

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Jay McGowan at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Roll was called. Councilmembers present were Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Sarah Lackey, Steven Harper, Siw Bay-Hansen and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Rob Omans, City Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Acting Police Chief Rich Albo and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ken Ratliff, to excuse the absence of Beth Williams. The motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Katia Merkel – President of the Friends of the Carpenter Memorial Library - 2141 White Road: Commented salaries and benefits are separate from the operating budget. The library asked for \$25,180 and the budget committee has decided to cut \$13,680 from that asking amount, leaving \$11,500, which is more than a 50% cut. This takes away from cleaning, the computer check-out system, purchasing of books, building maintenance and repairs. It leaves enough in the budget to pay for the lights, heat, alarm system, telephones and the summer reading program, which is actually paid for by the county. The combined years of experience of the librarians results in higher salaries and benefits. The staff should not be penalized for the increased cost of benefits by cutting their operating budget.

Taryn Lundh – 914 Marian Drive: Spoke in support of the library, saying her children love the library, the programs and the librarians. It is a safe and fun environment for kids to go and is a multi-use building. Her son often finds lots of bricks that have come off of the building and brings them to her. Cutting the building repair budget does not make sense.

Debbie Bogart – 2451 Railroad Street, Easton: Commented the library is a very important resource for the community and suggested building a space for a creative center with a library, performing arts, spoken word and all of the elements that are missing from our community. She would like to see the librarians' salaries increased, as well.

Cheyenne Laurson – 790 Wadsworth Loop, Ronald: Commented the librarians have always been kind, helpful and thoughtful and the library is a vital resource.

Megan Swift – 110 East Third Street: Spoke in support of the library, saying her children love the librarians and the library is the best place for kids. Ms. Swift noted she believes they require the biggest budget the city can give them; they need better air conditioning and building repairs.

Jaqualyn Johnson – 333 Watson Cutoff Road: Commented the library is the lifeblood of the community. There are a number of people who use the library regularly. The library needs a larger space and the existing building is falling apart. Asked the council to please reinstate the \$13,000 that was removed from the budget. The library should grow as the community grows.

Bob Trumpy – 333 Watson Cutoff Road: Commented the budget cut to the library is over 50% and cautioned that mentioning the 501c3 is inappropriate in the budget process. He is concerned about the symbolism the council will present due to this budget cut. Commented that a major reduction in the building repair budget is unwise and advised not to make the cuts.

Greg Gohsman 2131 Lower Peoh Point Road: Commented the City has been fined \$100,000 due to mismanagement for the City Heights Project and was able to find the money to pay the fine, yet they cannot find the money to support the library and have cut their budget.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

None

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Harper asked if there is any news about the Hearings Examiner. Mayor McGowan responded there has been someone selected, and, at this point it is contractual. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes of the 10/10/2022 Regular City Council meeting; and 10/24/2022 Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #44901 – 44929 in the amount of \$1,043,487.45. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- City Hall staff is busy reviewing resolutions, ordinances and contracts.
- The City made a presentation at COG for grant funding in the amount of about \$756,000 for the First Street Revitalization Phase 3C Project.
- The City has published SOQ's for Engineer Services, which will be on the next agenda.

Planning Report – Mayor McGowan: - Reported:

- It is important for the planning commission to focus on getting the critical areas ordinance finalized.
- *Councilmember Lundh asked if the City had moved forward with hiring a contract planner. Mayor McGowan responded Colleda Monick, of HLA, is in the office every Tuesday, will be working with the planning commission and works on planning for the City on other days.*
- Planning Commission meetings will be held every first Tuesday of the month.
- *Councilmember Lundh commented he heard the Yakama Nation appealed Kittitas County's Critical Area Ordinance and asked if they had appealed the City of Cle Elum's. Mayor McGowan responded the ordinance is not approved yet, so no appeal has been made.*

Public Works Director - Mike Engelhart – Reported

- Crews have been repairing water leaks and installing new water connections.
- Working with the Downtown Association to plan for winter snow removal and to develop a strategic process to communicate the plans and schedules.

Acting Police Chief – Rich Albo - Reported:

- Spoke with ASPEN, the City's Domestic Violence Victims Advocates, to find ways to help victims get to the resources they need. ASPEN is considering providing fuel cards to people who need ASPEN's help and are also considering having limited hours in the Upper County, which will give community members in need better and faster access to the resources.
- Cardboard guns were placed on the Downtown Association's scarecrows around town. The guns have been removed. No suspects have been identified. There is no known threat associated with the cardboard cutout guns. Reminded citizens to call the police immediately if they see any acts of vandalism.
- One of the police cars is out of service and cannot be repaired. The department does not have a reliable back up car; officers will share cars until a permanent solution is found.
- There has been an increase in stolen vehicles in the state. Local officers were able to identify and arrest a subject, who had stolen a car, without incident.

Public Appearances

HopeSource Public Transportation Grant Request : Lisa LaPorte provided a power point presentation detailing the purpose of the HopeSource Transportation Service.

Chamber of Commerce – Matt Anderson:

- The Roslyn Mountain Ale event was held on 10/15/2022
- The Skatepark fundraiser was held on 10/15/2022. Many people were from out of state.
- Working with CEDA planning Christmas in Cle Elum and Pioneer Days 2023.
- The County Consolidated Lodging Tax Process received 21 applications, 11 of which have a direct impact on Upper County.
- Continuing to explore a variety of events going into 2023.

- The Lodging Tax revenues are down for Cle Elum. He will meet with the Lodging Tax committee in January to look for ways to change that trend for 2023..
- Planning to introduce new programs, including Chamber Chatter, at the BDC.

Downtown Association Report - Debbie Bogart

- Three new businesses opened, with more coming, including Cle Elum Taps and Tapas.
- Invited everyone to a welcoming and ribbon cutting ceremony at Mountain Elegance on 10/28/2022 at 1 pm.
- Bids were awarded to Senske Services and Reflection of Perfection for holiday lighting.
- The Boo Elum event on 10/31/2022 will include the Cle Elum High School marching band leading the kids down the street.
- Plans for the Pioneer Days weekend are moving forward. The committee will meet on 10/27/2022 to discuss the goals for next year's celebrations.
- Marc Kirkpatrick, Keith Watts and Debbie Bogart attended the Revitalize Washington annual Conference. Keith Watts was recognized as one of Excellence on Main Volunteers.
- Will be exploring the Downtown Improvement Districts concept to help provide support with many of the new projects coming into the downtown area.
- CEDA was a recipient of the Washington Main Street Transition Grant. They will be working with Berk Consulting to identify transportation strategies that define the CEDA's approach to continuing the revitalization and strengthening of our downtown economy.
- CEDA will help with Historic Preservation and will help bring the Historic Preservation Commission together..
- CEDA provided a letter of support for the HopeSource grant request.

UKCCRCA – Update – Claire Nicholls:

- Ms. Nicholls provided a power point presentation of the proposed facilities. ALSC Architects has been working on a schematic design for the recreation center. UKCCRCA is working on partnerships, including the City, Board of County Commissioners, and state and federal legislatures. They continue to work towards obtaining financial commitments. Taxpayers will be asked to contribute the smallest amount possible. The project supports fitness programming They are working on governance and financing and are developing an MOU with Kittitas County Recreation District #1. The next steps are to solidify potential non-taxpayer funding, federal and state grant applications and the private fund-raising process.

Business Requiring Public Hearing

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

a. **Task Order 2022-01 – Second Street and Rosetti Way Water Main Improvements:** Ben Annen, of HLA, reported this project is critical to the reliability of the City's system. This task order for the design and includes environments permitting, cultural resources survey, topographical survey, underground utilities and construction funding. The project is permitted through DOH. *A motion was made by Matthew Lund and seconded by Ken Ratliff to authorize the mayor to sign Task Order 2022-0. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Progress Estimate No. 4 - \$499,555.22 – Belsaas & Smith - First Street Downtown Revitalization Phases 3A & 3B:** Mike Engelhard reported the work has been completed to date. Councilmember Harper commented this leg of the build has not gone as smoothly as it should have for many different reasons, but will have a great product when it is finished, adding Public Works has done a great job keeping on top of it. Councilmember Harper suggested considering other contractors in the future. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to authorize payment in the amount of \$499,555.22 to Belsaas & Smith for Progress*

Estimate No. 4 of the First Street Downtown Revitalization Project, Phase 3A & 3 B. The motion carried unanimously.

c. First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services – Cle Elum and UKCCRCA: Councilmember Harper reported that, in order for the UKCCRCA to proceed with the design phase of the proposed recreation center, the date and dollar amount will change but the terms of the original contract will remain the same. This is a reimbursement process. Councilmember Harper asked Councilmember Bay-Hansen if her questions from the previous meeting have been answered. She responded they have. Councilmember Ratliff asked for an updated budget. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Matthew Lundh to authorize the mayor to sign the First Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Cle Elum and the UKCCRCA. Comment on the motion: Councilmember Ratliff commented the payments listed in the agreement shall not exceed \$1,950,000. The motion carried unanimously.*

d. Ordinance 1636 – Changes to the Planning Commission: Mayor McGowan reported this ordinance would allow the Planning Commission to expand from 5 members to 7 full time members, 5 of which must live in the City. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Ordinance 1636 as presented. Councilmember Lundh questioned why City Council confirmation is not required when a Planning Commissioner is removed from the commission due to absences. There was additional council discussion on the question. The motion carried unanimously.*

e. Resolution 2022-019 – Repealing 2009-14 – Investment Policy: Robin Newcomb, City Treasurer, explained this will eliminate duplicate policies. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to adopt Resolution 2022-019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

f. Resolution 2022-020 – Update Asset Policy: Robin Newcomb, City Treasurer, explained this resolution will eliminate the old policy, remove “Small and Attractive” from the title and combine everything into one policy. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to adopt Resolution 2022-020 updating the Asset Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

g. HopeSource – Request for Transportation Grant: Lisa LaPorte, representing Hope Source, requested a letter of support from the City and to pledge \$20,000 per year for 2023 and 2024. Councilmember Harper recommended adding a sentence to the letter stating the Public Transportation promotes tourism, making it a justifiable expense for Lodging Tax funds. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to authorize the mayor to sign an amended letter of support that explains the impetus for the support of the transit has to do with tourism. The motion carried unanimously.*

Committee Reports


Councilmember Lundh reported the Skatepark fundraiser held on 10/15/2022 was a success and raised about \$45,000. There were 750 to 1,000 attendees. The Rotary will sponsor such fundraising events every year.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be Monday November 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm



Mayor



Attest