

CLE ELUM CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday October 24, 2022
5:00 PM

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6 **1. Members Present:**

7 Mayor McGowan, Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Sarah Lackey (5:20), Steven Harper and Siw Bay-
8 Hansen. Also present: Rob Omans, Robin Newcomb and Kathi Swanson.

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10 **2. Flag Salute**

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12 **3. Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

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

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16 **4. New Business:**

17 **a. Review and Discuss the Draft 2023 Budget**

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19 **Discussion By Council:**

20 Councilmember Harper commented he is pleased with the recommendations of the Budget Committee.
21 Councilmember Lundh - questions and comments:

22 1. Why are ARPA funds dedicated to police and not utilities as was discussed at prior meetings?

23 *Councilmember Harper responded this is a one-time opportunity to recruit (police officers), as we are*
24 *in a unique situation where we may not be able to obtain grants due to pending litigation. ARPA funds*
25 *may be used for streets and infrastructure but will not finish a project. Smaller grants will be sought to*
26 *add to the funds to repair streets and infrastructure. The \$89,000 budgeted for the City Clerk transition*
27 *will not be in next year's budget.*

28 2. Page 1 - Why were cable tv taxes included in the revenue when Inland is no longer providing cable
29 service?

30 3. Page 1 - Why we are appropriating more revenues for telephones. *Councilmember Harper*
31 *commented the trend is that more people are getting land lines.*

32 4. Page 4 - Are we charging the market rate for the rental houses. It would be good to have those
33 houses available to be utilized for more staff who cannot afford to live here, such as a new planner
34 or police officer. *Councilmember Harper recommended directing staff to conduct a rent study and*
35 *adjust the rates accordingly.*

36 5. Page 5 - Rate of pay for councilmembers should be raised.

37 6. Page 5 - Why are we not participating in ROI? *Rob Omans responded we cannot participate*
38 *anymore because we have police officers.*

39 7. Page 8 - The Police Department cleaning service has increased 130% and police supplies has
40 increased 170%.

41 8. Page 8 - The Police Department supplies budget has gone up 270% to \$5,500. *Robin Newcomb will*
42 *run a report on the supplies to determine what they are.*

43 9. Page 9 - Insurance, Equipment and Liability went from \$0 to \$44,000. *Robin Newcomb explained it*
44 *is just being separated from the previous fund it was paid from.*

45 10. Page 10 – (Benefits and Salaries for the Fire Department was mis-labeled). Salaries are for the full-
46 time Chief and 3 existing assistants.

47 11. Page 12 - Budgeted \$40,000 for Gregg Dohrn, who was to be phased out. *Mayor McGowan*
48 *responded Mr. Dohrn will be advising the City on some planning issues but is phasing out.*
49 *Councilmember Harper commented there may be budget amendments to pay the money to other*
50 *planning individuals or firms. Allocate money may be allocated to the new contract planner..*

- 1 12. Page 13 – City Heights arbitration – Gregg Dohrn and HLA – why was money allocated to Gregg
- 2 Dohrn, when he is off of that project.
- 3 13. Page 27 – less money appropriated for Roslyn out of the 3/10’s fund for Roslyn. Why are the
- 4 revenues going down into the 3/10’s from sales tax? *Robin Newcomb explained the balance of the*
- 5 *other funds were placed in the 104 and General Funds. She based the amount prorated on what has*
- 6 *been received so far this year.*
- 7 14. Page 13 – Library – why did the money allocated to the library in the Mayor’s original budget go
- 8 down from \$138,000, a difference of \$13,000? It appears there is no other place in the budget
- 9 where the city penalizes a department for the cost-of-living increase by taking it out of other places
- 10 in their budget. In 2022, the library had \$19,823 after salaries and benefits to spend. With this
- 11 budget, we are proposing giving the library \$11,500 after salaries and benefits to spend, which
- 12 essentially guts the services of the library. The library is deemed as non-essential, but it is, in fact
- 13 essential and is used by many. It appears that this is personal and because salaries and benefits have
- 14 gone up, we are cutting their supply and book processing budget, IT and building repairs.
- 15 *Councilmember Harper explained there was a large deviation from how other departments are*
- 16 *handled. Staffing costs have gone up. The library increase is 8.67% up to \$125,000 from \$115,000.*
- 17 *The budget committee does not discriminate in their budgeting process. This was an exponential*
- 18 *escalation of a budget request as seen by the committee. The library can cut back on their*
- 19 *operational expenses. The library has a 501c3 organization that helps them in their operations. We*
- 20 *are required by statue as a city to have a balanced budget.*

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22 **5. Adjournment:**

23 ***The Study Session adjourned at 5:45 pm.***



 Mayor



 Attest