

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
March 22, 2021

**Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership**

City Council members and staff met in person for the Regular meeting of the City Council at the Cle Elum Centennial (Senior) Center at 719 East Third Street in Cle Elum, observing all social distancing and mask requirements. The public was invited to attend in person, as well as via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 6:09 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 Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon, Contract Planner Gregg Dohrn and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

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

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

a. **Proclamation – National Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2021:** Mayor McGowan read the Proclamation into the record and stated he would sign the Proclamation.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Mickey Holz to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 03/08/2021 Regular City Council meeting; 03/15/2021 Payroll EFTs in the amount of \$33,025.00 (Draws); and 03/22/2021 EFTs and Checks #43247 – 43278 for Claim Vouchers in the amount of \$150,353.46. Check #43263 to Kittitas Valley Clinics in the amount of \$47.00 was voided. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- Had 3 days of training last week.
- Senator Murray Infrastructure Solicitations: The City asked for \$6,950,000 for First Street Revitalization and \$5,000,000 for Sewer System Life Cycle Restart.
- The City submitted a \$450,000 application for COG Distressed County Sales Tax Grant for the First Street project.
- The City is working on an STBG grant application for a Second Street Pathway Project.

**City Planner - Lucy Temple – Reported:**

- Gravity Coffee and Vertical Bridge projects have been approved through the Planning process and have been sent to the Building Department.
- There have been 5 pre-applications meeting requests to date in 2021.
- The City has received a Boundary Line Adjustment application for the dedication of the 12-acre community recreation center parcel to the City.
- The Planning Commission held 2 public hearings on 03/16/2021 to discuss the Shoreline Master Program and the Critical Areas Ordinance updates. Comments received were substantive enough that she is working with the consultants on a follow-up presentation to the Commission to provide them with enough information to make a recommendation to the City Council.

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

- Working with HLA on the STBG grant, Water Plan Update and Sewer Plan update.
- Working with the Planner and her team on new projects.
- The crew continues sweep street and clean out catch basins.
- Working with the City Administrator to get GPS units for all equipment.

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

- Calls for service to date are 820.
- A DUI accident occurred at Railroad and Oakes at 11 pm this morning.
- Cell phones have been upgraded at no cost.
- The generator bid for installation was awarded to Noble Electric of Yakima. They will provide a generator during the installation to prevent any interruption in service.
- The City of Cle Elum has purchased an AM Radio Transmitter System with the intent of having the capability to broadcast emergency messages and informative messages for current events throughout the City limits on a designated AM radio station.

**Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

None

**Public Appearances - 15 Minute Limit****Chamber of Commerce – Madison Ford - Reported:**

- Power Point presentation of Tourism and Discover Cle Elum information for February.
- Focused on business and leisure travel in Cle Elum through social media, the blog and newsletters, and featured 14 local businesses in February.
- Created a Destination Development Strategy with the State and other local areas in Central Washington (TREAD).
- Launched a micro-grant application program for the County Consolidated Lodging Tax Fund; non-profits or events can apply for up to \$1,000 until the funds run out.
- Applied for a grant through Sea-Tac Airport to conduct a familiarity tour of Cle Elum with influencers, writers and personnel from in and out of state.
- Suncadia will host drive-up movie nights this summer with local advertising.
- Suncadia will be launching a farmer's market this summer.
- Hiring an events coordinator to help with the Pioneer Days Celebration, which will include a parade and fireworks. Applied and received lodging tax funding for the celebration which will include a beer garden, live music and other components.

**Cle Elum Downtown Association – Debbie Bogart**

- Reported on the Downtown Association's Promotions, Economic Vitality, Design and Outreach Committees' goals and accomplishments for February 2021.
- Will be having a preliminary meeting soon to discuss and plan Pioneer Days.
- Welcomed new businesses to town; more new businesses are coming.
- Will be putting up hanging baskets with a new design to reduce time spent watering.
- Downtown Cleanup, Mother's Day Flower Sale and other activities are planned.
- Looking into putting on a public market.
- Looking into signage on the freeways.
- Described changes to the Public Utilities tax credits through HB1279.
- Small Business Day is set for 04/13/2021.
- Will be reporting on the American Rescue Plan in the future.

**Cle Elum Ridge Fuels Reduction Project – Tonva Morrey and Darcy Batura:**

A 20-year Forest Health Strategy for Eastern Washington has been developed. Fuels reduction is planned and will start in mid to late April for completion in about 2 years.

Temporary trail Closures include Main Ridge Road, Alliance Road, Rat Pack up and downhill, Grotto, Beer Can, Canyon 6 Traverse and Middle Traverse. Alternate routes will include Ewok, Mix Tap and Brass Monkey. Trail closure signs, informational posters, fact sheets, press releases and a blog will be posted on the Nature Conservancy Website.

**Business Requiring a Public Hearing**

None

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

- a. **QUADCO STBG Set Aside Application:** Mike Engelhart reported on the project (Second Street Pathway) which will create a complete design of a non-motorized walking and rolling pathway along Second Street from the east leg of Stafford Avenue to the east leg of Short Avenue. The funding request is \$258,970 with a voluntary City match of up to 13.5%. A formal approval from City Council to submit the application is required. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Mickey Holz to authorize the submission of the STBG grant for the Second Street Multi-Use Pathway Design with a zero match. The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **CEDA Lodging Tax Application:** Steven Harper reported the application request is for \$17,931 for hanging baskets and planter boxes. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the lodging tax application from CEDA in the amount of \$17,931. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Committee Reports**

- a. **Legislative Procedures Committee – Council member’s Handbook:** Beth Williams reported the draft of Chapters 1 and 2 were included in the council packets and asked the members for input. Council member Harper commented the committee is going in the right direction and he looks forward to viewing a completed handbook. Council member Lundh reported the committee will meet again on 03/23/2021 and will continue working on the document; an update will be provided at the next council meeting.

**Executive Session**

Mayor McGowan announced the council will go into executive session for a period of 60 minutes under the authority of RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or 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 Executive Session began at 7:35. At 8:35, Mayor McGowan announced the Executive Session would continue for an additional 30 minutes, until 9:06. At 9:06, Mayor McGowan announced the Executive Session would continue for an additional 15 minutes until 9:21. At 9:21, the Executive Session ended with no action being taken.*

**Motion to Adjourn**

*A motion was made by Matthew Lundh to adjourn 9:21 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday April 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.*

  
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Mayor

  
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Attest