option; consensus indicates that if \$1.00 is presented, there may be push back from the community.

Consider Option #6: extend the study session or defer the meeting until next week for a decision.

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A special meeting will be necessary next week for a formal decision.

Councilmember Harper advocates for public input since time allows.

Public comment is limited to three minutes and the meeting will adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Council Options

Council Fire 1

Regional Fire Authority

Interlocal Cooperation in Fire Services

3. Public Comment Limited to 3 Minutes per Speaker

Christine Heimbigner Simpson expressed a strong interest in the history of the volunteer fire department.

Travis Harris noted the complexity of the decision, suggesting the maintenance of current operations while emphasizing the significance of cultural considerations.

Gordon Jones raised concerns regarding the urgency of the matter, citing unresolved questions from the lawsuit about potential tax implications.

The community may support the retention of the volunteer station at its current location.

Keith McDonald, with experience as a volunteer firefighter, acknowledged the complexities involved and the potential cultural impacts.

Kaylee Thompson highlighted ongoing concerns related to the annexation of District No. 7.

4. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor
Erica Krum, Clerk