

CITY OF CLE ELUM
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Berndt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Commissioners present; Gary Berndt (chair), Colonel Paul Kantwill (zoom), Matt Fluegge, and Elizabeth Torrey. Ian Steele and Colin Brissey both absent and unexcused.

Set Agenda

Commissioner Torrey motioned to update the agenda under, Unfinished Business, to include an update to the Critical Areas ordinance. Commissioner Fluegge seconded. Motion passed.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Forward the adoption of minutes to the next meeting.

3. Staff Report

- a. Chairman Gary Berndt, confirmed that on April 18, 2023, at 6 PM there will be a joint session with the City Council to discuss Planning Commission priorities. Priority topics would include Affordable Housing.
- b. Colleda Monick, noted that the Dept. of Ecology in January of 2023 issued a new SEPA checklist and the city has made the necessary provisions to update the existing checklist. She also provided a brief project update, including status reports regarding current planning projects.

4. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items (limited to 5 minutes)

Phil Hess, 4650 Airport Rd. Spoke regarding concerns related to future planning regarding the Upper County. He noted that it was imperative that the city and county planning should take a combined leadership approach in land use management. He recommended a joint master development plan.

Commissioner Torrey, requested information on a previous discussion related to this public comment, regarding where the city is at related to creating a *Kittitas County Cooperative* (noted as a possible discussion topic for the April 18th joint session?)

5. Public Hearing

- a. Wildfire Safety/Firewise. Chair Berndt gave an outline of the Public Hearing procedure. Berndt presented a report on the Firewise text amendments.
- b. Public comments
Phil Hess, noted his position on city fire advisory committee, but expressed that he was speaking as a citizen and would be providing his own comments. Mr. Hess strongly supports the amendments. He noted that, we are in a high fire risk community. This amendment should be kept as a living document and updated frequently. He expressed that this document was critically important to adopt.

Ingrid Vimont, Hospital District, reiterated Hess's earlier comments regarding coordinating our efforts with various agencies.

Rose Beaton, Doctoral Student studying wild fire and a DNR Resiliency Coordinator, commended the commission for taking an active approach. She noted support for better integration of language.

Department of Fish and Wildlife - written comment entered into the record.

Chair Berndt closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

Commissioner Torrey, requested additional time to evaluate and give due consideration to the comments we received.

The public meeting will remain open until April 18th, 2023.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Staff provided an update regarding the discussion of interim revisions to the regulations governing townhomes.

7. New Business –

No new business

8. Next Meeting Agenda Development:

- a. April 18th, 2023, will be a joint session with City Council and Commission to discuss Planning Priorities.

9. Commissioner Comments and Discussion

Commissioner Torrey requested an update on what is the status was on the sewer hook ups discussion. Requested to amend the priority list to include sewer rate hook up discussion to the joint session.

Commissioner Fluegge noted that setting a master plan for the community should be included as a priority – especially when it comes to land use and zoning.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Berndt called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Torrey motioned and Commissioner Fluegge seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Minutes approved on 5/02/23