

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
July 29, 2020

**Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership**

The Regular meeting of the City Council was held "virtually", in compliance with the Covid-19 Social Distancing Mandate issued by Governor Jay Inslee. The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Roll was called. Members present were Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Ruston Weaver, Steven Harper and Ken Ratliff. Beth Williams and Mickey Holz were absent. Other members present were City Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to excuse the absence of Beth Williams and Mickey Holz. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

*Matthew Lundh asked to amend the agenda to add discussion of the proposed Dog Park under Unfinished Business. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition**

a. **Proclamation: Scout-Me-In Day - July 29, 2020:** Mayor McGowan read the Proclamation naming July 29, 2020 as Scout-Me-In Day into the record.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 07/13/2020 Regular City Council meeting; 07/16/2020 Payroll EFTs and Checks #42499 - 42505 in the amount of \$80,813.26; and 07/27/2020 EFTs and Checks #42506 – 42542 for Claim Vouchers in the amount of \$107,627.70. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

**City Administrator, Building Official and Network Administrator – Robert Omans**

- Absent – No Report

**City Planner – Lucy Temple**

- Reported she has been reviewing and processing permits for McDonald's, Dru Bru, the Hospital District, Studebaker Alley/Bonzai Teriyaki, and a land exchange/road vacation.
- Reported she continues to work on permitting for the Hanson Ponds Park project.
- Reported she has been working on local large development reviews.
- Reported she receives questions regarding the developments daily.
- Reported the City Park Structure is scheduled to be completed in August. Partners in the project include Shoemaker, Suncadia, Rotary, Casto's Inland Construction, Merle Inc., plus donations of concrete, form and pour of the slab and pathway from Popoff Construction, and a partial financial donation of the roofing.

**Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart:**

- Reported the crew has starting work at 4 am due to the heat, and are crack sealing and conducting other road maintenance during those early morning hours.
- Reported the chip seal project is complete, thanks to Kittitas County.
- Reported Phase II of the Downtown Project is nearly complete; additionally, landscaping and pedestrian lighting will be completed soon.
- Reported the Stafford Street project is nearly complete.

- Reported Public Works will be assisting Roslyn to install a new storm sewer system starting the week of 8/1/2020.
- Reported the crew will install a new water main on Rossetti Way, including a new fire hydrant, beginning the week of 08/10/2020.

**Police Chief – Kirk Bland:**

- Reported the Department is now fully staffed.
- Reported the Department has taken 2400 calls for the year to date, which is normal.
- Reported all in-person training has been cancelled; online training courses have been taken by the officers through PoliceOne.com.
- Reported the Supervisor's training class has been cancelled by Washington State; there will be a 2-day course in Idaho next month, where officers can attend in person.
- Reported he attended a law enforcement zoom meeting regarding overcrowding in the County and associated parking issues. Law enforcement officers will be towing cars as needed.

**Public Appearances - 15 Minute Limit**

**Chamber of Commerce – Madison Ford:**

- Provided Discover Cle Elum user information for the month of June 2020.
- Reported the website traffic is up 26.4%, although tourism is down on a national level.
- Reported 70% of tourism in the County is recreational. The Chamber is promoting #recreate responsibly.
- Reported the Chamber spearheaded the County's Safety plan template and guidebook.
- Reported more people are coming to the Chamber for permits because the Forest Service Ranger Station office is closed.
- Reported the Chamber produced a virtual Pioneer Days parade.
- Reported the Chamber developed an outdoor guide for the entire county, with more information about the Upper County.
- Reported to Council about the various plans to bring tourism to the Upper County while remaining within the Phase 3 guidelines.

**Downtown Association Report – Debbie Bogart:**

- Thanked the City for allowing CEDA to be a part of the CARES grant process.
- Reported working with Washington Main Street to develop an Impact Report process, which will allow CEDA to measure success and change in the downtown core.
- Reported Washington Main Street has helped generate \$550 million in sales and brought 8,537 jobs to Main Street Communities.
- Reported the Economic Recovery team is exploring the idea of open spaces, such as sidewalks and parking lots, where businesses can operate.
- Reported CEDA is advocating in County meetings to prepare and meet the Covid safety requirements.
- Reported CEDA is asking the County to work with other entities to monitor outdoor use at parks and forested areas.
- Reported CEDA is providing businesses involved in the current Passport of Stars retail event with cards with multiple stamps. The cards will be used to enter into a drawing.
- Reported the Downtown Dollars event has been released and is available for vendors, organizations and individuals who purchase from the Downtown.
- Reported CEDA is reviewing possible events, promotions and steps to be taken to increase and support retail.
- Reported CEDA has been involved in conversations with County-wide representatives who are looking at a grant to assess needs for childcare.

- Reported CEDA can help downtown businesses with resources to help employers understand how to retain good employees.
- Reported WorkSource Kittitas County will be offering help with Career Training, Youth Programs and their Dislocated Worker program.
- Reported Downtown Programs joined the National Mainstreet Association to sign an advocacy letter requesting support for recovery funding for our communities.
- *Mayor McGowan asked to work with Debbie Bogart on ideas for outdoor businesses.*

#### **Business Requiring a Public Hearing**

**Dog Park Location Continued Public Hearing:** Mayor McGowan reported this Public Hearing was advertised as an in person meeting; however, meeting requirements have changed since this meeting was set, therefore, the Public Hearing will not be held. *See Unfinished Business.*

#### **Unfinished Business**

**Added Agenda Item: Proposed Dog Park Location:** Council member Lundh reported the Parks Committee is recommending to Council that the Dog Park Location Public Hearing process be closed, to waive the outdoor meeting and dispense with the proposed location of the cemetery. This decision is based on community feedback received advising the proposed location is not the ideal space for a Dog Park. The Parks committee is willing to abandon the proposed cemetery site and move on to other venues, including the original location, as well as alternate sites. Information on those sites will be brought back to council at a later date. At the recommendation of legal counsel, staff will place the public hearing on the next agenda with the intent to read additional comments into the record and then close the public hearing. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh to notice the continued public hearing for the next regular meeting with the purpose of reading comments and then close the public hearing. There was no second; Mayor McGowan stated it will be on the next agenda.*

#### **New Business**

**a. Agee Property Swap Update:** Lucy Temple introduced the right-of-way vacation, land exchange and boundary line adjustment between Paul and Jane Agee and the City of Cle Elum. The land exchange would include a transfer of open space property to the City in exchange for the vacated right-of-way. The exchange would include a long-used community trail connection to the Coal Mines Trail, which will become City property. The process will also require additional steps, therefore, no action is required by council at this time. Once the survey is finalized, more details, including terms of the land use, will be provided to council, at which time a date for a future hearing will also be set.

**b. Resolution No. 2020-018 – Technology Acceptable Use Policy:** Matthew Lundh reported the Resolution is to provide portable electronic devices to City Council members and Commissioners to enable access to meetings. The policy describes procedures for council and commissioners to follow, including Public Records Request compliance and non-compliance. The policy was reviewed and approved by the City's legal counsel. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Resolution 2020-018, the Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The motion carried unanimously.*

**c. Ordinance No. 1589 – Emergency Street Preservation Regulations:** Gregg Dohrn reported the streets of Cle Elum are not built to accommodate vehicles that are on the roads today. The City now has the authority to place weight restrictions on City Roads. This ordinance provides for the ability to add such restrictions to prevent large, heavy loads from damaging the older roads. A Haul Permit will be required as a mechanism to recover the cost of fixing damaged streets caused by heavy users. The City has discovered outside agencies may be authorizing activities outside the City which require access through the city. Those agencies have

not been diligent in the cost recovery of the damages caused by the heavier loads. The primary focus will be logging trucks, construction activities and any other activities that would cause damage to the streets. This is an emergency ordinance that, upon passage, would be a permanent code revision, and would become effective immediately without the 5-day publication requirement, and without a sunset date. ***A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to adopt Ordinance No. 1589 as presented. Council Discussion:***

1. *The City must ensure streets get added to the code as they are built.*
2. *Council members voiced concerns about trucks speeding down the streets in residential areas and whether this ordinance will address speeding traffic. Staff responded the purpose of this ordinance is to prevent damage to streets caused by heavy traffic not to establish or enforce speeding laws. Speeding traffic should be addressed by current laws with more tickets issued.*
3. *Clarification: WSDOT owned streets and roads are exempt; however, all other streets are not exempt from the Oversize Load Chapter.*
4. *The emergency nature of the ordinance is to prevent further damage to roads due to the increase in heavy traffic on City streets.*

***A poll vote was taken: Ken Ratliff, John Glondo, Steven Harper, Matthew Lundh and Ruston Weaver voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried unanimously 5-0, a super majority, and the ordinance goes into effect immediately.***

#### **Committee Reports:**

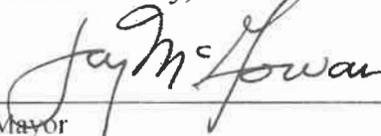
- a. **CARES Funding Allocation Committee:** Council member Matthew Lundh reported Sucasa Yoga, which was allocated a portion of the CARES grant funding at the last Council meeting, fell out of eligibility because they are not operating. They have been removed from the grant allocation list and the \$3,700 they were previously granted will be distributed equally among the remaining 15 grant recipients; an increase of \$411 per grantee. Council member Lundh asked for council approval. ***A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Matthew Lundh to remove Sucasa Yoga from the grant recipient list and to redistribute the money among the other applicants equally as recommended by the CARES Committee. Ruston Weaver, Matthew Lundh, John Glondo and Ken Ratliff voted aye. Steven Harper recused himself from the vote. The motion carried with 4 ayes, no nays, and one abstention.***
- b. Council member Steven Harper reported the City will soon be asked to move forward with the acquisition of communication devices for the Mayor, council and city commissioners from the CARES funds.

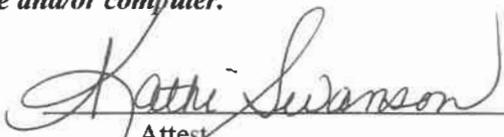
#### **Executive Session**

Mayor McGowan announced the City Council will meet in executive session for a period of 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Action is expected to be taken by council following the executive session. The Council went in to executive session at 7:32 pm. The Council reconvened its regular 07/29/2020 Council meeting at 7:52. ***A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to authorize the mayor to file an appeal for the Forest Management Practices Permit with the Department of Natural Resources for the Ponderosa Pines Development. The motion carried unanimously.***

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

***A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ruston Weaver to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday August 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and will be held virtually, with Zoom access by phone and/or computer.***

  
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Mayor

  
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Attest