

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
November 28, 2017

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council members John Glondo, Beth Williams and Tom Hastings were sworn into office by the City Clerk. Roll call was taken. Members present were Mayor McGowan, Tom Hastings, John Glondo, Ron Spears, Steven Harper, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Mickey Holz was absent. Staff present was City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ron Spears to excuse Councilmember Holz. The motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition

a. Mayor McGowan announced the consideration of the Marijuana Moratorium Extension has been re-scheduled for the 12/12/17 City Council meeting to ensure that sufficient notice is given.

Consent Agenda

*A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to accept the consent agenda as written; which included the minutes of the 11/14/17 Regular Council Meeting; vouchers and checks #39223 through #39267 in the amount of \$249,217.10; and November 15, 2017 payroll vouchers in the amount of \$64,427.93. Council member Tom Hastings asked that the minutes and vouchers be approved under separate motions. There was no second to Councilmember Hastings' motion. John Glondo, Ron Spears, Steven Harper, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff voted yea; Tom Hastings voted nay. *The original motion carried.* Council member Harper requested discussion of the consent agenda to be placed on this meeting agenda.*

Officer Reports

City Administration – Robert Omans:

- Reported the Christmas in Cle Elum Parade and events will be held on Saturday 12/02/17, with the parade starting at 6:00 p.m. The City of Cle Elum will have a float in the parade with a "Winter Tip: Let It Drip!" theme.
- Reported the roof repair at the old Water Treatment Plant should be completed by 12/08/17.

Building Official – Robert Omans:

- Reported the building department continues to receive questions on building permits.
- Reported D.R. Horton will be submitting building permit applications for 8 homes at the Cle Elum Pines West Development on 11/29/17.

Network Administrator: Robert Omans:

- Reported the IT Department is currently upgrading to new computers with the help of his volunteer.

Planning Department – Lucy Temple:

- Reported the Planning Commission will be reviewing the annexation of Whispering Pines RV Park, which will result in a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and a zoning ordinance update. The recommendation of the Planning Commission will be brought to the City Council at a later date.
- Reported the Planning Department has been approached by a citizen with a request to add short term rentals as a conditional use within the general commercial zoning district.
- Reported the Planning Department is working on the final plats for the Swiftwater Subdivision and the Cle Elum Pines West Phase 2 Subdivision. The final decision is administrative and is not required to go before council.
- Reported the Binding Site Plan for the development next to the Price Chopper building has been finalized.
- Reported the next Comprehensive Plan Open House is Tuesday 12/05/17 for review of the Land Use Element and Map. Ms. Temple urged everyone to attend, including council members.

Public Works Director – Jim Leonhard

- No Report

Police Report –Chief Scott Ferguson:

- No report

Fire Department Report – Chief Ed Mills:

- No Report

Citizen Comments on Non-agenda Items

Russ Henry – Off Road Riders for Veterans:

- Presented information to the council regarding his proposed “Off-Road Riders Presents the Cle Elum Off-Highway Recreational Sports Festival” during the 1st or 2nd week in October of 2018. The purpose of the event is to raise money to buy tracked mobility chairs for disabled veterans. The 503 c3 charity would be set up in the downtown area and should bring a lot of revenue to the local businesses. *Mayor McGowan recommended that he speak with Amy McGuffin, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Director of Tourism and Executive Director of the Downtown Association to help get the event organized.*

Patsy Preston, 906 West Second Street:

- Read a Facebook post regarding a vehicle damaged by potholes and the denial of an insurance claim for those damages.
- Stated she has not been treated with respect when she speaks at the City Council meetings and has not been listened to or respected for complaining about pot holes.
- Stated the City’s \$10 million budget should provide for fixing potholes.
- Stated she is concerned that vouchers are being approved without the entire council’s review and approval.
- Stated she believes there is a disconnection between the council and the citizens of Cle Elum.
- Stated she is concerned that some council members are treated well while others are treated with disrespect.

Christine Heimbigner-Simpson – 509 East Third Street:

- Welcomed the new Council member, Beth Williams, and the appointed council members who were elected to their positions in the recent election.
- Commented it was a pleasure serving the citizens of Cle Elum for the past 1½ years.
- Commented there has been poor transparency, communication, hostile environment for her and a hidden self-agenda for the mayor.
- Noted the City spent \$8,000 in attorney’s fees on different matters with her and she feels the city is going broke instead of fighting to do right.
- Stated the City created a council member pay for her at a prorated salary which was not done for other council members.
- Stated she was not treated fairly during her tenancy with the city.
- Stated she had to pay more for public records requests than other council members and fulfillment of those requests took longer than other council members’ requests.
- Stated there are 2 unmitigated wells on Wood Duck Road from 2016 that were brought to the council’s attention and the council and mayor have not acted on this issue.
- Stated the City has spent over \$15,000 on legal fees regarding Ms. Heimbigner-Simpson, and that the Police Department could have had their cameras with that money.
- Stated she will be at every council meeting in the future and urged the public to attend as well.

Public Appearances

a. Amy McGuffin – Director of Tourism – Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the Downtown Association Report:

- Provided update reports for October, which included website analytics detailing the views to the website, Facebook and Instagram. Top 5 cities viewing the webpage are Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Ellensburg and Roslyn.
- Reported Eliza Stevenson is a new board member of the Downtown Association.
- Reported a Jingle and Mingle event will be held by the Downtown Association on 12/12/17 from 4 to 6 pm at The Orchard Restaurant.
- Reported the finalization of a Downtown Master Plan, which includes improvements between Oakes and Peoh Avenues, and between Railroad and Second Streets.
- Reported a tour by a State Historic Architect to evaluate the Cle Elum Historic District and provide input on how to improve the District.
- Reported the mission of the Downtown Association is to support Downtown businesses.
- Reported the Downtown Association meets at 11:00 am at the Catalyst Building on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- Reported working with the City on way-finding signage.

Business Requiring Public Hearings

- a. Ordinance #1473 – Tax Levy for 2018:** Robert Omans and Mayor McGowan presented the Treasurer’s Staff Report, which stated Ordinance #1473 is an increase in the regular property tax levy of 1% from the previous year. The

increase would provide \$6,904.51 in additional revenue. Omans reported the public hearing was published in the 11/09, 11/16 and 11/23/17 issues of the newspaper of record. Mayor McGowan opened the meeting for public input at 7:50 pm.

Patsy Preston – 906 West Second Street:

- Stated she is concerned that the public hearing was published in the back page of the newspaper and asked that future publication be made more visible to the people of the community. *Councilmember Harper stated the public hearings are also posted at City Hall and on the City website.*

Hearing no further comment from the public, Mayor McGowan closed the public hearing at 7:52 pm. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper (for discussion) to adopt Ordinance/Resolution #1473 as written.* Councilmember Harper commented that the 1% increase would amount to approximately \$11.00 per year per home owner. Council member Hastings asked if the Ordinance requires only 1 public hearing; Robert Omans responded only 1 public hearing is required, and this public hearing was published in the newspaper for 3 consecutive weeks, which is more than required. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Unfinished Business

Resolution #2017-021 – Revised Employee Handbook: *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by John Glondo to adopt the revised employee handbook as presented.*

Discussion: Council member Spears asked if sick leave would be cashed out at the end of each year. Council member Ratliff stated the amended handbook does not change policy with regard to sick leave, pay or benefits. Mayor McGowan stated the revised handbook takes the past practice of the City and incorporates them into the handbook. Council member Hastings asked if comparisons have been made with other cities with regard to accruals of sick leave and vacation. Council member Ratliff stated 240 hours is comparable to the Federal standards. Lucy Temple explained that the handbook has been updated to reflect the policies of the city and to bring the city into compliance as advised by WCIA. Council members Glondo, Harper and Ratliff agreed the matter of sick leave, vacation and comp time should be discussed at a later date and when employees can be involved in the discussion. *Steven Harper, Beth Williams, John Glondo, Ken Ratliff and Ron Spears voted yea. Tom Hastings voted nay. The motion carried 5 – 1*

New Business

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to amend the agenda to add discussion of the consent agenda per the conversation and concerns voiced by Tom Hastings. Discussion will be set under Committee reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- ... **Ordinance #1473 – Tax Levy for 2018:** Passed unanimously under Business Requiring Public Hearings
- b. **Resolution # 2017-021 – Adoption of the Revised Employee Handbook:** Passed with a 5 to 1 voted under

Unfinished Business

Committee Reports

- a. Consent Agenda Discussion:

Tom Hastings:

- Asked to be provided with the cover sheet of the dollar amount and voucher report at each meeting.
- Requested a separate vote on individual items on the consent agenda at each meeting.

Ron Spears:

- Asked that a voucher report be provided to each member of the council at every council meeting.

Ken Ratliff:

- Commented that previous councils have reviewed the vouchers during the regular meetings, which made meetings last for hours. A committee was formed to review the vouchers diligently to determine the money is being spent correctly; then that committee would recommend to council for approval. This process has been used since approximately 2002.
- Commented that large expenditures, such as a new fire truck, always come before council for approval.
- Commented that vouchers are always open to the council for their review during regular business hours.
- Stated he would not be opposed to providing a cover sheet prior to each council meeting.

Steven Harper:

- Commented the Budget Committee is responsible for reviewing the bills being paid and should not be micromanaged by council.

Closing discussion:

- The mayor and council agreed it would be possible to provide the cover sheet to council prior to the meetings.

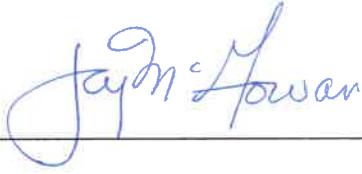
Steven Harper – Lodging Tax Committee Report:

- Reported the lodging tax committee has not received any information from the Consolidated Lodging Tax Advisory Committee regarding the Lodging Tax Applications reviewed in November, possibly due to the newly

implemented electronic filing process. Council member Hastings stated the Upper County received a good portion of Lodging Tax money.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday January 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.



Mayor



Attest