

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 12, 2022, 7:15 pm

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

The Regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 7:15 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 Rob Omans, City Treasurer Robin Newcomb, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon, Acting Police Chief Rich Albo, Fire Chief Ed Mills, Veolia Water/Sewer Treatment Plants Supervisor William LaRue and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

**Public Comment – Limited to 5-Minutes**

**Larry Stauffer – 2661 Lower Peoh Point Road:** Asked the Mayor and council if the city has heard when Sun Communities would be submitting an application. Mayor McGowan responded there is no new news.

**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.*

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

None

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to accept the consent agenda with the correction to change the word “Execution” to “Executive” under Committee reports – Mayor McGowan report. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 11/28/2022 Regular City Council meeting; the minutes to the 11/28/2022 Hanson Ponds Study Session; 12/08/2022 Accounts Payable EFTs and Vouchers #45015 - 45063 in the amount of \$427,101.21; and November 2022 Payroll Vouchers #45008– 45014 in the amount of \$246,994.329. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- Completed the salary survey, per the council’s request.
- The Second Street Pathway Project Open House was very successful.
- Received the award letter from the Public Works Board for the \$2.8 million loan for the Second Street water main.
- Received an official request from Representative Ybarra’s office to make a capital funding request for the First Street project. The city will submit a letter of request by 02/17/2022.
- There were 13 bids received for the Park & Ride project, all of which were over the engineer’s estimate. HLA will be working with a grantor to ask for additional funding.
- Ben Annen explained the Second Street Water Main project will replace a 70-year-old asbestos cement pipeline and includes a PRV station. The 20-year note is at 1.39%.

**Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart – No Report**

**Acting Police Chief Rich Albo – Reported:**

- An armed suspect barricaded himself in a building; shots were fired by the barricaded subject, but there were no injuries. The incident lasted about 3 hours. Acting Chief Albo was the

incident supervisor, and with the joint efforts of the Cle Elum Police Department, Kittitas County Sheriff Department and the City of Ellensburg, the suspect was arrested without incident.

- Spoke on the Law Enforcement Panel for Leadership in Kittitas County, which is a 7-month program for the purpose of getting an in-depth look at businesses and governments.
- A new camera system, funded by grant money from ASPEN has been installed in the interview room.

**Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:**

- The Department had 75 toned calls in October, including 48 EMS calls at 64% call volume, 5 fires (Mutual Aid), 8 service calls or good intent, 5 false alarms and 3 special incidents. There was 1 unauthorized burn complaint, and a false report of an illegal burn on Grant Street.
- The Wildfire Neighbors Program with DNR has begun; Chief Mills will be seeking council approval for a possible contract with DNR to recovers costs may be incurred while working on this project..
- The firewise project, referred to as the Big Tail Project, will restart soon at the 4.9 acres near the City's water tanks. The project has been delayed due to weather.
- Provided a short presentation of the Wildfire Neighbors' Program, including pictures of the firewising work that has already been completed

**Veolia - William LaRue Reported:**

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for 11/2022 were provided in council packets. Average daily Water Treatment Plant run-time was 9.3 hours per day, with an average daily plant production of 750,000 gallons.
- The influent valve on Filter #2 at the WTP was replaced due to damage caused by the impact of a rock.
- Lost one of two air compressors, which is critical, because the filter valves are air actuated. The compressor has been pulled and it is at the shop for rebuild.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> sequencing batch reactor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is fully seeded and online; staff is making process adjustment to provide optimal operations to the unit.
  - The WTP is running on the well field during the day to bring in warmer water to help heat up the distribution system to prevent freezing.
  - On 11/04/2022, 2.28 inches of rain fell within a 24-hour period. Wastewater treatment flows increased from an average of 396 gpm on Thursday to 1458 gpm on Friday with a peak flow of 3,000 gpm. This caused some minor issues which required staff to respond to the plant. *Councilmember Ratliff commented the City must do something about the INI. Mr. LaRue agreed but noted the rates will have to increase as this type of project will be expensive. Councilmember Lundh suggested the Utilities Committee discuss the issue. Mayor McGowan reported our City Engineer is well aware of the issue and is working toward a solution.*

**Unfinished Business**

- 2022 Salary Survey – Budget Committee:** Councilmember Harper reported the Budget Committee reviewed the Salary Survey and recommend implementing the salaries consistent with the motion placed at the 11/28/2022 meeting to keep the salaries the same for point of comparison, noting the city is consistent with other cities of the same size and operation abilities.
- Ordinance 1634 – 2023 Salaries – Budget Committee:** Per the motion made at the 11/28/2022 Regular Council Meeting, Ordinance 1634 is presented with a 5% increase in wages. Councilmember Lundh commented he would like to see the City of Cle Elum present their

budgets differently in the future. Councilmembers Harper, Lundh and Ratliff agreed the 5% increase is reasonable and seems consistent with other jurisdictions. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Steven Harper, for discussion, to adopt Ordinance 1634 setting the 2023 Salaries for each position for the City of Cle Elum. Councilmember Harper noted the salary schedule sets the Department Head salaries and encouraged the Mayor and Budget committee to review the job descriptions of the city staff to ensure they are fulfilling all their prescribed roles. Councilmember Lundh commented the salary ordinance does not show the actual amount of money staff will be paid and would like to see actual salaries in the future. NOTE: Councilmember Williams was called away from the meeting at 7:55 pm. The vote was called. The motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes. Councilmember Lackey abstained from the vote. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh seconded by Steven Harper, for discussion, to re-allocate the remaining amount left in the budget to the new police officers and to take the least amount possible of ARPA funds to be used toward the police budget. Discussion: Robin Newcomb, City Treasurer commented it is a minimal amount and recommended putting the excess funds back to the general fund, get the officers hired and present a budget amendment, if needed, later. The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### New Business

a. **Ordinance 1640 – Code Enforcement:** Alex Kenyon, City Attorney, reported this ordinance came about due to increased complaints regarding code enforcement in the City. The chapter that is currently codified in the Cle Elum Municipal Code, had a process that was in place because the city did not have a hearing examiner. As a result, the police department was called upon to enforce code and abate code violations. The city now has a better planning department and a hearing examiner. This ordinance will provide the administrative leverage needed to enforce the code provided in the CEMC. Councilmember Harper asked if current code enforcement actions would be transitioned to the new code or will they continue to be enforced under the old code. Ms. Kenyon responded the new code would take effect, existing actions would start from the beginning of the process under the new code, and the code abatement would be at a higher cost. *There was discussion regarding the monetary penalty and the right of entry clause. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to pass Ordinance 1640 repealing Chapter 8.60 of the CEMC and enacting a new chapter. The motion carried unanimously.*

The City of Cle Elum put in 3 grant requests to TIB for the following 3 projects and were awarded at the full funding request.

b. **TIB Fuel Tax Grant Agreement – 2022 Seal Coat Award:** Ben Annen, HLA, reported TIB awarded \$41,799 with a 5% match required of the City. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to authorize the Mayor to sign the TIB Fuel Tax Agreement 2-E-930(006)-1. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **TIB Fuel Tax Grant Agreement – First Street, Pennsylvania Avenue to Harris Avenue:** Ben Annen, HLA, reported this agreement funds a portion of the Downtown Revitalization Project with an award of \$718,849 and requires a 5% match from the City. The City may also be eligible for \$640,000 in COG funding, which could be used as the City match. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to authorize the Mayor to sign the TIB Fuel Tax Agreement 6-E-930(006)-1. Motion carried unanimously.*

d. **TIB Fuel Tax Grant Agreement – Second Street Roundabout:** Ben Annen, HLA, reported TIB awarded \$704,591 for this project, which is on the 6-year TIP as a signal improvement. This intersection is one of several in the City with a low level of service. *Council discussion with Mr. Annen included questions about other intersections with low levels of service, the culvert at the bridge at Second and Stafford, fish funding, compact roundabouts and traffic lights. Councilmember Harper suggested a better place to put this roundabout would be one*

block to the south at First and Stafford. Also, a roundabout would have been a better solution than a stop light at Safeway. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to authorize the Mayor and the Financial Officer to execute the Fuel Tax Agreement 6-E-930(007)-1. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 1.

e. **Cooperative Agreement between DNR and the Cle Elum Fire Department:** Fire Chief Ed Mills reported this is a non-binding contract and will be affective through June 2023, when it will be readdressed. Nine residents have signed up for inspections; each assessment made by the Fire Department will be reimbursed to the City by DNR. A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by John Glondo to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cooperative Agreement No. 93-104261 between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Cle Elum Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

f. **Request for Step Pay Increase for Officer Venera:** Acting Police Chief Rich Albo reported Officer Venera came to the City as a step 3, with experience as a field training officer and firearms officer, and has been trained as Officer in Charge and in First Line Supervisory Liability Limiting, and has 200 hours of leadership, with over 1,000 hours of officer in Charge with the City of Renton. Acting Chief Albo requested an increase to Step 5, which would amount to about \$4,338 annually, noting other agencies offer more incentives and higher salaries, making it difficult to find and keep lateral officers. Acting Chief Albo also reported he has received the resignation of another of the City's police officers, who is leaving for a bigger police department with an offer of higher wages. A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to grant the Step 5 pay increase for Officer Venera as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

g. **Professional Services Agreement – Mark Garka, Prosecution services:** Acting Police Chief Rich Albo reported the council approved hiring Mark Garka on 07/27/2022 with the terms of the agreement to end on 12/31/2022, and with the understanding the contract would be extended through 2023. A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to extend the contract for the Professional Services Agreement with Mark Garka through 2023. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Lundh commented it seems odd that we would bring in a lateral officer without paying them a commensurate rate as what they were making in their previous position.

#### Councilmember Comments

1. Councilmember Harper asked what the progress is of the code violation issue happening at this time. Mayor McGowan responded the process has started. Rob Omans reported the voluntary compliance letters have been issued and the infractions set to be issued.

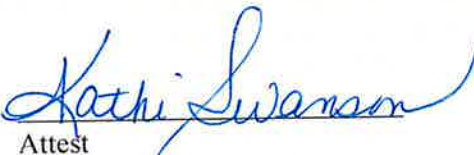
2. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Sarah Lackey to cancel the second meeting in December, normally scheduled for 12/26/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Motion to Adjourn

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday January 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Attest