

City of Cle Elum
Regular City July 13, 2020

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Regular meeting of the City Council was held "virtually", in compliance with the Covid-19 Social Distancing Mandate issued by Governor Jay Inslee. The meeting was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 6:01 p.m. The Roll was called. Members present were Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Ruston Weaver, Steven Harper, Mickey Holz, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Fire Chief Ed Mills and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Mickey Holz to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition

Mayor McGowan announced there will be a Study Session at the Cle Elum Fireman's Park on Monday 07/20/2020 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The purpose of the Study Session is to discuss and clarify Legislative conduct and procedures as outlined by the chair of the sub-committee.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Beth Williams and seconded by John Glondo to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 06/22/2020 Regular City Council meeting; 06/30/20 Payroll EFTs and Checks #42440 - 42445 in the amount of \$142,298.71; and 07/13/2020 EFTs and Checks #42446 – 42498 for Claim Vouchers in the amount of \$566,495.04. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- Reported on the 6-month budget for the City on behalf of the Treasurer; revenues are coming in on schedule.
- Reported 198 vouchers out of 800 mailed were used at the transfer station during the free dump week of 06/23 through 6/27/2020.
- Reported the City issued 10 building permits and conducted 43 inspections in June. Permit fees collected year to date are at \$39,000.

City Planner – Lucy Temple:

- Deferred her report to the next meeting due to the current full agenda.

Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart:

- Reported the crew has begun City-wide crack-sealing.
- Reported the County will start the chip sealing project on the hill areas and Hartwig Boulevard on 7/20/2020.
- Reported the First Street Stormwater Project is commencing and should be complete within a month. Landscaping will be installed by a contractor and PSE will install lighting.

Police Chief – Kirk Bland:

- Absent. No verbal Report. Provided an incident report and summary for the year to date.

Fire Chief – Ed Mills:

- Reported the department had 39 calls during the month of June, including 29 EMS, 7 fires, 1 assist to the city to pump water from a water line break and 2 mutual aid with District 7.

- Reported receiving a burn complaint; the fire was determined to be a legal contained fire.
- Reported he will be placing a city-wide burn ban at 12 pm (midnight) on 07/17/2020. The burn ban will be posted in the newspaper on 07/16/2020.

There was discussion regarding the need for a burn ban as the weather has been cooler and wetter than normal for this time of year. Chief Mills stated he follows the County; Council member Ratliff stated he does not believe the City should follow the County's lead.

Veolia Report – William LaRue:

- Graphs of the Water Plant Flows, Run Time, Precipitation, Wastewater Flow and Water plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for June 2020 were provided in the Council packets.
- Reported the #3 clarifier at the Water Treatment Plant was building head loss faster than usual; staff took the filter off line and completed a super-chlorination of the media. The clarifier was allowed to sit in the highly chlorinated water for 2 days; the filter was washed and the head loss accumulation is back at a normal rate.
- Reported he and Mike Lackey participated in 3 days of free on-line training, offered by the Oregon Water Authority, which covered water plant daily operations.
- Reported staff completed repairs to the double doors in the electrical room.
- Reported Staff began draining SBR #2 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in preparation for the annual cleaning and inspection.
- Reported a tree fell on the back fence at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, damaging the top rail, fence fabric and gate section. Veolia staff is working with the adjacent property owner to complete the repairs.
- Reported staff flushed out the wet well at the Wastewater treatment plant and exercised all influent and effluent pumps.
- Thanked Mike Engelhart and his crew for excavating and repairing a leak on the odor tower water supply line at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Public Appearances - 15 Minute Limit

None

Business Requiring a Public Hearing

Cle Elum Dog Park Location: Lucy Temple and Matthew Lundh reported to council from the proposed location on Douglas Munro Boulevard. Proposed improvements include shoulder parking only, no ground clearing or site improvements, possible site for restrooms, a vestibule for secure entrance and a small dog area. The park boundary will not be seen from the cemetery and the area was recently fire wised by the DNR. There is a 6-foot high chain link fence owned by the Forest Service, which the Dog Park can piggy-back on. The total amount of fencing installed would be about 600 linear feet, less than the 1,000 feet required at the originally proposed location. The fencing and the dogs within will be hidden from the cemetery.

Mayor McGowan opened the meeting for public comment at 6:30 pm:

Bill Nelson: Commented he is opposed to the Dog Park because of the proximity to the Memorial for Douglas Munro, one of the greatest moments to celebrate, and feels the City is fouling it up by putting a dog park at that location. Mr. Nelson would like to see letters from the State Senators, Representatives and Governor Jay Inslee. Mr. Nelson commented it is a bad idea for the City to desecrate the Douglas Munro Memorial, his name and the memory of his accomplishments by putting a dog park at this location. Mr. Nelson also commented that parking would be taken up by large vehicles.

Fred Talerico: Reported the VFW had a meeting on 07/01/2020 and 18 members of the post voted no to putting the dog park at this location. Mr. Talerico noted this memorial is a national historic monument and the Coast Guard should have been notified of the plans to put in a dog park. Mr. Talerico also stated putting the dog park in this area would be a terrible mistake; it has

a bad site plan and traffic will be led through the cemetery. He will be in contact with the Coast Guard.

Steve Jones: Stated that, while a dog park is a good idea, it should not be at this location. The biggest concerns are parking and cars driving through the cemetery. Mr. Jones went on to commend the City for trying to do something for Cle Elum, like a dog park, but thinks a rest area would be a better idea. Mr. Jones asked who would be maintaining the dog park.

Written Comments read into the record by Lucy Temple:

Beverly Gonyea: “This location seems ideal. Easy access, some shade, big enough to accommodate separate areas for large & small dogs”.

DeAnna Haverfield: “My name is DeAnna and I am president of the Cle Elum Lions Club. We have partnered with the City to finally get the dog park a reality. With the last minute restrictions that were found at the previous site, this new location seems better. The potential of full facilities is a great plus. It feels safer for pedestrians being able to park directly at the location. I feel this can be constructed respectfully and blend in to our community”.

Jim Pierce – 390 Groeschell Road: “Coast Guard 13th Naval District has no knowledge of this dog park. The Douglas Munro Burial Site is next to proposed site and has been designated a national historic site. VFW Post 1373 is opposed to this site!”

Fred Talerico: “V.F.W. Post 1373 is against the dog park next to our cemetery! The United States Coast Guard was not notified of this action by the City of Cle Elum. Our cemetery is on national historical registry! The 2 week comment period was not good because of the 4th of July Holiday”.

Twila Moss: “My husband, Lloyd Moss and myself, would like to give a big thumbs up to the new proposed dog park. It is in a low traffic area and would provide easy access to people from all areas of Cle Elum. The site will be big enough for all sizes of dogs to come for exercise and to play with other dogs. We hope that this will be a go and that it will be up and running soon”.

Leslie Thurston, Washington State Horse Park: “I was catching up on reading the Tribune and noticed the article about the proposed change in venue for the dog park to just east of the cemetery. As you probably know: Douglas Munro Blvd and the PSE powerlines already are a popular area where locals let their dogs run loose. For the most part this hasn't been a real problem except for the occasional dog running into the road as vehicles are passing. Warrior Quickstop produces a lot of people giving their dogs a walk break either to the west in the graveled lot that is currently vacant, or behind the gas station on Douglas Munro Blvd. So putting a dog park in that area may seem a logical choice. However, there are other factors that should be carefully considered:

1. The little roadway that runs along the west side of Warrior Quickstop has become very busy and is sometimes a dangerous free-for-all with people coming off I90, pulling out from the gas station, taking a right before entering the freeway, getting confused at the Y...
2. Already heavy traffic congestion in and around Warrior Quickstop is only going to get worse when their car wash is operating.
3. The Horse Park is relatively quiet this year due to Covid cancellations, but we expect to return to a normal busy schedule in 2021 with events and related large vehicles coming and going.
4. If the property across Douglas Munro is developed (where the two vacant buildings now stand), how can all the traffic flows be coordinated safely and efficiently?
5. When word gets out that there's a dog park there, even more tourist traffic will be drawn to it as a rest stop.
6. How will this additional use impact the already congested intersection by Safeway?
7. How will all this impact people visiting the cemetery? (I know from experience that people visiting an off leash dog park are not always obedient about putting a leash back on when they exit).

I'm raising these concerns to make sure a plan to put a dog park at that location is carefully thought through, starting with security fencing, plenty of off street parking and clear access and egress controls to keep people and animals safe. Thank you."

Greg Meshke – Almon Commercial Real Estate: "Just a quick note to give both myself and my client and landowner across the road's support for the proposed dog park. Both Renee Hill and I are avid dog lovers and think this will be a very good thing for the area. We also very much agree with the need for putting in an aesthetically pleasing wood rail fence with wire backing. Both due to respect to the cemetery and its visitors and because it sits across from our entry commercial property and an ugly cyclone fence would not be a good fit for either. We also hope that measures will be put in place to assure that the park and fence is well maintained, the parking is adequate to handle the visitors, and that the dog park is open for daylight hours only as is required for most if not all dog parks. Thanks for taking a moment to listen to our thoughts and we will see you at the meeting tonight".

Hearing no further public comments, Mayor McGowan closed the public hearing at 6:54. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Steven Harper to continue the public hearing at the next regular scheduled meeting. Mayor McGowan will reopen the public hearing at the next meeting and public comment will be taken. Discussion: Council member Lundh asked if the issue is that the council was not in the park for this meeting. Mayor McGowan responded the City will make every effort to create another opportunity to have public comment in an open air manner. Council member Ratliff commented this is an opportunity to contact the United State Coast Guard for input and the matter should be fully vetted. Ratliff asked that staff be directed to contact the Coast Guard and invite comments. Council member Lundh asked if the meeting in public will be by the next meeting. Mayor McGowan has been assured there can be an open air meeting, unless something drastic happens. No further questions on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Unfinished Business

Interlocal Agreement with Kittitas County Health Department & CARES Act Funds: Brett Wachsmith was unable to attend but sent an email to Robert Omans stating he can send data regarding what the Public Health Department does for Cle Elum. Mr. Wachsmith expressed interest in the City of Cle Elum's process for allocating CARES funds. Mayor McGowan opened the subject up for council discussion. Council member Lundh stated the Council was unanimous about using CARES funds for the businesses in Cle Elum. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lund to table further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.*

New Business

a. Progress Estimate #4 - \$167,702.54 – Strider Construction – First Street Stormwater Project: Mike Engelhart reported the project is well underway and due to be completed shortly. This estimate is for work completed and approved by the inspectors. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Beth Williams to approve Progress Estimate #4 and to authorize the Mayor to sign and make payment in the amount of \$167,702.54. No questions on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. Proclamation: Grand Columbia Council – Scout Me In Day: Council member Matthew Lundh reported the Boy Scouts are trying to get cities to approve proclamations designating Scout Me In Day. Mayor McGowan will read the proclamation at the next meeting.

c. CARES Act Grant Distribution: Matthew Lundh, representing the CARES committee thanked Debbie Bogart, Keith Watts, John Glondo, Ruston Weaver and Robin Newcomb for the work they put in to the CARES Act Committee and the resulting decisions. The committee went through a process set upon a scoring basis and decided to allocate \$50,000 to businesses that met the qualification criteria. Funds were dispersed to 16 businesses as follows: \$1000 each to Salon

2120 and Boone's Café; \$2,000 to Staci's Cut-Z; \$2,500 to Rustik Kreation; \$3,000 to Mike's Tavern; \$3,500 to Tamarack Physical Therapy; \$3,700 each to Mama Vallone's, Stella's, Sunset Café, Best of Thai, Ploy Thai Bistro, Cle Elum Pharmacy, Lane Law Group, Sucasa Yoga, Eagles Club and Orchard Restaurant. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ken Ratliff to allocate the money determined by the committee. Steven Harper and Rustin Weaver recused themselves from the deliberation and vote. Ken Ratliff, Beth Williams, John Glondo, Mickey Holz and Matthew Lundh voted aye. The motion carried with 5 ayes and 2 abstentions.*

Committee Reports

None

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Mickey Holz to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday July 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and will be held virtually, with access by telephone and/or computer for council members and by telephone only for citizens.



Mayor



Attest