

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
October 25, 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 Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Mickey Holz to accept the 10/25/2021 meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 10/11/2021 Regular City Council meeting; the meeting notes of the 10/18/2021 Study Session; and Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #43877 – 43979 in the amount of \$504,840.07. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- HLA submitted the City's Complete Streets Program to the Community Transportation Association of the Northwest on 10/18/2021. Four more letters will be sent out to 4 other agencies asking to present the program to them as well.
- The City is preparing an \$800,000 grant application for Phase 3 of the Downtown Revitalization, as well as a \$775,000 grant application to STBG for a new traffic signal at First and Pine Streets. The STBG funds for these grants require a 13.5% match, which would be about \$100,000 per project. *Councilmembers Ratliff and Harper stated they would prefer the focus for the traffic signal be at Douglas Munro Boulevard. Omans responded he would take their concerns to HLA.*
- Working on an encrypted connection between the Police building and City Hall.
- Beginning today, 10-digit dialing is required for all local calls.
- *Councilmember Lundh asked for an update regarding the process for hiring the hearings examiner. Mayor McGowan responded the City Attorney is working it.*

Public Works Directors – Mike Engelhart – Reported:

- Provided a power point presentation on the water main break which occurred on 10/14. An estimated loss of 600,500 gallons of water was lost. Parts, staff and equipment hours and water loss are estimated at \$37,880.00. Englehart noted the City could have replaced at least 303 feet of main with what the City expenses and losses were, not including personal property and loss of business revenue claims that may be forthcoming.
- About 1.5 miles of AC Main on Second Street must be completely replaced at a cost of \$125 to \$150 per foot.
- In 2021, there have been 3 main breaks; many small leaks that have been repaired.

Police Chief – Kirk Bland – Reported:

- Sergeant Albo is in mid-management on-line classes this week.
- Officer Helgeson will travel to an FBI-LEA course next week.
- To date, the department has responded to 3,544 calls for service.

- The new jail contract will be coming to council at the next meeting. The contract calls for a 25% increase per year through 2025. Unruly inmates requiring a single occupancy room will be charged back to the city at an additional room rate.
 - IT updates are forthcoming, which will improve capability and efficiency.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

Public Appearances – 15 Minute limit

Chamber of Commerce – Matt Anderson – Reported:

- Provided Data Analytic for Discover Cle Elum for September with comparisons to the past 20 months.
- The Business Development Center is open.
- The Job Fair will be held on 10/26/2021.
- Hosted a 2-day training which resulted in 2 days of overnight stays.
- Working with CEDA on the Christmas in Cle Elum Event.
- *Councilmember Lundh asked for the Data Updates for July and August as well as the number of people who have opened an email for the newsletter within the last 3 months. Anderson agreed to supply the information as requested.*

Cle Elum Downtown Association – Debbie Bogart – Reported:

- Plans for Boo Elum are underway, and include Trunk or Treat, a Scarecrow Contest at the Wye Park and Pumpkin Path.
- Working on the new Main Street Tax Incentive B&O Program.
- CEDA is close to releasing their New Brand.
- Christmas in Cle Elum planning is in progress.
- Several new businesses will be opening in late October and November.
- There will be a Small Business Job Fair on 10/26/2021 11 am to 2 pm.
- City Heights Town Hall will be 10/28/2021 from 4 to 7 pm at Dru Bru.
- Harris Avenue and First Street is an unsafe pedestrian crossing.
- Offered to help with grant applications by providing CEDA reports.

Waste Management Presentation – Tyler Mackay – Reported:

- Primary issue with current contract is the rates have been not keeping up with inflation, resulting in a shortfall to the Waste Management budget.
- New Development in Cle Elum will require Waste Management to purchase new trucks.
- Waste Management is requiring a 5-year contract and a rate increase to recoup shortfall.
- If the City chooses not to renew the Waste Management contract, they will revert to the WUTC service under the Kittitas County WUTC Tariff. The rates are about the same, but the City would not receive the WM franchise fee and the free semi-annual dumps for citizens.
- The new contract proposes replacement of carts, annual service guide, month long spring and fall cleanups in April and October and twice weekly pickup of City cans in the summer.

Discussion: Councilmember Harper commented he is not happy with the 5-year contract but would be satisfied with a 2-year contract. Councilmember Weaver stated it would be a “slippery slope” not to sign a contract with Waste Management. Mackay responded that a shorter than 5-year contract would not allow for the investments Waste Management must make to be able to service Cle Elum. Councilmember Williams asked to be provided with information regarding the cost of recycling.

Business Requiring a Public Hearing

a. Ordinance 1616 – 2022 Tax Levy Certification: Robert Omans presented the Ordinance to increase the property tax levy by 1% for a for an estimated increase of \$8,267.23, as

allowed by law, and sets the regular levy to \$925,000. Mayor McGowan opened the public hearing at 7:12. Hearing no comments, the Mayor closed the meeting for public comment at 7:13.

Council Discussion: Councilmember Lundh questioned the increase at a time when people are struggling and suggested banking the capacity for later. He would like more information before voting on this issue. Councilmember Harper commented the City could retain the same tax rate and still make money due to the increase in property values and increased development. Councilmember Holz commented one of the attractions to Cle Elum is the lower property tax rates. Councilmember Ratliff commented, if the 1% increase is not voted in, the City would not regain the money that was not paid this year and the increase would still result in low taxes. **A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Rustin Weaver to amend Ordinance 1616 to reflect a \$.00 increase in taxes for 2022 with a \$925,000 regular levy.** *Questions on the motion: Councilmembers Williams and Ratliff commented that the increase is minimal, and money has to be raised to help replace the aging infrastructure. Council member Williams and the Mayor suggested waiting to vote on this issue at a later date after more information can be presented to council..* **The vote was called. The motion passed with 5 ayes and 2 nays.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Councilmember Harper asked the Mayor to schedule another study session for a Budget discussion focusing on finding the money to repair the infrastructure. The Council Policies and Procedures Study Session that was scheduled for 11/01/2021 was rescheduled for 12/06/2021 and a Study Session for the Budget was scheduled for 11/01/2021 at 6:00 pm.

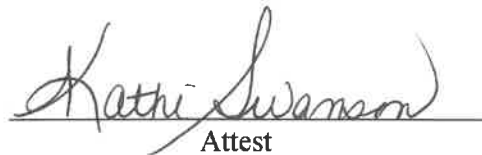
Councilmember Lundh reported the mural at the City Park was completed today and presented a power point presentation of the completed project.

Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Ruston Weaver to adjourn at 7:35 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday November 8, 2021, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers



Mayor



Attest