

City of Cle Elum
City Council Study Session Notes
October 18, 2021

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Study Session of the Cle Elum City Council 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 and Ken Ratliff (7:00). Beth Williams was absent. Other members present were City Administrator Rob Omans, City Treasurer Robin Newcomb and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of the 2022 Cle Elum Budget

Garbage:

- The Utilities Committee will be working on the garbage contract as a priority. Citizens and visitors should be given incentives not to litter and overload the City trash cans. (Fines?)

Water and Sewer Infrastructure repairs and Replacement:

- Determine the cost of a water line break, including, but not limited to, overtime, supplies, damages, equipment costs and more.
- The American Recovery Act money was in the Sewer Fund (See Page 64) but will be moved to the General Fund.
- ARPA funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026.
- ARPA funds may be used as in-kind or matching funds towards repairs of the water and/or sewer systems.
- Reserves for water and sewer may be raised to help fund repairs. (See page 56 for water and page 65 for sewer).
- Prioritized the repairs and upgrades to the water/sewer infrastructure as they need done.
- Consider hiring a contract lobbyist to help the City obtain money from the state legislature.
- REET funds can (and should) be used for infrastructure.
- Direct the budget committee to consider moving at least some of the Vertical Bridge and CARES Act money to an area that can be directed to fix the infrastructure., with a recommendation to direct bills to council.
- Must be able to tell citizens that we have earmarked money to fix the infrastructure; perhaps pass a Resolution making this our goal.

Chamber of Commerce:

- The Chamber contract should always be a yearly negotiation.
- The tourism and promotion fund has been broken into 2 funds.
- Need a public relations officer, specifically for events, as well as providing information to the public, such as water main breaks and boil orders, etc.
- Go to bid for replacing the Chamber or put someone on staff to handle events.
- Abolish the Visitor Center.

Planning:

- Concerned about the money that is spent for contract planner Gregg Dohrn. (Money was budgeted for this expense which comes through HLA).
- *Council member Harper stated that as a member of the Finance Committee and a member of the Budget Committee, he has not seen anything untoward regarding the planning expenses and council should not fault staff for working to get planning issues dealt with.*

General Discussion:

- Specify where the T-Mobile Tower money should go. Currently it goes into the general fund without direction for its use.
- Money for the Police vehicles is coming out of the 3/10s fund. (See Page 10)
- Council is concerned that money disappears into the general fund when it should be specified for departments or line items.
 - Bring the council back in to the loop on the budget and include them to vote on contracts.
 - Direct staff to draft an ordinance that gives a reasonable cushion whenever the City needs to spend beyond a certain percentage of the line item of the budget, which must come before the budget or finance committee.
 - Have all contracts over \$30,000 go to council.
 - Council should direct staff where to put money brought in that is not specific to a dedicated line item.
 - Research the Agreement regarding the 12-acre parcel and if the City can call in the entire debt if the land is sold.
 - Are we budgeting enough for Insurance?
 - Members of council discussed moving money out of the General Fund into other specific funds; Treasurer Newcomb cautioned them about taking money out of the General Fund.
 - Some members commented the best time to move money is early in the process, not at this time. If fund allocations are to be changed, a committee should start working on this in January or February for the 2023 Budget.


Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn at 7:20. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Regular Cle Elum City Council meeting will be held on Monday October 25, 2021 – 6:00 pm



Mayor



Attest