

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
January 24, 2017

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Other members present were Tom Hastings, Ron Spears, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz, Christine Simpson and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple, City Attorney Alexandra Kenyon and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Tom Hastings to approve the agenda with the addition of an executive session to discuss personnel at the end of the regular meeting; to be determined if action will be taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition

- a. *Appointment of Fire Department Officers: Mayor McGowan reported the appointments will be tabled until the 02/14/17 meeting at the wishes of the council.*
- b. *Mayor McGowan appointed Council Representative Ken Ratliff, former Cle Elum Fire Department Officer Fred Benjamin and Citizen-at-large Gary Berndt to the Fire Department Oversight Committee.*
- c. *Appointment of City Attorney: Mayor McGowan appointed Alexandra Kenyon as the City Attorney and asked the Council to confirm the Appointment. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to approve Alexandra Kenyon and her law firm as the Attorney for the City of Cle Elum. Motion carried unanimously.*
- d. *Appointment of the Library Board; Mayor McGowan postponed the appointments to a future meeting.*
- e. *Mayor McGowan asked that all city council members will address each other with their title of “fellow council member” out of respect for their positions.*

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Simpson provided the Clerk with the request to make certain corrections to the minutes to the 12/19/16 special meeting minutes. Council member Harper asked that the corrections be read into the record, as council cannot vote on something they have not seen. Council member Simpson stated she watched the video and said there were errors in the transcription and asked for clarification and correction on the minutes. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Tom Hastings to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to remove the approval of the 12/19/16 minutes and have the corrections brought to the 02/14/17 meeting to be voted on. Approval of the remaining items on the consent agenda include approval of the minutes to the 12/13/16 Council Meeting; approval of the notes to the 01/10/17 meeting (no quorum); approve vouchers and checks numbered 38105 through 38147 in the amount of \$164,158.38. Motion carried.*

Officer Reports

City Administration – Robert Omans:

- Reported he and the Mayor attended a Full Board Meeting with WCIA in Tukwila, which included a short educational session on employment law and information

regarding the upcoming WCIA liability audit. WCIA will offer a choice of a police, personnel or volunteers audit; a targeted risk management review; or a loss exposure reduction plan. Omans noted a City representative is required to attend the quarterly Full Board Meetings.

- Reported being on the review panel for the selection of the City Engineer. Two companies were interviewed and both went well. Later on the agenda, Kerry Clark, Chairman of the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to council.

- Reported frozen water lines throughout the City. Information is now on the website and the City Hall front counter, which includes flow charts and information about frozen water pipes and what the City's responsibility is.

Building Official – Robert Omans:

- Reported he is receiving emails and/or phone calls daily requesting information on building permits and zoning. Omans is forecasting a busy year for the building department.

Network Administrator: Robert Omans:

- Reported the City has changed code publishing companies from Municode, an east coast company, to Code Publishing, based more locally in the state of Washington. The new company will update the code quickly and more often, as well as put the City Code on-line with a search tool and hyperlinks. The site is now on-line at <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/CleElum>. Omans noted it is not yet linked to the City's website.

- Reported the City's shared drive is being re-organized, which will make access easier and cleaner when other City Departments are brought in to our server.

- Reported staff is currently updating the forms on the shared drive and front desk.

Public Works Director – Jim Leonhard:

- Reported the City crew has been clearing storm drains downtown and plowing snow.

- Reported 2 public (city-owned) wrought iron garbage cans and 1 city owned coal cart have been hit by private snow plow drivers.

- Reported the crews have been responding to reports of frozen water in attempt to assist citizens with identifying frozen pipes. Those individuals with frozen pipes underground are being assisted by crews with hose connections to neighbors' homes in order to provide water until the pipes thaw.

- Reported parts are ordered to repair a water main break on West Third. Repairs will be completed on 01/25/17.

- Reported Phase 1 of the River Intake project is scheduled Friday 01/27/17. This phase will include placing 12 to 15 three to five ton rocks in the river to push the flow toward the screen to scour the sand and rock out. The project will be completed in September when the old intake structure will be removed.

Police Report – Chief Scott Ferguson:

- Reported a 36-hour Snoqualmie Pass closure on 01/18/17. New signs provided by Jim Leonhard, Public Works Director helped alleviate parking issues due to the closure. Pass closures and dealing with parking issues puts a tremendous strain on the police department.

- Reported a Burlington Northern Train broke down for about 90 minutes on 01/06/17, blocking South Cle Elum Way and Oakes Avenue. The incident raised the

question of Emergency Response being cut off from access to the south side of the river in similar future situations and how those issues should be addressed and an alternate plan made. *Councilmember Ratliff noted the issue has previously been discussed, and stressed the important priority to begin planning for a 2nd bridge across the river. Councilmember Harper thanked the emergency response personnel for their prompt attention to a reported gas line break behind his place of business.*

Fire Department Report:

- No Report

Veolia – William LaRue:

- No Report

Citizen Comments on Non-agenda Items

Rick Graham – 502 Power Street: Reported his concerns with regard to an issue with the Cle Elum Fire Department and submitted his resignation. Mr. Graham thanked the citizens of the community who have allowed him to work for them.

Ed Mills: Apologized for Rick Graham bringing Inter-Department issues to the Council, stating the issue is far above and besides anything that Mr. Graham mentioned and is being dealt with by the Members and actively accepted the resignation of Rick Graham.

Council members Simpson, Hastings and Harper gave their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Graham for his 22 years of service on the Fire Department. Mayor McGowan stated he was planning on the 30-day trial requested by Mr. Graham and that he is sorry that it came to this point. Mayor McGowan added that he would like to have further discussions and have the matter resolved by the next regular meeting.

Randy Bailey – 113 West Third: Reported he is one of the people with frozen water between the main line and the meter. Mr. Bailey asked the council to review the City's Management Plan filed with the State of Washington Department of Health and to look at some available options that are available to steer the water system in a different direction. Mr. Bailey stated he does not fault the Council or City employees and understands this type of event does not happen often; and acknowledged the City crew is doing everything they can. Mr. Bailey further suggested the City invest in a system that would thaw frozen water services without digging up the ground.

Jim Eidemiller – 109 East Third Street: Suggested using the third bay at the Fire Department to park a semi truck with a water supply to provide to citizens with frozen water services.

Rose Todd – 107 West Second: Stated she is one of the citizens with frozen water and sees it as a health care issue to the elderly people affected, adding the situation is jeopardizing the safety of the citizens, causes unsanitary conditions and is creating an environment that is unsafe. Ms. Todd stated she should not have to pay a water bill if she is not getting City water.

Mayor McGowan stated the City would look into the possibility of purchasing a piece of equipment that would help thaw frozen pipes; additionally, Mayor McGowan stated the matter the water bills for customers with frozen pipes will be addressed. Council member Tom Hastings asked Mayor McGowan to direct staff to look into a pager service, or an on-call cell phone, for after hour non-emergency contact by customers rather than directing customers to call Kitt-Com.

Public Appearances

None

Business Requiring Public Hearings

- a. Amy McGuffin – unable to attend – postponed to a future meeting
- b. Gary Berndt – unable to attend – postponed to a future meeting

Unfinished Business

a. **Public Officials Training:** City Administrator Robert Omans reminded the council about the training set for 01/31/17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers. Mr. Omans and Mayor McGowan made it clear the public is welcome to attend and urged council members to bring their questions to be answered. *Council member Hastings informed the council he would be unable to attend as he has a conflict in schedule. Steven Harper noted Inland will be recording the meeting and will be made available to the City at a reasonable price.*

b. **Flag Pole Park:** Robert Omans asked for a motion to approve a financial commitment for the new flagpole at Flagpole Park on behalf of Jodi Larsen, who had originally asked for support at the 12/13/16 Council meeting. Council member Ron Spears suggested Ms. Larsen apply for City Hotel Motel taxes for any shortfall in funding they may have. *Council member Christine Simpson moved to move the request to the Hotel/Motel Fund. There was no second.* Administrator Omans agreed to suggest the Interact apply for City Hotel/Motel funds to Ms. Larsen.

c. **Flag Pole Park Sign:** Robert Omans requested a formal motion to approve an additional sign to be added to the existing sign at the Park. *Council member Simpson commented there were errors in grammar on the original sign application and asked for the text to be corrected. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to agree with the conceptual design of the sign with the recommendation that the verbiage be updated. Motion carried unanimously.*

New Business

a. **Resolution No. 2017-001 – Fire Department Oversight Committee:** Mayor McGowan asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-001 authorizing the creation of the Fire Department Oversight Committee as promised by the Levy. *A motion was made by Ron Spears and seconded by Steven Harper to approve Resolution No. 2017-001 authorizing the creation of the Fire Department Oversight Committee. Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Selection of City Engineer for 2017 through 2019 – Kerry Clark:** Kerry Clark, Planning Commission Chairman, reported the Planning Commission had reviewed the SOQ's for the City Engineer and determined the right course of action would be to form a committee to conduct interviews of the two applicants; HLA and Pertee. The interview committee consisted of Mayor Jay McGowan, Kerry Clark, Lucy Temple, Robert Omans and Jim Leonhard; questions for the interview were developed by the Planning Commission and Staff. The Planning Commission recommended continuing with HLA, as interviews determined they would provide the best services the City needs at this time. *Council member Ratliff commented that HLA has provided a lot of service for the City over the years with consistently good results. A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to accept the selection of HLA as the City Engineer for the period of 2017 through 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Council member Harper thanked the Planning Commission for the hard work they do for the City.*

Committee Reports

- a. Council member Steven Harper reported a dispute of Hotel/Motel tax reimbursement for which a hearing is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on 01/27/17 at Ellensburg City Hall. Council member Harper will represent the City at the hearing.
- b. Council member Ken Ratliff reported the Utilities Committee had met prior to the meeting to discuss three requests for credit for a water leak, only one of which had taken the proper steps to correct the leak. Therefore only Van Hockenbury will receive a credit in the amount of \$187.39 on his utility account. The other two applicants have not fixed their leaks, which is a condition of receiving credit. No credit will be issued to those two applicants. Council member Ken Ratliff reported the Utilities Committee also discussed the credit issued to the Horse Park in May of 2016 for city-caused water consumption; the Utilities Committee affirmed the Mayor's decision to issue the credit. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Mickey Holz to accept the recommendations of the Utilities Committee and direct staff to take appropriate actions consistent with these recommendations for all applicants for credit for water leaks. Motion carried unanimously.*

Council Members Comments & Concerns

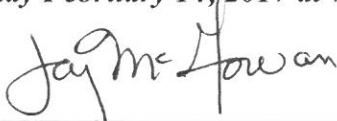
- Council member Ratliff asked to speak with Randy Bailey after the meeting to discuss the frozen pipe issue.
- Council member Simpson commented she would like to see a zero base budget so department heads can build their budget based on their needs. She would like to see a clear budget submitted from each department rather than have the city tell them what they will be receiving to be successful.
- Council member Simpson addressed the Mayor and asked where the City's Master Plan is, stating there is nothing on paper. She would like something provided at the beginning of 2017 so she can understand the plan for Parks and the Downtown area.
- Council member Simpson addressed the Mayor with regard to his promise to her that she would receive an apology from a City official. She would like to find a form of clear communication and follow through to avoid any confusion of issues in the future.
- Council member Tom Hastings also asked for improved communications from the Mayor as he has not responded to emails
- Council member Harper informed the council they will be receiving a draft ordinance to discuss at the next meeting regarding the City's sanctioning of cannabis within the City limits and asked the members to review it and suggest recommendations at the next meeting.
- Council member Harper would like to address the ordinance banning the use of fireworks as it is an unenforceable ordinance; and limits the public's freedom. He asked the council to amend to allow possession and use during the New Year's Eve celebration. He stressed he is not calling to allow fireworks during heightened fire danger seasons. The proposed amendment would also encourage the sales of fireworks by non-profits such as Kiwanis.
- Council member Ron Spears commented that he is disturbed by the 50 plus people who are without water and stated the City must fix the problem, asking for the Mayor and Public Works Director to take charge.

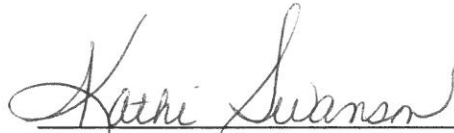
Executive Session

Mayor McGowan announced the Council would convene an Executive Session to discuss and/or review a personnel issue. The Mayor stated the Executive session would last for 30 minutes, beginning at 8:50 p.m. Possible action may be taken according to the wishes of the. The regular Council meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Tom Hastings to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday February 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Mayor

Attest