

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 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, Siw Bay-Hansen, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon 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 meeting agenda with the amendment to hold the Executive Session before the Officer Reports. The motion carried unanimously.*

**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 04/11/2022 Regular City Council meeting; and 04/18/2022 Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #44407–44431 in the amount of \$249,292.18. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Executive Session**

*At 6:05, Mayor McGowan announced the council will go into an Executive Session for 20 minutes, pursuant to RCW 42.3.110(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. Councilmembers returned to the Council Chambers at 6:25 to reconvene the regular council meeting. No action was taken.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- The month-long spring clean-up will end on Saturday 04/30/2022. The public has provided positive comments about the program, and the City feels it is being utilized more because it is a full month. Replacement vouchers may be picked up at City Hall if residents have misplaced theirs or did not receive one in the mail.
- The City continues to advertise for the City Planner position. To date, 2 applications and 1 resume have been received. Applications are being reviewed; however, the position remains open at this time.
- The TextMyGov service, previously approved by council, has been purchased and the set-up process has begun. The system will be fully functional by mid to end of May.
- The IT committee recommended the internet conductivity back-up and chose T-Mobil 5-G wireless. The device arrived on 04/25/2022. Mounting, installing and wiring to the firewall will be completed soon.

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

- Billings Avenue and West First Street paving will begin on 04/26/2022. This will complete the emergency sewer replacement project. Detours will be put in place.
- Crews will begin grading alleys on 04/26/2022.
- Per City Code, irrigation systems will be activated on or before 05/01/2022.
- City Park bathrooms will be closed until further notice due to on-going vandalism. Sanicans will be placed at the parks.

- The City has been receiving complaints about oversize vehicles going up and down Stafford Street. This traffic is a combination of City Heights and other private builders. These are code violations. Cameras will be installed, and contractors are required to put up signs. The city is issuing oversize load permits as needed. *Steven Harper commented the complaints are due to the size of the trucks, not the final destination and asked Mr. Engelhart if he understands certain utility vehicles are allowed an exemption per the code and asked Mr. Engelhart if he would like to talk about this. Mr. Engelhart had no comment. Mayor McGowan commented this is about weight restrictions. The City is monitoring the issue and will enforce the code. The City will put up a camera and has talked with the construction companies who have agreed to put up proper signage to keep better control. The police will be enforcing the code. Per Mike Engelhart, oversize load permits will be issued for local traffic.*

**Police Chief – Kirk Bland – No Report**

**Fire Chief – Ed Mills – No Report**

### **Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

**Gordon Jones on behalf of the No. 7 Hill Historic Preservation Committee regarding the City Heights Development project:** Read a letter into the record stating the concerns of the committee, which include access to the development, the arbitrator’s decision to not allow further public input or involvement, historic preservation of the No. 7 Mine Site and ongoing violations by the developer. It is the goal of the Committee to work together for a common good.

**Lucy Temple on behalf of Kittitas Parks & Recreation District #1 regarding the City Heights Development project:** Commented about the concerns of the commission regarding stream crossing by motorcycles and ORVs, as the area has a considerable amount of coal mines tailings. Ms. Temple Asked the City to consider taking advantage of this development action and use it as a catalyst for forming an agreement between appropriate parties to establish and finalize right of way and design of a multi-use trail connection. Ms. Temple commented the City Heights project offers the City, the developer and project partners the unique opportunity to improve the habitat quality and function of the creek, facilitate a safe and approved creek crossing and provide additional trail connections and recreational opportunities in this area.

**Beth Marker – 202 East Third Street:** Commented the dropped trailer on Second Street has not been removed yet and asked for an updated timetable for its removal. *Mayor McGowan responded he will look at the situation in the near future.* Ms. Marker inquired about the City’s insurance coverage as it relates to the binding arbitration. *Mayor McGowan responded the City is working on this issue with the City’s insurance company.* Ms. Marker will ask for the information from the City staff.

**Larry Stauffer – 2661 Lower Peoh Point Road:** Commented the City has an information sharing problem and the response to citizens is broken. The City has the responsibility to be open and transparent regarding the ongoing discussion between the City and Sun Communities. Mr. Stauffer suggested the City provide status updates at each council meeting regarding all 47 Degree North discussions and any other large developments. Further, citizens should be allowed to submit questions to be answered at the following meeting. Mr. Stauffer asked the council to discuss this matter at this meeting and not “kick it down the road further”.

**James Koskela:** Commented he agrees with everything Mr. Stauffer said.

***A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to have the requested discussion.*** Councilmember Harper commented that council may be privy to certain information that cannot be divulged for legal reasons and councilmembers are not at liberty to have conversations outside the public record. There are no closed doors or secret backroom deals; and no meetings happening where decisions are being made. Councilmember Lundh commented there are some things that could be disclosed at council meetings. The City does not have a permanent planner, but the contract planner should give updates at least once per month. Councilmember Harper stated the final disposition of the arbitration is not yet complete. Mayor

and council agreed the City Administrator will post the decision to the website once that decision has been made.

#### Public Appearances

**Chamber of Commerce Report:** Matt Anderson reported the BDC and other programs will be active this month. Hope Source CEO, Susan Grindle will be at the BDC on 05/05/2022 to present on vagrancy laws and educating staff. SBDC Advisor Liz Jameson will hold an ecommerce class on 05/09/2022. In partnership with CEDA, there will be a volunteer fair at the BDC on 05/12/2022. The Chamber continues to work on events in the Upper County, including Pioneer Days, in conjunction with CEDA and other groups. The Chamber is working with CEDA, the Roslyn Downtown Association and Suncadia on the Wandering Art Festival scheduled for 08/20/2022. There is a new program called Lemonade Day that will take place all summer, culminating on 08/20/2022. Youth from first to fifth grades will be encouraged to set up Lemonade Stands around the county. Participants will report their results back to the Chamber and the winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year award will receive a bike. There will be a proclamation presented at the 05/09/2022 Council meeting to be considered by the Cle Elum Council.

**Upper Kittitas County Community Recreation Center Alliance update:** Claire Nichols reported the Alliance recently reached a milestone with the project and thanked the City for the Recreation Center support. The 2021 feasibility study identified programs and features that would meet the needs and interests of the community; estimated the costs of designing, building, maintaining and operation of a community center and determined if the community recreation center is desired. Next steps include proceeding with the schematic design and developing a funding strategy. That strategy includes applying for all available grants, finding equity partners, conduct a capital campaign and continue to refine the cost model to determine if the burden to taxpayers could be reduced through fundraising in amounts greater than initially estimated. The Alliance will approach the City for a request for additional money from the Suncadia fund for RFQ's and other expenses. The Committee will define and execute the steps required to bring a capital and operating levy to a vote of the people. A recommendation to the Alliance was made by Councilmember Harper to make a request for additional funds from the Budget Committee. Ms. Nicholls stated she will follow up with the Budget Committee.

#### Business Requiring Public Hearing

None

#### Unfinished Business

None

#### New Business

a. **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Pre-Construction Loan Contract:** Mike Engelhart reported this loan will allow the City to complete the pre-construction activities for the city's Second Street and Rosetti Way Water Main Improvements project. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Sarah Lackey to authorize the Mayor to sign the DWSRF Preconstruction Loan Agreement. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor McGowan reported the City will be using REET 2 funds to pay the loan.*

b. **ILA – City of Cle Elum and Kittitas County Inmate Housing Agreement:** On behalf of Kirk Bland, Rob Omans reported the agreement has been reviewed by the attorney, and recommended authorization by council to sign the interlocal agreement, which has an increases cost of 5% over last year. Also, as part of the agreement, if an inmate has to be housed by themselves, the City will be billed for a double occupancy cell. Councilmember Harper commented it may be feasible in the future to house prisoners within our own city limits. *A motion was made*

*by Steven Harper and seconded by Beth Williams to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for inmate housing with Kittitas County. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Resolution No. 2022-008 – Airport Grant Application:** Rob Omans reported Century West contacted the City to apply for a grant, which they do annually. The grant, if awarded, would be used to maintain the runway. The application asks for \$350,000, which would be a cost of \$17,500 to the city @ .5%. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Resolution No. 2022-008 with a correction of a Scribner's error in paragraph 3, changing "one hundred ninety thousand dollars" to three hundred fifty thousand dollars and correction the Scribner's error in paragraph 4, changing "ten thousand dollars" to seventeen thousand five hundred dollars. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Committee Reports**

**Utilities Committee:** Councilmember Ratliff reported the committee is considering a water leak claim but have not come to a final decision yet.

**Lodging Tax Committee:** Councilmember Harper reported the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee received a lodging tax application in the amount of \$5,220 for the Cle Elum Downtown Association for the 2022 Arts Festival. CEDA has pledged matching funds of \$5,266.80 and recommends granting the \$5,220.00 applied for in full. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to approve the Cle Elum Downtown Association Summer Arts Program Lodging Tax Application in the amount of \$5,220.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

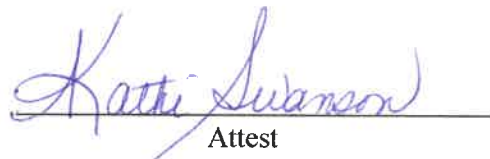
**Mayor/Councilmember Handbook:** Mayor McGowan asked the council to set a time and dater for the next study session for the Mayor/Councilmember Handbook. The Study Session was set for Tuesday 05/24/2022 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Cle Elum City Hall.

Councilmember Lundh announced the Downtown Cleanup will be on Saturday 04/30/2022 from 9 am to noon. Volunteers are asked to meet at WAFed Parking lot.

#### **Motion to Adjourn.**

*A motion was made by Steven Harper to adjourn at 7:30 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday May 9, 2022, at the Cle Elum City Council Chambers.*

  
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Mayor

  
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Attest