

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2022

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 6:01. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Mayor Jay McGowan, Councilmembers John Glondo, Ken Ratliff, Beth Williams, Steven Harper, Matthew Lundh, Sarah Lackey
Also present: Gary Berndt and Kathi Swanson

2. Unfinished Business:

Chapter 6 Ethics and Standards of Conduct:

- Councilmember Ratliff asked for discussion on 6.04, Conflicts of Interest and Appearance of Fairness, recommended keeping the first sentence of Chapter 6.04 and suggested deleting 6.03 and 6.02. Leave Chapter 6.04 as it is relevant to 6.02 and 6.03. the conflicts of interest and appearance of fairness laws. Should not add to what is already stated as the most complicated law.
- Councilmember Harper suggested it does not add to the adopted code of ethics but rather clarifies and defines the core values as a city. The minutes of the 12/06/2021 reflect council recommendation to consult the City Attorney regarding these chapters. Councilmember Harper stated he is in direct opposition of removing 6.03, leave 6.02 up for discussion. A breach of ethics clause (Chapter 6.03) would allow the council to take action in the case of an ethics violation.
- Gary Berndt recommended referring Chapters 6.02, 6.03 and 6.04 to the City Attorney and ask her for wording that would suit a small town.
- Council discussed what portions of Chapter 6 to send to the attorney.

Core Values of Governance

6.01: - Council agreed to accept as written

6.02 - Adopted Code of Ethics

6.02.1.a: Councilmember Ratliff stated he would vote against the entire Handbook because of the contents of Chapter 6.

6.02.2: Councilmember Harper stated this does not appear to have the potential for abuse.

Councilmember Ratliff objected to Chapter 6.02.2 due to the fact that it states whatever is rendered by government should be affirmed by council and he disagrees. The council must make judicious judgements.

6.02.3: Council discussed the clause "personal relationships" and questioned its purpose. Councilmember Lundh suggested removing "in all public and personal relationships" and end the sentence with "integrity". Council agreed to this change.

6.02.3a: No discussion

6.02.3b: No discussion

6.02.4: Remove "people, businesses and organizations" and replace with "citizens". Councilmembers Lundh and Harper recommended the word "residents" rather than "citizens". No final decision was made.

6.02.4.a: No discussion

6.02.5: No discussion

6.02.5.a: No discussion

6.02.5.b: No discussion

6.02.6: No discussion

- 1 6.02.6.a: No discussion
 2 6.02.6.b: Councilmember Ratliff noted this is all included in the Conflict-of-Interest law (Chapter 6.04).
 3 6.02.6.c: No discussion
 4 6.02.6.d: Councilmember Ratliff commented this does not help council perform their jobs.
 5 6.02.6.e: Councilmember Ratliff noted that people within the city with unique skills, who can help the city,
 6 would be unable to help the city due to this statement. Councilmember Harper clarified this statement to
 7 mean the councilmember could perform duties for the city if it does not conflict with the duties of
 8 councilmember, and it must be disclosed if there is an interest.
 9 6.02.6f: No discussion
 10 6.02.6g: Councilmember Harper suggested adding a qualifying statement that states “in the absence of
 11 any other qualified person”.
 12 6.02.6.h: No discussion
 13 6.02.6.i: No discussion
 14 6.02.6.j: Councilmember Ratliff commented this section definitely needs to go to the legal department.
 15 Councilmember Harper suggested the city may want to consider the option to conduct reference checks
 16 to prevent another entity from keep another victim from happening. Gary Berndt stated he read this to
 17 be requests for reference checks and asked council to get clarification. Mayor McGowan noted this would
 18 be for every councilmember, staff and employee of the city.
 19 6.02.7 and 6.02.7.a: No discussion
 20 6.02.8: Clarifying discussion only
 21 6.02.9: Clarifying discussion only

22
 23 **Chapter 6.03 Set aside for later discussion**

24
 25 **Chapter 6.04 - Conflicts of Interest and Appearance of Fairness**

- 26 6.04.A: No discussion
 27 6.04.B: No discussion
 28 6.04.C: Councilmember Harper suggested adding to C- Acts Not Constituting a Conflict of Interest “are”:
 29 6.04.C.c: Councilmember Ratliff commented this sentence does not make sense.
 30 6.04.D: Councilmember Harper brought to the following statement to the council’s attention: “A
 31 councilmember must refrain from voting or in any way influencing a decision of the City Council and
 32 declare that a conflict of interest exists and make it know in the official records of the city when a
 33 substantial interest exists.
 34

35 **Chapters 6.05 through 6.08**

- 36 6.05: Confidentiality: No discussion
 37 6.06: Public Meetings / Quorum: No discussion
 38 6.07: Anti-Harassment and Discrimination – referred to City Handbook – No discussion
 39 6.08: Liability: Clarifying discussion only
 40

41 **Chapter 7 – Communications and Engagement:**

- 42 7.01: Use of Public Facilities - No discussion
 43 7.02: Citizen Requests for Action – No discussion
 44 7.03: Ceremonial Proclamations – No discussion
 45 7.04: Official Correspondence – No discussion
 46 7.05: Email Communications – Gary Berndt asked if City Council correspondence goes out to the public,
 47 do they use City letterhead. Discussion: as long as the correspondence is from a councilmember speaking
 48 as an individual and not speaking for the council.

- 1 7.06: Newsletters – No discussion
- 2 7.07: Text Messages – No discussion
- 3 7.08A: Social Media Use – Mayor McGowan asked what constitutes Government Official Accounts.
- 4 Councilmember Lundh explained these accounts would be the City’s page, Police page, library page,
- 5 councilmember page, planner page, etc. These must be attached to the records retention system so
- 6 records that are created are archived for public records requests. Government Official accounts must be
- 7 validated by the social media platform being used.
- 8 7.08.A.3: Delete the phrase “and not a public forum” from the second sentence.
- 9 7.08.B: Election Accounts – Clarification discussion only
- 10 7.08.C: Personal Accounts – Clarification discussion only
- 11 7.08.D: Personal Account Precautions – Clarification discussion only
- 12 7.08.E: Citizen Comments and Tagging - Council discussed future changes with the implementation of
- 13 hybrid meetings. Councilmember Lundh suggested the committee meet again to include hybrid meetings
- 14 into the handbook.
- 15 7.09 - Community Engagement Meetings: Clarification discussion only
- 16
- 17 Council agreed to stop discussion at this time with Chapter 7 and reschedule a study session to begin with
- 18 Chapter 8.
- 19
- 20 ***A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn at 7:55 pm***



 Mayor



 Attest

