

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
June 14, 2021

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

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 Mayor McGowan, Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Ruston Weaver, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz , Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland, Fire Chief Ed Mills, Veolia Water/Sewer Treatment Plants Operator William LaRue and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

Mayor McGowan asked to change Unfinished Business to allow Clair Nicholls to discuss the Draft Agreement with the UKCCRA under item a, and move item a – Resolution 2021-010 to item b. Matthew Lundh asked to have the Critical Areas Ordinance added to the agenda under c- Unfinished Business. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Steven Harper to approve the meeting agenda with those changes. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

None

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Mickey Holz to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 05/24/2021 Regular City Council meeting; 06/05/2021 Payroll EFTs and Vouchers #43470 – 43478 in the amount of \$240,185.19 (includes 05/20/21 Draw); Claim Voucher #43469 (Cemetery Caretaker) and Claim Vouchers #43469 – 43523 in the amount of \$306,962.77. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- May Building activity included 11 permits for \$11,000 and 28 building inspections.
- The utilities clerk has developed steps to implement a payment plan program to use when the moratorium on water shut offs is lifted.
- The Apple Business Manager Program has issued requests to change email addresses on iCloud accounts; advised staff not to change their email addresses or get a new Apple ID.
- Due to the nationwide increase in Ransomware attacks, there will soon be a 2-factor authentication process policy in place for computer sign-on.
- The old server was taken off-line about 3 weeks ago and will soon be retired.

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

- Permit applications continue to come in.
- Received applications for a Short-Term Rental and a Home Occupation Permit.
- The community built a playground at the City Park over the past weekend.
- The Planning Commission is working on the Future Land Use and Official Zoning Maps.
- Will begin reviewing a proposed Flood Hazard Ordinance later this summer.

**Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart - Reported:**

- The crew was involved in the construction of the new playground at City Park.
- Added an irrigation system for the planters on the West First Street Hill for safety.

- Working at the Airport to mitigate fire hazards this summer.
- Water main breaks have subsided; however, the sewer system has been having issues.
- Some City streets have been pre-leveled in preparation for chip sealing after July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Some City Streets have been re-striped (Re-highlighted).
- Crew is preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

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

- May receive a partial reimbursement from the State for the overtime caused while Alex Johnson was at the academy.
- Most of the department will be attending patrol tactics training, hosted by the Ellensburg Police Department, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Saturday market was successful.
- The towns have been busy without many incidents.
- There was a burglary at the Kittitas County Public Works Building; police discovered some of the stolen items in an abandoned, stolen car found in Yakima. No arrests were made.
- To date, there have been 1,823 calls for service.

*Councilmember Lundh thanked the Police Department for speed enforcement on 903, specifically on the day of the Public Market.*

**Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:**

- The Department had 40 calls in April: 4 fire calls, 3 good intent, 28 EMS, 1 hazardous – no fire, 3 false alarms and 1 special incident.
- The County Fire Marshall's web page now has Burn Ban information for all Cities. Cle Elum is not currently in a burn ban status. The City website will be updated as new information becomes available.

**Veolia – William LaRue - Reported:**

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for May 2021 were provided.
- The primary backwash valve at the Water Plant developed a leak over Memorial day weekend; staff was able to control the leak until repairs could be made.
- The Wastewater Plant Sequencing Batch Reactor #1 was taken off-line, drained and cleaned; inspections will happen in June.
- Staff has installed a security system at the Wastewater Plant.
- A large tree fell on 06/07/2021, narrowly missing the building and a light pole; however, 30-feet of fence line was damaged. Quotes for repairs have been requested.

**Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

None

**Public Appearances – 15 Minute limit**

None

**Business Requiring a Public Hearing**

None

**Unfinished Business**

- a. **Draft Agreement for Professional Service between the City of Cle Elum and UKCCRA: Discussion:** Mayor McGowan reported the City's legal department has reviewed the draft of the agreement. Council member Lundh asked why \$50,000 of the \$350,000 for the project is being held back in a separate fund and if there is a budget for the fund. Mayor McGowan reported the City will hold the \$50,000 for contingency purposes. Clair Nicholls

reported the UKCCRA will report to Council and Parks & Rec regularly. The budget will be set after the Consultant is chosen and the scope of work is established. Council member Lundh commented the money for this project was supposed to go directly to a non-profit and now is going to the City; has this cost the City money? Mayor McGowan explained that once the City received the money, it became public funds which cannot be given to a non-profit. All future payments are City money and is subject to the State Auditing process. Clair Nicholls reported there may be some small language changes to the agreement, including the effective date. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to accept the Draft Agreement in its current form and authorized the Mayor to sign the finalized document. The motion carried unanimously.*

**b. Resolution 2021-010 – Amending the 2021 Cemetery Rates:** Robert Omans reported this resolution was brought back from the 05/24/2021 meeting, where it was tabled to allow citizens an opportunity to purchase plots at the existing rates. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to adopt Resolution 2021-010 increasing the cemetery rate fee schedule. The motion carried unanimously.*

**c. Added Agenda Item – Critical Areas Ordinance:** Mayor McGowan reported the City is conducting an internal review of the best available science and a report will be brought back to a future meeting. There will be a continued review of how the Ordinance will affect the people of the City, including the 100-foot right-of-way throughout the City. The review will go back to the Planning Commission; then the Ordinance will be brought back to a future council meeting.

#### New Business

**a. Veolia SCADA Replacement:** William LaRue reported the RS View software used to operate the Wastewater Plant process began to fail in January. Several companies were contacted to repair the system; however, could not or would not work on the system due to its age. After several unsuccessful attempts to repair the failing system, Veolia was told the software would have to be upgraded. Quotes were received from All-Phase and Apex for the system upgrades and Veolia is asking for direction from council as to how to move forward. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to accept the quote from All-Phase Controls and Automation in the amount of \$28,500 plus taxes to upgrade the Wastewater Plant control software to the latest version. The motion carried unanimously.*

**b. HLA Task Order No. 2021-03 Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement:** Robert Omans reported the City received federal money through WSDOT in 2020. This Task Order, in the amount of \$9,000, is for HLA to prepare the Title VI NDR, and 2020 Annual Report, which is a requirement in order to receive the funds. Council member Harper recommended having a representative from HLA come to the council to provide a better explanation, noting he stands in opposition of the Task Order on principle, until additional information can be provided. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh to table the item until further explanation can be obtained. This Agenda Item was tabled until the 06/28/2021 regular council meeting.*

**c. Ordinance 1608 – Budget Amendment:** Robert Omans reported the amendment will add money to the Airport Fund for maintenance, add money to the Regional Water Fund for repairs, the South Cle Elum Reservoir Main Replacement, the Solar Power Project and 2 Variable Frequency Drives. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to approve Ordinance 1608 with the amendment to remove the \$120,000 designated for the Solar Power Project until a later date when more information on the project is available. The motion carried unanimously.*

**d. Resolution 2021-013 – Surplus Playground Equipment:** Robert Omans reported the old playground equipment was removed from the Second Street Park and new equipment was added. A letter was received from Imelda Nelson asking the City to donate the items to her organization to be shipped to the Philippines. Council member Harper commented it is in the City's best interest to approve the Resolution and allow the City Administrator to dispose of the

items in the best manner possible, as donating the equipment would be gifting of public funds. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to adopt Resolution 2021-013 as written. The motion carried unanimously.* Mayor McGowan will write the letter to Ms. Nelson regarding the decision not to donate to her non-profit organization.

e. **Police Law and Justice Grant Agreement:** Chief Bland reported City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for munitions training. This is an informational report only and no action is required by council.

f. **Distressed Sales and Use Tax Infrastructure Improvement Program Agreement between Kittitas County and the City of Cle Elum.** Robert Omans reported the City has been awarded a grant of \$450,460 to be used for the First Street Project for the continued improvements to the south side of First Street between Billings and Oakes. The City is also applying for additional money from other grants for this project. Council approval is required for the Mayor to sign. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ruston Weaver to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2021 Distressed County Sales and Use Tax Infrastructure Improvement Program Agreement between Kittitas County and the City of Cle Elum. The motion carried unanimously.*

g. **Vertical Bridge – 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to Amended Lease Agreement:** Lucy Temple reported this amendment allowed Vertical Bridge to pay the prorated 8 months of 2021 in addition to 5 full years for a term ending on 12/31/26. The next term will begin on year 7 of the contract. *A motion was made by Beth Williams and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the amendment to the Vertical Bridge Lease Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.*

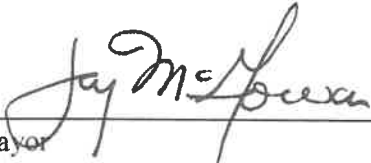
h. **These Guys LLC Right-of-Way Vacation Request:** Lucy Temple reported this application requests a vacation of a right-of-way on the North part of northern Oakes Avenue and extending into West Seventh Street. No council action is needed at this time. A resolution will be brought to council at the next meeting to set a time and date of a hearing as part of the process.

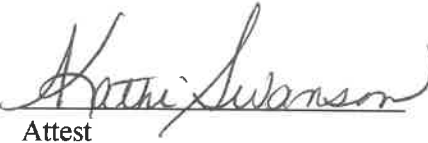
#### **Committee Reports**

- Council member Harper reported the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ Lodge) has approached the City to relinquish ownership of their cemetery to the City. The cemetery committee will meet to discuss the proposal to move forward with the details of the transfer.
- Council member Holz reported the Budget Committee met to discuss putting an additional person into the front office at City Hall as a part of the 2022 Budget.
- Council member Harper reported the Budget Committee discussed a 2021 budget amendment to allow the purchase of 3 new vehicles for the Police Department at about \$50,000 each and requested direction from the council. Council gave their approval to move forward.
- Council member Lundh reported the Community Build project at the park was held on 06/12/2021. About 30 volunteers and City crew member Jim Studebaker were beneficial.

#### **Motion to Adjourn.**

*A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn at 7:39 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday June 28, 2021, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.*

  
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 Mayor

  
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 Attest