

**Tree Board
Agenda
August 4, 2026
10:30 AM**

**ASSISTANT CITY
ADMINISTRATOR
ERICA KRUM**



119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

TREE BOARD MEMBERS
JON CORNELIUS
GARY BERNDT
DEBBIE CERNICK
MICHELLE J SWOPE

Join Virtually via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7573184018?pwd=dERndjBJVC9GdVQ1d2ISRExwZFhXZz09>
Meeting ID: 757 318 4018 Passcode: 98922

Join by Phone: 1-(253)215-8782, Meeting ID: 757 318 4018, Passcode:98922

TextMyGov

Receive city text alerts: text CLEELUM to 91896

DISCLAIMER: The City does not guarantee that virtual or telephonic access to the City Council meeting will be available, and the City does not warrant audio quality. Attendees are encouraged to attend in person.

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1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
 2. **Public Comment — Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker**
 3. **Unfinished Business**
 4. **New Business**
 - a. Introduction of New Members
Gary Berndt
Jon Cornelius
Debbie Cernick
Michelle J Swope
 - b. Appoint Chair and Vice Chair
 - c. Open Meeting Rules Discussion
 - d. Review Cle Elum Code 12.28
 - e. Establish Date & Time for Meeting
 5. **Board Work Plan**
 - a. Tree Inventory
 - b. Funding
 6. **Board Comments and Discussion**

Agenda

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7. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Council Meeting — August 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Lodging Tax & Events Committee Meeting — August 12, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Public Safety & Health Committee Meeting — August 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Civil Service Commission Meeting — August 19, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting — August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

General Government Committee Meeting — August 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JUNE 22, 2026

6:00 PM

**119 W FIRST STREET
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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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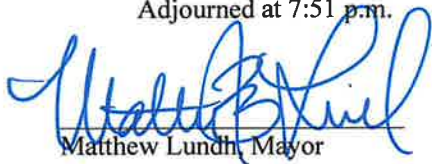
encouraging public participation. He also highlighted his favorite event, the Pancake Breakfast.

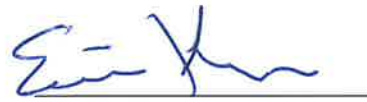
14. Executive Session

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

Chapter 12.28

STREET TREES

Sections:

- 12.28.010 Purpose.**
- 12.28.020 Title.**
- 12.28.030 Enforcing authority.**
- 12.28.040 Definitions.**
- 12.28.050 Permission to plant trees.**
- 12.28.060 Street tree plan.**
- 12.28.070 Public utility and owners.**
- 12.28.080 Dangerous trees a nuisance.**
- 12.28.090 Protection of trees and shrubs.**
- 12.28.100 Permits to public utilities.**
- 12.28.110 Permits.**
- 12.28.120 Appeals.**
- 12.28.130 Penalties.**
- 12.28.140 Tree City reserve account within the general fund – Created.**

12.28.010 Purpose.

It is for the best interest of the city, and of the citizens and public thereof that a comprehensive master plan for planting and maintenance of trees in public places within said city is adopted; therefore, for the purpose of developing and providing such a plan and program, and for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations relating to the planting, care and maintenance of such trees, this chapter is adopted.

(Ord. 1023 § 1, 1995)

12.28.020 Title.

This chapter shall be hereafter referenced to and cited as the “Tree Ordinance of the City of Cle Elum, Washington.”

(Ord. 1023 § 2, 1995)

12.28.030 Enforcing authority.

A. The mayor and the city council, through the city superintendent or his duly authorized representative, shall have full power, authority, jurisdiction and control of the planting, location and placement of all trees in the public streets and areas of the city and shall likewise have supervision, direction and control of the care, trimming, removal, relocation and placement thereof and shall be charged with the enforcement of this chapter.

B. The mayor and city council may annually appoint the committee of not more than seven citizens to sit as members of the “tree committee.” The tree committee shall provide the mayor and the city superintendent with advice and information as to the supervision, direction and control of the care, trimming, removal and relocation and placement of vegetation in the public streets and areas of the city. It is understood that the committee shall act in an advisory capacity only.

(Ord. 1023 § 3, 1995)

12.28.040 Definitions.

“City superintendent” means the superintendent of utilities and streets of the city.

“Owner” means and includes the legal owner of real property fronting any highway, street of the city or park, and any leases of such owner.

“Park” means and includes all public parks having individual names.

“Persons” means and includes all firms, associations, corporations, and persons connected with such firms, association, and corporations.

“Public places” means and includes all other grounds owned by the city.

“Street” or “highway” means and includes all lands lying between the so-called property lines on either side of all public streets, roads, boulevards and alleys or parts thereof.

“Trees and shrubs” means and includes all woody vegetation now and hereafter growing on any public street or highway or public place.

(Ord. 1023 § 4, 1995)

12.28.050 Permission to plant trees.

No trees or shrubs shall hereafter be placed in or removed from any street, public parking strip or other public place in the city without written permission from the city superintendent.

(Ord. 1023 § 5, 1995)

12.28.060 Street tree plan.

All trees and shrubs hereafter planted in any public parking strip or other public place in the city shall conform as to species and location to the master street tree plan which is adopted, attached and made a part of this chapter.

(Ord. 1023 § 6, 1995)

12.28.070 Public utility and owners.

No person other than an owner or public utility may do any act for which a permit is required under Section [12.28.080](#) of this chapter except a person whose principal business is tree surgery, trimming or maintenance and who, in the opinion of the city superintendent, is qualified for such business or who has obtained a permit and paid required license fee to carry on such business in the city.

(Ord. 1023 § 7, 1995)

12.28.080 Dangerous trees a nuisance.

Any tree growing on a public alley, street or highway, but so located as to extend its branches over a public alley, street or highway, shall be so trimmed by the owner of the property on which the tree stands, or by his agents, that there shall be a clear height of twelve feet above the surface of the street, alley or highway and eight feet above the surface of the sidewalks unobstructed by branches, and such owner or his agents shall remove all dead branches and stubs of such tree or trees which are or may become a menace to travelers on the public highways, streets, alleys or sidewalks of the city. Trees whose roots are causing upraised sidewalk slabs or are similarly causing trouble are declared a nuisance.

If a tree or its parts in any other way cause a hindrance to the general public or if it is considered "troublesome," or in any way may endanger the security and usefulness of any public street, highway, alley, sewer or sidewalk, as determined by the city superintendent, it is declared to be a public nuisance. If the owner of such private property does not correct or remove such nuisances within a reasonable time specified in writing by the city superintendent, he shall cause the nuisance to be corrected or removed and the cost shall be assessed to such owner.

(Ord. 1023 § 8, 1995)

12.28.090 Protection of trees and shrubs.

Except to abate a nuisance as defined herein, it shall be a violation of this chapter to:

- A. Fasten any sign, card, poster, wire, rope or other material to or around or through any public tree or shrub, or its guard, in the city without a written permit of the city superintendent except in emergencies such as storms or accidents;
- B. Deposit, place, store or maintain upon any public area of the city, any stone, brick, sand, concrete or other materials which may impede the free passage of water, air and fertilizer to the roots of any tree or shrub growing therein;
- C. Break, injure, mutilate, kill or destroy any tree or shrub, or permit any fire to burn where such fire will injure any portion of any tree or shrub in any public area; no person shall permit any toxic chemical to seep, drain or be emptied on or about any public tree or shrub; no person

shall knowingly permit electric wires to come in contact with any public trees or shrubs unless protected by approved methods; and no person shall attach any electrical insulation to any public tree or shall excavate any ditches, tunnels or trenches, or lay any drive within a radius of ten feet from any public tree or shrub without first obtaining permission from the city superintendent. During building operations the builder shall erect suitable protective barriers around public trees or shrubs apt to be injured.

(Ord. 1023 § 9, 1995)

12.28.100 Permits to public utilities.

Upon application to the city superintendent by a telephone, telegraph, electric power or public service corporation or utility, to trim trees, or perform other operations affecting public trees or shrubs including the activities otherwise prescribed in Section [12.28.090](#) of this chapter, or upon application of qualified contractors who have entered into contracts with a telephone, telegraph, electric power or other public service corporation or utility to trim trees or perform other operations affecting public trees or shrubs, the city superintendent shall grant a blanket permit, good until revoked for cause, covering all tree trimming and other operations affecting public trees or shrubs in Cle Elum by such telephone, telegraph, electric power or other public service corporation or utility or qualified contractor. The city superintendent shall be notified of when and where such operations shall take place. The amount of such trimming or extent of the other operations shall be done in a neat, workmanlike manner, and according to generally accepted practices. If necessary the city superintendent may assign an inspector to supervise the provisions of the permit and cost of such service shall be charged to the public service corporation or utility or contractor at cost.

(Ord. 1023 § 10, 1995)

12.28.110 Permits.

Every permit granted by the mayor, or his authorized agent, shall specifically describe the work to be done under it and shall expire at the end of not exceeding sixty days from the date of its

issuance, except for those permits issued under Section [12.28.100](#) of this chapter. No charge shall be made for any permit.

(Ord. 1023 § 11, 1995)

12.28.120 Appeals.

Appeals from order made hereunder may be made by filing written notice thereof with the city clerk within ten days after such order is received, stating in substance that appeal is being made from such order to the city council.

The clerk thereupon shall call such appeal to the attention of the city council at the next regular succeeding meeting, at which meeting the appellant and the city superintendent may present evidence unless a future date is set for hearing the appeal. Action taken by the city council after such a public hearing shall be conclusive.

(Ord. 1023 § 12, 1995)

12.28.130 Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation violating or failing to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars, or may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed ninety days, or both; provided, however, that in all events restitution shall be ordered commensurate with the value of the damaged or destroyed public trees or shrubs; and further provided that, any sentence requiring community service shall require not fewer than twenty-five hours of such service, to be supervised by the tree committee overseen by the city superintendent.

(Ord. 1090, 1999; Ord. 1023 § 13, 1995)

12.28.140 Tree City reserve account within the general fund – Created.

There is created for the city a separate reserve account within the general fund to be known as the "Tree City reserve account within the general fund."

The moneys in this reserve account within the general fund shall be used exclusively for community forestry and shall maintain a budget of at least two dollars per capita.

(Ord. 1497 § 1, 2018)

The Cle Elum Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 1727, and legislation passed through May 26, 2026.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Cle Elum Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited here.

[City Website: cityofcleelum.com](http://cityofcleelum.com)

[City Telephone: \(509\) 674-2262](tel:(509)674-2262)

[Hosted by ICC Code Solutions.](#)

2026 BUDGET POSITION

City Of Cle Elum

Time: 09:34:18 Date: 07/06/2026

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001 Current Expense/General Fund

01/01/2026 To: 12/31/2026

Expenditures		Amt Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining	
576 Park Facilities					
576 80 10 001	Salaries -- Park	25,520.55	22,676.84	2,843.71	88.9%
576 80 20 001	Benefits -- Park	10,279.59	9,312.53	967.06	90.6%
576 80 20 002	Unemployment	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.0%
576 80 30 001	Arbor Day Supplies -- Tree City	4,510.00	297.68	4,212.32	6.6%
576 80 31 001	Operating Supplies	5,500.00	3,716.96	1,783.04	67.6%
576 80 31 002	Parking Fees Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
576 80 35 002	Equipment/Tools	1,000.00	802.58	197.42	80.3%
576 80 41 000	Porta Potties	1,400.00	2,140.00	(740.00)	152.9%
576 80 41 001	Repairs And Maintenance Parks and Bathrooms	10,000.00	3,153.37	6,846.63	31.5%
576 80 41 003	City Parks Upgrade Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
576 80 41 005	Tree Removal -- 2nd and Pine and 4 large pine trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
576 80 42 001	Internet -- Inland Network Park Bathrooms	0.00	495.80	(495.80)	0.0%
576 80 47 000	Utilities and Taxes	23,000.00	10,848.64	12,151.36	47.2%
576 80 48 000	Horse Park Firewising 12.5 Acres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
576 90 49 001	Fireman's Park Improvements	1,000.00	726.55	273.45	72.7%
576 Park Facilities		82,710.14	54,670.95	28,039.19	66.1%
Fund Expenditures:		82,710.14	54,670.95	28,039.19	66.1%
Fund Excess/(Deficit):		(82,710.14)	(54,670.95)		