City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
November 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Charles Glondo at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were B. Reay, R. Spears, A. Scott, J.Eidemiller, M.Holz, K. Ratliff and W. Perry. Also present were City Administrator G. Hall, City Attorney M. Kenyon, City Planner M. Morton, Police Chief S. Ferguson, City Clerk T. Fields and City Treasurer S. Sutton.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by J. Eidemiller and seconded by M. Holz to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jim Eidemiller and seconded by Arthur Scott to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included the minutes of the October 27th council meeting; vouchers and checks numbered 28989-29057 in the amount of $208,163.61; payroll checks numbered $78,750.93 and voided check numbered 28983-$189.69-WA. State Department of Transportation. Motion Carried

Officer Reports

City Administrator Gregg Hall:

- Reported on the public restroom project.
- Suggested the park needs a formal name.

City Planner Matt Morton:

- Progress Path will be paved in the Spring
- Public meeting on the City Heights Project November 12, 2009 at 7:15-9:00 p.m at the Walter Strom multipurpose room
- Actively engaged with county for impacts of development.

Police Chief Scott Ferguson:

- No incidents on Halloween
- The shredder truck was in the area last week end.
- Suggested the city park be named after Bill Rolcik a former police officer

Public Comments

None

Public Hearings

<u>2010 Budget:</u>

Mayor Glondo presented a transmittal of the Proposed 2010 Budget. The priorities reflect in the proposed budget are:

- The delivery of good quality services to our citizens will be maintained at the current level in 2010.

- Should our plans result in year-end surpluses, those fund, will be banked in 2010 to be used for potential shortfalls in 2011.
- According to the budget, management will call for stand-by plans to address funding shortfalls should they occur.
- No increase in water, sewer or garbage rates.
- No implementation of new taxes.
- A one-percent increase in the existing property tax rate.
- Four percent cost of living increase for the union employees in the police department pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement
- Lay-off of one police officer.
- No cost of living increase for all non union employees.
- Release of railroad right of way leases due to the reduction of real estate tax funds.
- Reconstruction of a portion of Railroad Street with Distressed Sales and Use Tax money in the form of a grant from the County.
- Paving of Progress Path with the grant from the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

The hearing was opened for public comments at 7:13 p.m.. Louis Musso asked council to reconsider releasing of Railroad leases. He suggested hanging on for one more year-(a fall back for one year). Howard Carlin concurred with Louis Musso. He felt the future of the downtown industry is connected to that property as a future parking area and park. Closing he said by improving the property will upgrade Railroad Street. There were no further public comments and the hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.
Council discussion:
K Ratliff said it is too bad the income had come down and if the money can be found it would be good to do the mentioned plus a few other things.
Mayor Glondo said the railroad has not been contacted yet.
Arthur Scott said we should look at this as work in progress and he felt it is not completed yet. He reviewed two issues: new information on the trend of sales tax receipts and he added he hopes the budget is quite conservative; staffing is the biggest cost and as we look at reducing the police force it is hard to explain to the public when in our letter we are saying we are maintaining services as they were. This is not maintaining services as they were. Within the next six months, he continued, the city has to come to grips with how the staff has been aligned in the past couple of years. Suncadia is no longer receiving services from us which was the justification for two key positions in our city and those fundings going away, you need to ask yourself, giving the tight boundaries we have on this, shouldn't we be looking very hard at the composition of our staffing and reducing it one way or another in line with the fact things have changed. Another part of this he said is we do have a rainy day fund. It did not come up as an issue when we were looking at the budget.
Mickey Holz said he had spoken with Scott Ferguson. Two years ago we were campaigning for the 3/10 of one percent money to build up our police force. He felt there is a great need for public safety and felt it is irresponsible to let an officer go. He said the police department has been under budget last year. He feels the officers are doing a good job. He felt we can find the money if we want.

Mayor Glondo said all they asked for was the police to not take a raise like the rest of the employees. He reminded council that the police dept a few years ago was one of the lowest paid now they are in the 90th percentile.

Attorney Kenyon said we are not trying to negotiate a union contract here just give a general description of the discussion of appearance.

Gregg Hall said we went to them and asked they do not take the 4% raise this next year because of looking at the budget and knowing we were going to have a shortfall. They countered with the option to switch to a cheaper insurance plan which would be a savings of $31,000.00.00; 4% increase ($20,000.00) to officers they wanted the city to take that money ($11,000.00) and put it in a VEBA account in their medical account that is pretax dollars. In their contract now they have a reimbursement clause if they spend over $1,000.00 in out of pocket.

Bonnie Reay said last year at this time we had a budget and salary increases of which she voted against except for the police department because they are in the union and they have a contract. A lot of money has been taken away from colleges and employers. Employees have been asked to reduce their work time such as going to four days. She added there are ways this can be worked out.

Jim Eidemiller said we are in the same position as we were in 1985-1 cop on the street at a time with a backup out of Ellensburg. He strongly urges to find a way if it means buying time. They are out there 24 seven and the citizens need to be protected.

Arthur Scott said to look again at assumption on revenue from sales tax. Bump it up a little and by midyear look at it again.

Ron Spears said he was disappointed the police cannot get on board with the rest of the city crew and city employees. Although he continued the contract if not up until next year. He felt the Railroad property is valuable to the future of the city.

Mayor Glondo advised there will be additional budget committee meetings prior to the next council meeting. There will also be a public hearing for additional comments.

Gregg Hall said the budget started out with a $150,000.00 shortfall. Travel and training budgets have been cut. It is a bare bones budget. The city hall has not replaced as position that was vacated, so the police department has not been the only focus. No new taxes have been proposed but we have an option of taxing natural gas (6% is the max) which would bring approximately $25,000.00 revenue to the city.

Public Appearances

Chamber of Commerce Activities Report:

Ryan Munsey, Cle Elum Chamber of Commerce, told council the chamber recently elected new officers and they are looking forward to working with the city.

Rob Simms, Energy Audit and Community Development Block Grants –discussed the U.S. Department of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants that are available. These grants make American homes buildings more energy efficient. He said there is deadline of December 14, 2009 for application. He will be assisting City Planner Morton.

Unfinished Business

Wiedrich Right of Way Vacation-

City Planner Matt Morton presented Ordinance 1320-Weidrich Right of Way Vacation.

He said this vacation request was accepted by the city council through Resolution No. 2009-13(May 26th 2009) and subsequently conditionally approved at a public hearing held June23rd 2009. The petitioner has satisfied all but one(1) condition; obtaining a survey . After speaking with council and Public Works Director Jim Leonhard staff was comfortable bringing an ordinance forward to council for consideration.

A motion was made by Jim Eidemiller and seconded by Ron Spears to adopt Ordinance No.: 1320-Wiedrich Right of Way Vacation. 5 yes-2-no(K.Ratliff & B. Reay)

Airport Construction Project –Pay Estimate No. 9 & Change Order No. 3:

Gregg Hall said this is the ninth and final pay request in the amount of $82,568.05 from Belsaas & Smith for the runway reconstruction project at the municipal airport. Change Order No.:3 include the installing two additional airfield reflective holding signs for the taxi turnarounds and repair and maintenance work performed on the existing beacon. The total cost for the change order is $7,692. 65 of which $192.32 will be the citys share.

A motion was made by Warren Perry and seconded by Ken Ratliff to Accept the Airport Construction Project as complete and approve and authorize the mayor to sign pay estimate No. 9 and Change Order No. 3. Motion Carried.

New Business

Rogalski-Wallgren Agreement for Payment of Professional Staff and Consultant Services

Planner Matt Morton said Whispering Pines Inc. has been in discussions with city staff regarding annexation for their RV Park. He said we do not have a petition for annexation this is simply to authorize staff to execute a Staffing Services Agreement.

Agreement for Professional Services-Encompass Engineering

Staff is working on at this time.

Committee Reports

Ron Spears said the Hotel/Motel Committee will be meeting on Thursday November 12th at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Jim Eidemilller and seconded by Warren Perry to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Attest

Mayor