

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
August 9, 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, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Ruston Weaver was absent. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, Police Chief Kirk Bland, Fire Chief Ed Mills, Veolia Water/Sewer Treatment Plants Operator William LaRue and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to excuse the absence of Ruston Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Beth Williams to add the Regional Fire Authority to New Business, Item f. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh to add Councilmember Comments to the Agenda as New Agenda Item 12, reassign Adjournment by Motion as Agenda Item 13, in addition to the request by Councilmember Williams' to add the RFA and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Beth Williams. Council member Harper stated he stands in opposition of adding the RFA to the agenda; but is in favor of adding Councilmember Comments. A poll vote was taken. The motion carried with 4 ayes and 2 nays.

Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 07/26/2021 Regular City Council meeting; 08/05/2021 Payroll EFTs and Checks #43646 – 43655 in the amount of \$267,921.66 (includes 07/20/21 Draw); and Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #43656 – 43691 in the amount of \$69,862.09. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- July Building activity included 4 permits for \$7,532.13 and 44 building inspections.
- DOR and the Forest Service are using the airport as a staging area for firefighting purposes.
- Council iPads must be enrolled in the Apple program to allow communication with Office 365.
- *Councilmember Lundh asked if the council will be informed of the new contract planner; asked to have mail addressed to them scanned and emailed to them; and if the council would be notified when large development applications are submitted to the City. Mayor McGowan responded the City has a temporary planner to help out in the interim of filling the planner position and incoming mail will be emailed to them going forward. Council member Harper noted a development application may be received as incomplete; the council does not need to be notified until the application is complete.*

Police Chief – Kirk Bland – Reported:

- The Cle Elum Roundup held during the last weekend in July went well.
- The William Craven event held in Roslyn on 08/04/21 was very successful.
- New laws with regard to Police Reform went into effect 07/25/21. The Department is working with local law enforcement to understand and implement the laws.

- LEMAP will be implemented on 08/10/21 to provide information on Police Procedures.
- Receiving applications for a lateral officer to replace Scott Uren, who retired.
- *Council member Lundh asked if the Use of Force Policy will be implemented by the other cities in the jurisdiction. Chief Bland responded he is working toward that goal.*

Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:

- The Department had 53 calls in July, including 39 EMS, 1 hazardous condition, 2 service calls and 1 false alarm.

Veolia – William LaRue - Reported:

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for July 2021 were provided.
- The WTP is running 21 hours/day, averaging flows of 2.2 million gallons/day.
- Completed the lead & copper sampling requirements for the 3-year reporting period for the WTP. Sample sites have been notified of the results.
- Cleaned out the East basin 2 months earlier than normal due to hot weather.
- The new LED lights that were installed are failing quickly; 9 have failed since they were installed. Working with McKinstry and the electrical distributor to get them replaced.
- The WWTP Basin 1 is offline; it has been cleaned with inspections scheduled for later this week.
- Working to replace the UV isolation valve at the WWTP, which has a failed seal.
- Replaced the UV circuit board that failed at the WWTP after the 07/02/21 power outage.
- Making process changes to improve the effluent quality at the WWTP.
- Met with the VFD manufacturer's representative on 07/07/21; units are on order with an expected delivery date of 10/11/21.
- The computer and software for the WWTP SCADA have arrived. Allphase is working on migrating the program to the new platform.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

Public Appearances – 15 Minute limit

Cle Elum Skate Park Community: Adam Baker presented plans and goals to provide a safe, world class skate park. The current structure has failing ramps, rough, uneven concrete surfaces and excessive surface temperatures on the ramps. The new Skate Park would bring respect and stewardship to the skate park space, provide an outdoor space with more activities for youth, bring families and a larger skate community to enjoy the area and bring more commerce. Mr. Baker asked the council to approve and coordinate a full design, which would include expansion out into the park, for a new skate park, and budget \$28,500 to include the geotechnical report and land survey. Additional funding would be provided by potential donors. A community survey will be circulated to obtain input on the park design for the Cle Elum Parks Committee and Grindline Skates.

Council Discussion: Councilmember Lundh asked for an explanation of how the \$28,500 asked of the City would be provided by the City. Mr. Baker explained it is merely a request for the City to provide approval for the group to move forward and try to obtain funding. Council member Ratliff noted the tennis courts could be allocated by the City, but most likely the skate park would not be expanded. Council member Williams asked if this project would have to go to a bid process. Council member Harper recommended the Cle Elum Skate Park Community Committee

approach the LTAC for funding. Ben Annen, of HLA, encouraged the group to research the possibility of obtaining an RCO grant. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Beth Williams to verbally assent to the plan as presented and request the committee to continue to work with the City of Cle Elum. The motion carried unanimously.*

Business Requiring a Public Hearing

Ordinance 1614 – These Guys Right-of-Way Vacation Request – Gregg Dohrn - CANCELLED

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

a. **WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant Program Agreement - HLA:** Ben Annen reported the City received a Regional mobility grant, which requires matching funds, for the Park and Ride project at the Southwest corner of Oakes and Railroad Street. A large portion of the match is the current BNSF lease. The City is looking for other grant opportunities for items, such as electric charging stations, which would also help with the match. Construction could start in March of 2022. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Beth Williams to authorize the Mayor to sign the Regional Mobility Grant between the City of Cle Elum and WSDOT as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. **HLA Task Order 2021-05 – Cle Elum Park and Ride – HLA:** Jordan Hancock explained the task order is for HLA to complete the engineering for the Park and Ride. The \$166,370 for this task order could be covered by the grant match. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to authorize the mayor to sign Task Order 2021-05 Park and Ride and Mobility Improvements project in the amount of \$166,370. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Resolution 2021-021 – Appointing HLA as Engineering Services Provider – Second Street Pathway Project:** Robert Omans reported the process to appoint an engineering service for this project required the City to go out to bid. Bids were received from HLA and Gray and Osborne. Both bids were rated by Omans and Mike Engelhart; HLA rated higher. An agreement will follow this process, which will go to council at a future meeting. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to approve Resolution 2021-021 and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion carried unanimously.*

d. **Ordinance 1614 – Right of Way Vacation W. 7th & N . Oakes – Gregg Dohrn – CANCELLED**

e. **Discussion of Police Department Funding:** Councilmember Harper read into the record a letter from the Yakima County Sheriff’s Department regarding new laws on police reform that are being implemented. Increased population will produce the need for more officers. Council member Harper asked for a verbal assent from the council to give the Budget Committee the ability to budget for a new officer every year for the next 3 years, allowing the City to have a fully forced police department. A total of 14 officers will be required to have supervisors and 2 officers on duty at all times. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to refer the matter to the Budget Committee and direct them to work toward a resolution, with regular reports, and that this be a regular item on the agenda until such time the issue can be resolved. Discussion on the motion: Council member Lundh suggested it be referred to the Public Safety Committee first. Council member Harper stated it is not in the purview of the Public Safety Committee to know how the budget can be used. Councilmember Lundh asked to postpone the vote until after Council Comments on this agenda. Council agreed to postpone the vote for that agenda item.*

f. **Added Agenda Item: Regional Fire Authority:** Councilmember Williams reported she has been approached by John Sinclair to develop strategic statements for Fire District 7 and the Cle Elum Volunteer Fire Department to become one agency with Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue. With the proposed agreement, personnel would transfer to the new department and retain their status through new agreements. Mayor McGowan reported the Cle Elum Fire Department has met with District 7 and are in complete agreement, however, time is needed to bring the volunteers on board. The process will begin by working with the Oversight Committee. Councilmember Williams' report included a response-to-call ratio for 2020 and 2021 to date, which was questioned by Council members Harper, Ratliff and Holz. Mayor McGowan urged Council member Williams to meet with the Oversight Committee for discussion. Councilmember Lundh noted the County Commissioners may not agree to wait and suggested discussing the proposal more urgently with public input.

Committee Reports

Lodging Tax Committee: Councilmember Harper reported the Lodging Tax Funds provided to the Downtown Association was reallocated to the Jazz in the Valley event. CEDA returned the allocation to the LTAC as they could not use the funds due to Covid-19.

Parks Committee: Councilmember Lundh reported the Parks Committee has been working with the Skate Park Community.

Councilmember Comments (Added Agenda Item)

Councilmember Lundh suggested modifying the budget process by allowing the Council to provide input on their goals and priorities and conduct a community survey to determine how the citizens would like to have the money in the budget allocated, providing more transparency. Lundh also suggested having a facilitator come to a study session to help the council develop the budget. He would like to discuss ways to improve the process to be more collaborative with the entire council. Council should have a separate conversation, so the committee has their direction from the recommendations of the people and asked to have a study session in the near future to hear council goals and priorities. It is important that Public Safety is involved; Councilmember Lundh stated concerns that the water projects could possibly be put off if the police budget is increased.

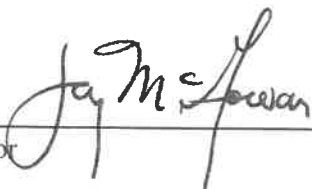
Councilmember Harper commented he is favor of developing the budget as recommended by Councilmember Lundh, in concept; however, there may not be time to implement the process this year. This is the mayor's budget, which must be submitted by the end of October.

Councilmember Holz commented the implementation process should start earlier in the year in order to have the time to utilize it and get the budget completed in a timely manner.

Councilmember Harper asked to reinstate the previous motion to direct the Budget Committee to allocate funds to hire one more police officer with the permanent line item to be added every year to add funds for an additional officer. *The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.*

Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn at 8:20 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday August 23, 2021, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor 

Attest 