

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2022

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Regular meeting of the 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, Sarah Lackey, Steven Harper, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

Appointment to Vacated Council Position and Executive Session

Candidates: David Peccalaio, Stephen Malek, Elizabeth Kurtz and Siw Bay-Hansen. Each candidate introduced themselves and council asked questions of each individual. *At 6:25, council went into an executive session for 20 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office (RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)). No action was taken during the executive session. At 6:45 the council reconvened. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to excuse councilmember Williams from the proceedings, as she was called away for a short time. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Steven Harper to appoint Siw Bay-Hansen. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Sarah Lackey to nominate David Peccalaio. The motion carried unanimously. There were no further nominations. A poll vote was taken. Councilmembers Lundh, Glondo and Ratliff voted for Siw Bay-Hansen. Councilmembers Lackey and Harper voted for David Peccalaio. Siw Bay-Hansen was given the Oath of Office by the City Clerk and took her place at the dais for the remainder of the Council meeting.*

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes of the 03/14/2022 Regular City Council meeting; and 03/28/2022 Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #44322–44353 in the amount of \$132,495.36. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- Attended training to maintain his certifications.
- There have been no applications for the City Planner position; however, there is someone interested. The potential applicant is having a difficult time finding housing. The advertisements are still active.
- The IT Committee met to discuss TextMyGov prior to this meeting.

Public Works Directors – Mike Engelhart – Reported:

- Crews continue their spring cleanup and will begin grading alleys as soon as the weather and alley conditions improve.
- The Vac Truck has broken down several times but is now up and running.

- Thanked Matthew MacKenzie for his dedicated service. MacKenzie will be taking a position with South Cle Elum on 04/01/2022.

- City Parks and bathrooms are being prepared for the spring and summer seasons.

Police Chief – Kirk Bland – Reported:

- Matt Anderson is at the equivalency academy.

- Chief Bland and Sargent Albo will be attending continuing education classes.

- The City was full over the weekend and officers were busy. Three individuals attempted to rob the ATM at Cashmere Bank; no one was caught, but the stolen vehicle they were in was left at the scene.

- The HVAC system is still running on emergency mode; 2 HVAC companies will be providing estimates for repairs.

- Councilmembers discussed the summary report for January and February; Chief Bland reported there have been 1032 total calls to date.

- Chief Bland shared a sample of the new patch with council.

Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i): To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency 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. Council went into executive session for 15 minutes at 7:11. Council reconvened at 7:25. No action was taken.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Brian Brunner, 631 Palouse Road, Cle Elum: Commented the 47 Degrees North/Sun Communities Company is a machine whose job is to develop properties and make money for their shareholders. The statement was made by an analyst to Sun CEO Gary Schiffman "...in the Northwest...there is an area of concentration where we can actively develop communities to get a better return for our shareholders". Ratings coming back from some of the developed areas are low and include unresolved complaints.

Paul Grutzner, 321 West Fourth: Commented the City is dealing with one of the most nefarious companies in the history of America and implored the Council to make a decision for the future of what the council wants the community to look like, feel like and be like. He has received no response from multiple emails to council. Asked how the arbitration with City Heights went. *Mayor Response: It is still in court. The Hearing Examiner process is underway.*

Larry Stauffer – 2661 Lower Peoh Point Road: Asked if the Hearing Examiner process is moving forward and if the council is considering his previous request to not accept any more Class 4 applications until the Hearing Examiner is established. *Mayor McGowan responded the City is still working on the Hearing examiner position.*

Phil Hess, 4650 Airport Road: Reported he is serving on the City of Cle Elum Fire Advisory Committee, which is currently obtaining financial assistance from DNR to treat city property through Vegetation Management, including thinning, mastication and chipping. The 4 priority areas are 4.39 acres at the water tank, Airport Road north of the runway – 30 acres; airport property east of the road and airport property west of the access road going to the runway. These properties are adjacent to residential areas. A meeting is being scheduled with Rachel Mickey of the DNR to look at these projects.

The Fire Advisory Committee agrees the I-90 right-of-way from the west bound Cle Elum on-ramp/Wood Duck Road area is high priority to clean of high-risk fuel. The Horse Park (City property) has areas to treat, but the property lines need to be identified.

Unfinished Business

Main Street Credit: Mayor McGowan reported the Treasurer approved an additional \$15,000, per council authorization, for a total of \$45,000, to the Downtown Association for the B&O Tax Pledge (Main Street Credit).

New Business

2022 Water System Plan Update: Ben Annen reported HLA recommends the City consider a rate study for a potential rate increase to get set up for some of the necessary improvement projects to the water system. Grant money may not be available for these projects. Council discussed utilizing REET money for some of the upcoming capital projects. Developers will also be expected to pay their fair share of development impacts to the water system. Regional partners may also be required to pay an increased rate to the City to assist with the cost of the upgrades. Council discussed using REET 2 money to help fund the project.

City Safety Improvements – Award for Materials Testing to Baer: Ben Annen reported federally funded projects require a materials-testing company. Baer is the only company that responded to the RFQ. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ken Ratliff to approve Baer Testing for the City Safety Improvement Project for no more than \$5,405.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

ILA – Between Cle Elum and Ronald Water District #2 for Services: *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to authorize the Mayor to sign the Kittitas County Water District #2 Services Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.*

Committee Reports

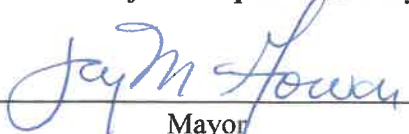
IT Committee: Councilmember Lundh reported the IT Committee met to discuss the TextMyGov Contract. The service integrates with the iWorx system; the IT Committee recommended authorizing the Mayor, or his designee to sign the contract. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to authorize the mayor, or his designee, to sign the TextMyGov contract. The motion carried unanimously.* The cost of the service is \$2,500 annually, includes a local phone number, software, short codes, unlimited users, unlimited departments, unlimited annual support, and 25,000 text messages per year. Messages can be sent to specific areas. The \$1,500 implementation/set up fee will be waived.

Mayor/Councilmember Handbook: Councilmember Harper reminded the council and citizens of the study session scheduled for 03/31/2022 from 4 pm to 5:30 pm to discuss the draft of the proposed handbook.

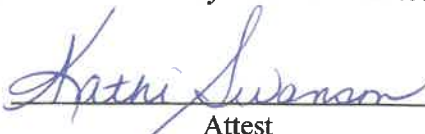
Cemetery Committee: Councilmember Harper asked the Mayor to appoint a member to the vacancy on the Cemetery Committee, as the Committee has business to discuss. Mayor McGowan appointed Siw Bay-Hansen to the committee. Councilmember Harper will organize the meeting of the committee.

Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn at 8:34 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday April 11, 2022, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers.



Mayor



Attest