

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 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 and Mickey Holz. Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff were absent. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon, 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. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ruston Weaver to excuse Councilmembers Williams and Ratliff. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the 10/11/2021 meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards and Recognition**

Mayor McGowan presented Larry Scholl with the 2021 Paul P. Pangrazi Award, which included a plaque, Certificate of Award and check for \$1,000 in addition to copies of all nominations. An honorable mention Certificate of Nomination will be presented to Susan Klein.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to accept the consent agenda as presented, which included the minutes to the 09/27/2021 Regular City Council meeting; 09/2021 Payroll EFTs and Checks #43824 - 43832 in the amount of \$192,916.48; and 10/08/2021 Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #43833 – 43876 in the amount of \$95,322.52. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- Received the official letter from the Department of Commerce awarding the \$800,000 CDBG (grant) for the Stafford Avenue Corridor Improvements.
- Fall Cleanup: 219 vouchers were used of the 800 mailed out.
- The .09 grant applications are out and due by 11/19/2021. HLA will help with this grant; planned use is for the downtown revitalization project.
- In the process of applying to Community Transportation Association of the Northwest, Kittitas County Health Department and Feet First for nominations for the Complete Street Grant.
- Started the environmental review process for the Park and Ride project.
- The County will record the 12-acre parcel for the community center on 10/12/2021.
- September building activity includes 9 permits issued and 34 inspections. Year to date: 65 permits issued for a total of \$76,532 in permit fees.
- The Mayor will take a Department of Ecology field representative on a tour of the coal tailings sites to determine where to focus their integrated planning grant to study brownfields. *Department of Ecology has \$20,000 to do preparatory work for the integrated planning grant. DOE will conduct a survey of the coal fields to outline where the slagheaps and troublesome coal fields are. The goal is to gather information to apply for an integrated planning grant in the amount of \$200,000.*

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

- The Vactor Truck is back in service.
- Working with City staff and HLA and staff towards grants for various projects.

- The crew is working to get the new shop ready to move into next week.
- Encouraged citizens to prepare for winter. A blog providing winterizing information, as well as the City's snow and ice policies is on the City Website.
- Reminded the community SR 903 is a State Highway, which the City does not have jurisdiction over. The City will help plow when the State reaches out to us for assistance.

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

- The installation of body and car cameras are nearly complete and working well, with a few glitches that are being addressed by G-Tach. The entire Department went through extensive training, including records retention for Public Records Staff and administrative training.
- There has been an influx of animal complaints, including bears and loose horses.
- Will conduct the testing process to replace officer Uren; oral boards are on 09/24/2021.

**Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:**

- The Department had 32 calls in September, including 3 fires, 10 EMS, 1 hazardous condition – no fire, 1 good intent, and 4 false alarms.
- The Department was on standby for multiple fires on I-90 caused by briquettes falling out of a pickup.
- Reported receiving a complaint about a wood stove on Grant Street, which turned out to be a legal fire. *Councilmember Harper asked if there is any recourse for the fire department when apparent false reports are repeatedly called in. Chief Mills responded there is no recourse at this time, but the Department is researching the process to establish fines.*
- Unit 511 will be sent to Mobile Fleet in Ellensburg due to a fuel rail recall. If a problem is found, parts will be ordered and replaced, which is a 3-day process.
- The Roslyn Mutual Aid Agreement for Automatic Aid came back from Roslyn's attorney with changes. The amended document was sent to our attorney for further review and may come back to council.
- The Washington State Rating Bureau has kept Cle Elum's rating at 6. The Department will endeavor to reduce the rate to 5 within the next 5 years.
- Reminded citizens to use a legal pit and dry firewood when burning outside.

**Veolia – William LaRue - Reported:**

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for September 2021 were provided.
- The Variable Frequency Drive delivery date is 11/05/2021 with a target installation date of 11/15/2021.
- The Wastewater SCADA upgrade is running concurrently with the existing system. Staff will continue to monitor the new system for issues.
- Continue to work with McKinstry and the electrical distributor to get the failing LED lights at the Water Treatment Plant replaced; 7 have been replaced to date.
- Staff is preparing the Water Treatment Plant and equipment for winter.
- The isolation valve for the #1 UV system at the Wastewater Treatment plant is on order; expected delivery is in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- Trouble shooting by staff found a faulty cable connector in the conduit run of the UV #1 signal. The improperly spliced cable was repaired, and the system is back online, saving a \$3,000 repair charge
- Staff has begun winterization at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

None

**Public Appearances – 15 Minute limit**

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business**Resolution 2021-024 – Supporting the Kittitas County BOCC to Increase the Sales & Use Tax for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Support Services:**

Mayor McGowan reported he was approached by Bruce Tabb, Mayor of Ellensburg, to speak with the council members regarding a tax increase to help individuals with mental health issues. Chief Bland explained the tax provides funding to assist with mental health facilities and expediate care. When responding to a person in mental crisis in the past, the Police Department would try to de-escalate the situation and possibly transport to the hospital where a mental health official would step in. Due to the new police restrictions, patients are no longer transported. This tax will enhance the mental health program in Kittitas County to help fill the gap, as well as provide other resources. Councilmember Lundh voiced his support and commented this is a good way to help with the lack of funding and help mental health co-responders who assist the police. Councilmember Harper commented the resolution does not specifically address where the tax money will be spent. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Steven Harper (for the purpose of voting) to pass Resolution 2021-024. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1. Councilmembers agreed to have someone come and speak to council about the purpose of the tax and how it will be used at a later meeting.*

Committee Reports

**Mayor McGowan:** Reported the Clerk and Treasurer are working on a Cash Reporting Policy and an Internal Controls Policy and asked Councilmember Lundh to help. Councilmember Lundh agreed to do so.


**Matthew Lundh:** Reported the painting of the Mural on the Park Restroom has begun and provided pictures of what has been done so far.

Executive Session:

The Council went into an executive session for 15 minutes at 7:00 pm to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The council reconvened at 7:15. No action was taken.

Motion to Adjourn.

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Ruston Weaver to adjourn at 7:15 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday October 25, 2021, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.*

  
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Mayor

  
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Attest