

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JUNE 22, 2026

6:00 PM

**119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

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

Roll Call

Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis
Ken Ratliff
Beth Williams
Steven Harper
Sarah Hubbard
Audrey Malek
Steven Cook

Staff Present:

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

2. Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Wendy Hill
Lucy Temple
Christine Heimbigner

3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards, and Recognition

Mayor Lundh stated that the court's ruling permits the City of Clum to remain in bankruptcy and provided an explanation of the court's decision regarding this matter. The ruling offers a clear path forward, and the Mayor will continue to keep everyone updated.

- a. Ratify the Mayor's Appointment of Kerrie Spoonemore to the Historic Preservation Commission

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to ratify the Mayor's appointment of all the appointments in #3 ; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

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- b. Ratify the Mayor's Appointment of Brian Browitt to the Library Board of Trustees

Approved by Motion in 3a.

- c. Ratify the Mayor's Appointment of Tree Board Members

Approved by Motion in 3a.

Gary Berndt

Jon Cornelius

Debbie Cernick

Michelle Swope

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Mayor Lundh added an executive session at the end of the meeting.

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

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as is; seconded by Councilmember Hubbard.

MOTION : 7 yes 0 no.

- a. Council Meeting Minutes — June 9, 2026
- b. Payables — June 22, 2026 — \$490,692.59
- c. Ratify Mayor's Signature — Menke Jackson Beyer, LLP Engagement Letter

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6. Department Head Reports

- a. Rob Omans — City Administrator
Please see attached report.
- b. Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director
Please see attached report.
- c. Amy Pridemore — Library Director
Please see attached report.
- d. Rich Albo — Police Chief
Please see attached report.

7. Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

8. Business Requiring Public Hearings

- a. 2027-2032 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program --- Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Public hearing opened at 6:40 PM. Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, presented the six-year transportation improvement program, also known as a TIP. All cities are legally required to have a TIP every six years. Attached is a draft of all the projects that are included in this program. Councilmember Harper stated that priority #7, a roundabout at 1st and Pine, should be reassessed as he believes it will create a bottleneck in that area. Individuals who addressed the city council included Lucy Temple, who recommended the provision of maps for the community to offer educational commentary and expressed support for roundabouts, and Christine Heimbinger, who also advocated for maps and suggested that the roundabout on 2nd Street is too small and requested a sidewalk. Additionally, she recommended decreasing transportation on Second and Third Streets to slow traffic. Councilmember Cook inquired of Mathew Bailey about a restricted left-hand turn from the ranger station to 903 and the proposed roundabout at Pine. The discussion included three projects in that area: 1st and Pine, 2nd and Pine, and the ranger station. They also addressed the possibility of lane narrowing with striping on Third Street without

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incorporating a micro roundabout, noting that four-way stop signs are not effective in reducing traffic speed. Speed humps were mentioned as potentially complicating fire response and snow plowing during winter. Public hearing closed at 6:56 PM.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Authorize Submittal of 2025 Annual Report — Robin Newcomb — Finance Director

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to authorize the submittal of the 2025 Annual Report; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

10. New Business

- a. Resolution 2026-023 — Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program, 2027-2032 — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Councilmember Harper believes that items #7 and #14 should be switched, citing community opposition to roundabouts. Councilmember Buechle-Curtis expressed appreciation for the staff's work and community feedback. Councilmember Hubbard inquired about the timeline, to which Mayor Lundh responded that approval must be secured by the end of June. Mayor Lundh also noted that funding has been secured for the railroad project, emphasizing that the priority order is based on immediate needs, available funding, and existing building agreements. Councilmember Cook expressed confidence in roundabouts, stating they would be an improvement over current conditions and voiced his full support.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-023 ; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

MOTION : 5 yes 1 no.

- b. Bid Award for Preservation and Safety Improvement Project — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, presented the bid award for the Preservation and Safety Improvement project. A total of two bids were received for this project; however, one bid was disqualified due to improper bond documentation. Funding for the project will be sourced from WSDOT, specifically HSIP federal improvement projects, which will cover all costs except for the \$21,000 discussed at the previous meeting. While WSDOT may cover the \$21,000, this is contingent and may not ultimately be required.

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MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to award the 2026 Preservation and Safety Improvement Project bid to American Rock Products; seconded by Councilmember Harper.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- c. Type III Traffic Barricade Lodging Tax Application — Mathew Bailey — Public Works Director

Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, presented the lodging tax application for a reflective barricade featuring three different bars. Both the Cle Elum Downtown Association (CEDA) and the Police Department indicated that these barriers would be beneficial, stating that no city apparatus would need to be utilized in the future to block roads.

MOTION: Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve lodging tax for the amount of \$2368.02; seconded by Councilmember Malek.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

- d. Whispering Pines Petition for Annexation — Shannon Johnson — Planning Director

Shannon Johnson, Planning Director, presented the Whispering Pines Petition for Annexation. Councilmember Cook inquired about the process, to which Johnson responded that the Council's initial decision would determine if the proposal would be entertained, followed by Kittitas County's review for parcel correctness. The County would then provide a sufficiency determination, necessitating a public hearing. At the subsequent hearing, the Council would either approve the annexation or review the proposal further. Keith Watts presented his petition for annexation, stating that the city would benefit from the associated revenue, including connection fees, lodging tax fees, and sales tax. Last year, approximately 22,000 guests contributed to this revenue. Watts emphasized his commitment to protecting the surrounding areas by working with nature rather than reshaping it and proposed an addition of 50 sites. Staff recommended consideration of the annexation.

MOTION: Councilmember Harper made a motion that we set the annexation area as shown on the map, that we direct simultaneous adoption of zoning as provided in this agenda, and that we require the assumption of the correct commensurate portion of existing city or town indebtedness by the area to be annexed, comparable to previous annexations; seconded by Councilmember Hubbard.

MOTION : 6 yes 0 no.

11. Report of Committees

Next meeting will be July 7th

- a. Public Works & Community Development

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Councilmember Cook stated the next meeting will be held on July 7, 2026.

b. [Public Safety & Health](#)

Councilmember Buechle-Curtis reported that a lively conversation took place regarding garbage services and encouraged participants to watch the live stream. Councilmember Williams indicated that e-bikes would be a topic of discussion. Councilmember Buechle-Curtis sought the Council's opinion on the potential alteration of fees in the code, proposing either to change them within the code or to relocate them to a fee schedule, allowing for updates by resolution rather than by ordinance. Mayor Lundh commented that state law may require garbage fee changes to be enacted through ordinances.

c. [Lodging Tax & Events](#)

d. [General Government](#)

Councilmember Harper stated that the meeting scheduled for June has been canceled and that they will reconvene next month.

e. [Coal Mines Trail](#)

12. Councilmember Comments - Limited to 5 Minutes

Councilmember Cook addressed Lucy Temple's comment regarding data centers and expressed approval of her thoughts on proactive planning. Councilmember Buechle-Curtis commended the public for attending the meeting for public comment and expressed appreciation for their insights, emphasizing the importance of partnering with the community in the future. Councilmember Hubbard commended Lucy Temple for enhancing public visibility regarding the transportation plan.

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lundh acknowledged the feedback from Lucy and Christine on the transportation plan. He reported attending the Suncadia social, describing it as a valuable addition to the community, and encouraged visits to Roslyn Grocery. The Mayor noted that council members and staff will attend the AWC Conference. He mentioned that the Public Disclosure Commission will evaluate PDC exemption this Thursday and expressed enthusiasm for attending the Pioneer Queen event,

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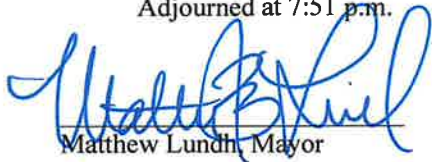
encouraging public participation. He also highlighted his favorite event, the Pancake Breakfast.

14. Executive Session

Entered Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 7:50 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Matthew Lundh, Mayor


City Clerk