

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
September 28, 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 Roll was called. Members present were Mayor McGowan, Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Ruston Weaver was absent. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. *A motion was made by Beth Williams and seconded by John Glondo to excuse the absence of Ruston Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

*A motion was made by Matthew Lundh to approve the agenda with the amendments to add (under New Business) items 10b – Discussion on the Status of Resolution 2020-010; 10c – Consideration of an Ordinance repealing CEMC 2.12; and 10d – Discussion on Council Policies and Procedures. Mayor McGowan stated it would have been nice to have this information ahead of time. Steven Harper seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended, stating no immediate action is expected, though it does not preclude council from taking action. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition**

a. **Pangrazi Award:** Pangrazi Committee Member Beth Williams reported the committee voted unanimously in the selection of the 2020 Pangrazi Award recipient. Mayor McGowan read the names of the nominees who were not selected, which included Ron Jacobson, Larry Scholl and Barbara Finley. Mayor McGowan announced the winner of the award is Hartwig Vatheuer. Staff showed a video-taped presentation of the award being given to Mr. Vatheuer.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 09/14/2020 Regular City Council meeting; 09/16/2020 Payroll EFTs and Checks #42634 - 42642 in the amount of \$78,397.37; and 09/28/2020 EFTs and Checks #42702 - 42734 for Claim Vouchers in the amount of \$221,431.15. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- 214 vouchers were redeemed for the Fall Cleanup compared to 178 from the last cleanup.
- The Fire Chief has lifted the burn ban.
- WSDOT has reported Phase 3 Construction of I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project will start next year at Milepost 64.5 to the west interchange of Easton.

**City Planner – Lucy Temple – Reported:**

- The City is taking comments on the 2 large development agreements. 47 Degrees North comments will go to the City Clerk until 11/02/2020; City Heights comments will go to the City Planner until 09/30/2020.

- Grants in the amounts of \$600,000 for WSDOT Safe Routes to School, \$600,000 for WSDOT Regional Mobility, and \$500,000 RCO Local Parks for the Horse Park Covered Arena project have been submitted.
- An \$11,200 Ecology Shoreline Master Program periodic update was submitted today.
- RFPs for grants already awarded will be published this week, including an RFP for an engineer for the QUADCO planning grant to extend Railroad Street and an RFP for the Holiday Lighting Grant.
- The Planning Commission continues to work on the Short-term rental code, which should be completed before the end of the 6-month moratorium in October.

**Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart:**

- The crew and Vactor Truck were dispatched twice last week for emergency work at Suncadia.
- The crew also did Vactor truck work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The crew is working on repairing potholes and alleys, “Vactoring” catch basins on Safeway Hill, end of season Dura-Patching of potholes, and preparing equipment for winter.
- Reminded the public to slow down for pedestrians out in the morning while it’s dark.

**Police Chief – Kirk Bland - Reported:**

- Officer Alec Johnson will be starting the academy on 10/05/20.
- A stabbing incident occurred in Cle Elum; Greg Amundson has been incarcerated for the incident and the stabbing victim is recovering.
- Roslyn has reported bear sightings; a bear trap will be set out by Fish and Wildlife.
- There was a Back the Blue rally downtown; the Chief thanked the supporters.
- A lady gave the Police Department painted decorative Back the Blue rocks; the gestures of support by the community are deeply appreciated.

**Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

None

**Public Appearances - 15 Minute Limit**

**Chamber of Commerce – Madison Ford - Reported:**

- Discover Cle Elum user information for July and August 2020 was provided.
- 18 businesses were featured in July and 13 in August.
- The Chamber is working with Suncadia to bring those residents in to Cle Elum.
- There was a 17% increase of users on DiscoverCleElum.com in July 2020.
- The Chamber hosted the Independence Day Fireworks Show.
- The Chamber met with the Liberty Drive coordinator to consider combining their efforts in 2021.
- The Chamber met with Rill Adventures to integrate overnight rafting trips.
- Developed a winter recreation map.
- The Chamber is working on Christmas in Cle Elum, to include a “reverse” parade.
- Submitted a Lodging Tax application for the 2021 Cle Elum Independence Day.

**Downtown Association Report – Debbie Bogart - Reported:**

- Thanked the City and Lodging Tax Committee for their support for the Holiday lighting.
- CEDA is working on Halloween events, including “Harvesting Food”, a BooCruise and Pumpkin Path. The BooCruise and Pumpkin Path events are approved by Dr. Larson of Kittitas County Health Department. CEDA is awaiting a response from DOT regarding street closures.
- CEDA is working with Suncadia and Roslyn planning Christmas in Cle Elum.
- CEDA received a grant from Suncadia to help businesses with their marketing.
- An individual donated \$1,000 to help downtown businesses.

- Spotlight Grants will be provided to 10 downtown businesses within the next 2 weeks.
- CEDA is working with local motels to promote events.
- Local motels donated personal care products; which were given to Hope Source.
- Six new businesses in town will be honored in small gatherings.
- Taneum Creek and Boone's Café are now gone from the area.
- CEDA's Child Care Committee is working to determine needs for affordable child care.
- Thanked the city for their support.
- Will sponsor a training on special valuations and tax credits for downtown building.

**TNC – Checkerboard Partnership:** Jayme Basye and Brian Straniti gave a presentation describing the Checkerboard Partnership. The TNC is applying for an RCO Community Forest Program Grant (FY 2021) and is asking for a letter of support from the City of Cle Elum supporting the Checkerboard Partnership. The RCO Grant will allow TNC to bind the land, providing for grant opportunities when they become available. Council members Lundh and Holz commented they will need more information before they can approve a letter of support. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Beth Williams to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support for the Community Forest Program Application. Steven Harper, Beth Williams, John Glondo and Ken Ratliff voted aye. Matthew Lundh and Mickey Holz voted nay. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 2. Brian Straniti will provide more grant application information in the future.*

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

None

#### **Unfinished Business**

None

#### **New Business**

- a. Ordinance No. 1587:** Robert Omans explained the amendments are to transfer \$75,000 to the CDBG Stormwater Design Construction Grant, which the 2020 budget did not cover, and to add money to the developer funds, which are reimbursable. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to adopt Ordinance 1587 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. Added Agenda Item: Discussion on the Status of Resolution 0020-010:** Matthew Lundh inquired if the City is still under a Covid-19 state of emergency as described in the resolution. Council member Lundh suggested the Council repeal the resolution, if the state of emergency no longer exists, and to add a periodic renewal extension on future Emergency Resolutions to eliminate operating under a perpetual state of emergency. Mayor McGowan responded he will make inquiries as to what the ramifications would be if the emergency declaration is removed. This item will be on a future meeting agenda for discussion.
- c. Added Agenda Item: Consideration of Ordinance Repealing CEMC 2.12:** Council member Lundh noted he sent an ordinance he drafted to the City Clerk and City Administrator in April, the purpose of which is to repeal Chapter CEMC 2.12 relating to the meat inspector. Council member Lundh stated he would like to clean up the code to remove outdated, unnecessary chapters. *A motion was made by Steven Harper to enact the ordinance to repeal chapter 2.12 as presented by Matthew Lundh and to give it Ordinance Number 1588. Mayor McGowan stated it was his understanding no action would be taken on the added agenda items. Council member Harper clarified his previous statement that, while council is not necessarily taking action on all of these, it did not preclude the council from taking action. Matthew Lundh seconded the motion for further discussion and/or referral to a committee. Mayor McGowan noted we have an agenda so people will know what discussions will take place in advance, a precedent that the council should continue to follow. Council member Ratliff agreed and stated*

*the council is a legislative authority, the hallmark of which is to thoroughly vet these items, and Council should not vote to pass or repeal a law without taking the time to deliberate, and to not make laws arbitrarily. Mayor McGowan asked that, in the future, items for discussion be submitted using the appropriate channels of submitting to the City Clerk who will put the items on the agenda prior to the meeting. This is the method used in the past and people will know what the council is doing. Mayor McGowan asked for a vote on the motion. Steven Harper, Matthew Lundh and Mickey Holz voted aye. Beth Williams, Ken Ratliff and John Glondo voted nay. Mayor McGowan cast the deciding nay vote. The motion did not pass. Council member Lundh questioned if the vote was to put this on a future agenda or to submit it to a committee for more discussion. The original motion was struck down, therefore no further action will be taken at this time. Mayor McGowan also responded it could be complicated and there might be a number of ordinances that may be grouped together for review. Some may take more consideration. Council member Harper commented the council has been operating on an unwritten system of rules that have been traditionally followed, but have not been memorialized. There are no rules in effect, other than the Revised Code of Washington, regarding how to bring an item to council. Mayor McGowan reminded council that the public must know in advance what the council will be discussing.*

d. **Added Agenda Item: Discussion on Council Policies and Procedures:** Matthew Lundh asked to have this process prioritized, as there is not a process in place for this council, and suggested the council take the lead to develop legislation to govern the City branch of the government. He had hoped the council would work collectively on this publicly in an open, transparent process. Council member Lundh suggested having the council form the committee to get started. Mayor McGowan reported he and Gary Berndt, as the facilitator, planned to have in-person study sessions with the entire council. Due to the Covid restrictions, the meetings will have to be via Zoom. Matthew Lundh stated the Covid restrictions will allow 10 people, socially distanced and masked, to be in a room, which would enable the entire council and some staff to attend. Council member Ratliff contested the suggestion, stating this issue is not important and this idea has to be an open public process. Council member Harper commented there is no written rule for this council to follow. Mayor McGowan responded that this council has been functioning by using a system of consensus. Council member Harper asked to revisit this issue at each meeting to follow the progress of the Council Policies and Procedures. Mayor McGowan stated we will move forward to memorialize the method for how the council conducts business.

**Committee Reports:**

a. **Matthew Lundh** reported the IT committee engaged MethodWorks to move forward with the server replacement project. The City will be obtaining communications devices for the council's use within the next several weeks.

**Motion to Adjourn**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Beth Williams to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday October 12, 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