

City of Cle Elum  
Special City Council Meeting  
January 26, 2016

Call to Order - Roll Call of Membership

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jay McGowan at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Arthur Scott, Lindsey Ozbolt, Ron Spears, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz, Jodi Larsen and Ken Ratliff. Other members present included City Administrator Rob Omans, Police Chief Scott Ferguson and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

*A Motion was made by Lindsey Ozbolt and seconded by Steven to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.*

Announcements - Appointments, Awards and Recognition

Mayor Jay McGowan introduced Kerry Clark, Marc Kirkpatrick and Woody O'Rourke, 3 of the 4 active Planning Commission members, to the City Council, explaining they are on the front line of land uses and conditional uses. Cole Snyder, the fourth member, was unable to attend. At the Mayor's request, Lindsey Ozbolt explained that the Planning Commission is an integral part of the city process and will be assisting the future planner in the update of the Comprehensive Plan, which is due in June of 2017. The Planning Commission will hold a series of Public Hearings with regard to the Comprehensive Plan Update and will make recommendations to the City Council. She expressed her appreciation for their diligence and hard work. Mayor McGowan officially appointed the 4 Planning Commissioners to another 4-year term. Steven Harper announced the arrival of his new son, Matthew David Harper, born in Cle Elum.

Consent Agenda

*A Motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Lindsey Ozbolt to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which include the minutes of the January 12, 2016 City Council Meeting, vouchers all checks numbered 36974-37025 in the amount of \$406,102.23, Payroll Vouchers numbered 23437-23456 in the amount of \$84,620.07, Third Filter Bed invoiced at \$18,198.89. Motion carried.*

Officer Reports

City Administrator Rob Omans:

- Reported he attended a GMA Update Workshop on January 21, 2016, which addressed Land use, UGAs, Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Investments, as well as Economic Development. He added that, based on what he learned at the Workshop, the sooner a planner is hired, the better.
- Reported that the D.O.E will be meeting with the Cities of Cle Elum, South Cle Elum and Roslyn regarding spill response protocol, either on the freeway or by rail.

Public Works Director Jim Leonhard:

- No Report

Police Chief Scott Ferguson:

- Reported on the 01/13/16 incident involving two Cle Elum Police Officers who were responding to a Welfare Check at Stewart Lodge. Officer Ferguson reported that

Timothy Meehan of Port Townsend fired a gun at a Cle Elum Police Officer, who returned fire, hitting and injuring the individual, who later died. The Cle Elum Police Department turned the investigation over to the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department. Upon completion of the investigation, Kittitas County Prosecutor Greg Zempel will make a final determination. Chief Ferguson stated he is confident in the actions of his officers; currently the officer who shot the individual is on administrative leave, but both officers involved in the shooting are receiving professional support. Ken Ratliff thanked the Police Department for all that they do in and for the community.

Building Official & Network Administrator:

- No Report

Fire Chief Dave Campbell:

- No Report

Code Enforcement:

- Steven Harper requested an update on Code Enforcement issues that had been brought up at previous meetings by members of the Public. Mayor McGowan and Robert Omans reported they had toured the locations in question and made notations on the trouble spots.

Citizen Comments

Kelli Highley - 8511 Teanaway Road:

Expressed thanks to the Police Department. Stated that Veolia is a Company whose stock prices have dropped 18% in 18 years; 16 cities have stopped using their services, citing savings of 17% by doing so. Alleged one City was giving kickbacks to Veolia. A City in Idaho let Veolia go as they were "fudging" on maintenance records. Stated that Veolia is the managing water treatment company for Flint, Michigan, which is currently going through a water contamination investigation. Ms. Highley asked the city of Cle Elum to have someone that knows water systems conduct an investigation into the records of Veolia.

Public Hearings

None

Public Appearances

- Floyd Rogalski and Lloyd Olson showed a power point presentation outlining the details of the proposed EMS Levy for Hospital District #2. Steven Harper questioned the number of transports made by EMS compared to the Fire Department. Mr. Rogalski replied that the First Responder typically takes over, depending on the issue; there must be a confirmed injury before there is a transport. Ken Ratliff asked how much the increase would be. Mr. Rogalski responded that this is a replacement levy and there will be no additional increase in taxes; however this proposal is for a permanent levy. Steven Harper asked if there is a process to repeal the levy if found to be unnecessary. Lloyd Olson stated that this levy must be promoted as it is difficult to find volunteers. Mr. Rogalski responded that the commissioners can be replaced and there can be a vote to repeal the levy. Ken Ratliff stated this is a vital service which he as utilized. Mickey Holtz stated that it is difficult to run the department on bare bones; two ambulances can be very helpful. This levy will provide assistance with qualified aid and expenses; twice as much could be paid without so many volunteers. Ron Spears gave a brief history of how the 911 system was developed and spoke in support of the levy, calling it cheap insurance. Steven Harper stated he would like more explanation in the disparity of the

EMS transport; that he supports the EMS program but not a permanent levy. *A motion was made by Mickey Holt to support the levy. A poll vote was taken: Ken Ratliff-yes; Lindsey Ozbolt – yes; Mickey Holz - yes; Steven Harper - no; Ron Spears - yes; Jodi Larsen - yes; Arthur SCoff - yes; Motion carried. Mayor McGowan also stated his support/Of the Levy.*

- Gary Hammons provided a handout and addressed the Council regarding the proposed Port District.

Stated that the current system in Kittitas County always works for the lower County Only. Added that the Hospital and EMS levies are good for Economic Development, but is not in favor of a permanent levy. The previous administration signed a letter of support for two separate Port Districts and asked if the current administration would sign a letter to renew their support of two separate port districts. Council and citizen leadership is required to make the port district work. Decisions must be made based on priorities for the Upper County. The right people must be elected as commissioners and they must create clear goals and objectives. There must be strict accountability. Mr. Hammons is concerned it will be difficult for a Port District to be successful with the pressures of new taxes and levies. A Port District must be promoted and sold and no secret executive sessions must be involved. He attended the Main Street meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> and believes Main Street will have a good affect.

Mayor McGowan responded that no votes are ever made in executive session. Ken Ratliff added that council members have to avoid 4 or more council members in any public place at one time. Lindsey Ozbolt stated that the Port District is not just a City of Cle Elum issue, but involves all of the Upper County. Mr. Hammons stated he has also contacted South Cle Elum.

#### Unfinished Business

None

#### New Business

- Wesley Craven - amended contract for grave digging: Rob Omans read the staff report into the record, outlining the request to amend the current contract to add an additional \$50.00 per grave compensation to Wesley Craven for operation of a jackhammer or similar devise should the need arise. *A motion was made by Steven Harper und seconded by Arthur Scaff to authorize the Mayor to sign the First Amendlllentto the Contract/or Gravedigger Services between the City o/Cle Elum and Wesley Craven. Motion carried.*

- SF Check Fees: Rob Omans read the staff report into the record, requesting authorization to bill NSF Check Fees directly to Utility statements rather than by separate manual statements. The proposed distribution would be \$15.00 to the Water Fund; \$15.00 to the Sewer Fund and \$5.00 to the Sanitary Fund. Steven Harper asked if the bank assessed the City any fees for NSF check, and, if so, how much of the NSF fee is paid back into that fund. Rob Omans responded that the distribution would have to be reassessed to pay the NSF check fee assessed by the bank, and then distribute the balance to the three designated funds. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Jodi Larsen to table this agenda item until the next meeting so the lund distribution can be researched and brought be/ore the council. Ron Spears asked if the Council could modify the assessment distribution at this meeting to finalize the proposed action. The motion to table was denied. Rob Omans proposed to take out the bankfee and distribute*

*the balance by percentage to each of the specified funds. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ron Spears to accept the distribution of NSF Check fee funds as proposed by Rob Omans. Motion carried.*

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Committee Reports.**

None

**Council Members Comments & Concerns**

Steven Harper asked to schedule a meeting with the Cemetery Committee prior to the next Council meeting. The Cemetery Committee will meet on February 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Steven Harper reported there are currently bills before the House Committee providing for a prohibition on guns in parks. He suggested the City must be watchful and proactive on this issue.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Lindsey Ozbolt and seconded by Ron Spears to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Motion Carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*



Attest



Mayor