

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
August 10, 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 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Roll was called. Members present were Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Ruston Weaver, Mickey Holz, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Steven Harper was absent. Other members present were City Administrator Robert Omans, City Planner Lucy Temple, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland., Fire Chief Ed Mills and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to excuse the absence of Steven Harper. The motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2020-019 to set a time and date for a hearing to review the Agee alley vacation under New Business, item b; and to add Resolution 2020-020 for the RCO grant application under New Business, item c; and to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Appointments, Awards and Recognition

Mayor McGowan appointed Elizabeth Torre, Gary Berndt and Van Peterson to the Planning Commission. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to approve the 3 applicant appointments to the Planning Commission made by the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously.*

Consent Agenda

Matthew Lundh noted an error in the minutes of the 07/29/2020 meeting, under New Business item c, Ordinance No. 1589 Emergency Street Preservation Regulations. During the poll vote, Matthew Lundh's name was listed twice and Ruston Weaver's name was omitted. Staff will make the correction to the minutes. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Beth Williams to approve the consent agenda with the correction to the minutes as noted by Matthew Lundh. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 07/29/2020 Regular City Council meeting; 07/31/2020 Payroll EFTs and Checks #42543 through 42547 and 42549 in the amount of \$133,246.28 (Check #42548 in the amount of \$2,853.42 was voided); and 08/10/2020 EFTs and Checks for Claim Vouchers #42550 through 42589 in the amount of \$378,912.23. The motion carried unanimously.*

Officer Reports

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

- Reported the City issued 9 building permits in the month of July for a total of 53 year-to-date. Fees collected year-to-date are \$43,000. A total of 31 inspections were conducted in July.
- Reported the IT Committee is meeting regularly and is working on developing a plan for devices for council members to be used at Zoom meetings and to move forward to paperless.
- Reported the City will have a bid opening for professional services to replace the City Hall server on Wednesday 8/12/2020.

City Planner – Lucy Temple:

- Announced 2 Small Scale Lodging Tax Grant Applications were submitted to the County, including a \$50,000 request on behalf of the Horse Park, and \$19,000 for the City of Cle Elum for signage and a brochure for the disc golf course, trail counters and public restroom maintenance.
- Reported Commissioner Osiadacz is trying to redistribute Event money to the County Lodging Tax funds since events are not being held this year due to the Covid pandemic.
- Reported the submission of a grant application through Safe Routes to school to extend the Second Street Sidewalk from the newly constructed Stafford Avenue to Oakes Avenue.
- Reported the deadline for the RCO grant for the Horse Park is midnight tonight. The Horse Park is applying through the City to the State Resource Conservation Office and is asking for \$500,000 to help complete the covered arena project.
- Reported she is working on 4 or 5 design review processes; no new applications have come in since her last report but anticipates applications will be coming in soon.
- Reported she has been reviewing permits for Large Developments.
- Reported she continues to work on several Parks projects and permitting for the Hanson Ponds project.

Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart:

- Reported he has received many inquiries about the airport regarding large hangar projects.
- Reported the First Street project is nearly done; landscaping is almost completed and PSE will install lights.
- Reported the Stafford Street Intersection is complete and came in under budget. The additional money will be used for more improvements to the intersection.
- Reported the crew helped the City of Roslyn with the installation of a storm sewer system and repaired water issues.
- Reported the crew is putting in a new water main on Reed Street, including a new fire hydrant.
- Advised the Council the City must look at the City's rate structure to build reserves as there have been expensive breakdowns and failures at the Water Treatment Plant.
- *Mayor McGowan commented that it would be to the City's benefit to get 10 airplanes at the airport, which would make the City eligible for FAA funding.*

Police Chief – Kirk Bland:

- Reported there have been 2,574 calls for service this year.
- Reported jail costs are down, primarily due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Reported a 9-year old young lady gave a painting of a flag to thank the police department and to show her support. She also made friendship bracelets for the officers. The Department felt very much honored. The Department is putting pictures of the painting on Facebook.

Fire Chief – Ed Mills:

- Reported the department had 29 calls during the month of July, including 24 EMS, 2 service calls, 2 false alarms and 1 fire call.

Veolia Report – William LaRue:

- Graphs of the Water Plant Flows, Run Time, Precipitation, Wastewater Flow and Water plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for July 2020 were provided in the Council packets.
- Reported the Wastewater plant is operating well; staff is performing maintenance in preparation for fall and winter flows.
- Thanked Mike Engelhart and the Public Works crew for the crack sealing project at the Water Treatment Plant parking lot.

- Reported the 15-year old #1 irrigation pump upper bearing at the Water Treatment Plant is failing. The other irrigation pump is also exhibiting bearing failure. Pumps must be pulled and transported to a shop for repairs at an estimated \$7,000. Suncadia is down to 1 pump for irrigation. Picatti Pumps will be in on 08/11/2020 to begin the tear-down on the #1 unit.

Public Appearances – 15 Minute Limit

Nature Conservancy – Letter of Support: Brian Straniti, of TNC, provided a Power Point presentation outlining an update to the Central Cascade Forest and asked for a letter to support the Washington Cascades-Taneum Watershed FY2022 LWCF Land Transfer to the U.S. Forest Service; and a letter of support for the Cabin Creek Forest Legacy Project Application Discussion *by Council:* **Council member Ratliff** commented it is improper, unhealthy and undesirable for forest land to be owned privately. TNC has done nothing to help get a saw mill in Central Washington. As a local government, the city must provide the best support, opportunities and encouragement possible to provide well-paying jobs in our community. This type of transaction does nothing to support those jobs. **Mr. Straniti** commented the TNC has been working toward getting a saw mill in Kittitas County, as well as providing the community with decision making capabilities with regard to forest land. **Mayor McGowan** commented the Taneum has been heavily logged and must be left alone to become a productive forest again. **Council member Weaver** commented this agreement is the best way to preserve this land and our water shed, and is the right thing to do. **Council member Holz** commented that when a mill was proposed for the area, the government stated we should thin our forest. He has not seen that maintenance happen and is not in favor of turning the land over to the TNC. No income is made from the land owned or in the management of the TNC and he is not in favor of this project. **Council member Williams** commented the TNC should advertise more. **Mr. Straniti** reported the TNC has been very active in forest thinning and maintenance. **A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to authorize the mayor to sign the letter of support for the Washington Cascades-Taneum Watershed FY2022 LWCF Project with appropriate changes/corrections to mailing addresses. Council members Matthew Lundh, Beth Williams, John Glondo and Ruston Weaver voted aye. Council members Ken Ratliff and Mickey Holz voted nay. The motion carried by a vote of 4-2.** Brian Straniti provided a copy of the second letter regarding the Cabin Creek Forest Legacy Project for the Council’s review. The council approved this application in 2019, however the grant was not awarded. This year’s project transfers Cabin Creek to the DNR. The letter was read into the record by Brian Straniti, as it was not provided in the council packets. **A motion was made by Ken Ratliff to edit the second sentence by adding a comma between the word “residents” and “containing”, placing a period after the words Yakima River headwaters” and eliminating the rest of the paragraph and to approve the resubmittal of the edited letter in its entirety. Council member Lundh asked for an amendment to the motion to change “1800” residents to “2000” residents. John Glondo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Straniti will provide a revised letter for the Mayor’s signature.

Business Requiring a Public Hearing

Cle Elum Dog Park Location – Laurel Hill Cemetery: Mayor McGowan opened the public hearing at 7:12 pm. Matthew Lundh read the comments received as follows:

Freida Ellison: “What a wonderful and sorely needed addition this would be to the community. Next: Community Swimming pool”!

Petition to move proposed Cle Elum Dog Park away from Cle Elum cemetery: “For several different reasons we the citizens of Cle Elum WA would like the city to reconsider the current proposed location of the dog park currently planned to be adjacent from the Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery”. 17 signatures were recorded on the petition.

Greg Meshke: “I met with Renee Hill again on Friday and we walked the area this time looking at it from perspective of how the dog park might affect the bordering cemetery and its visitors.

Given the current design plan it is hard to imagine that there wouldn't be some negative consequences especially if it becomes a popular destination with high traffic. As stated in my earlier email, we have no problem regarding Renee's property being across the street and appreciate the fact that you are intending to put in very aesthetically pleasing fencing. Being avid dog lover's we also see the need for such a park in Cle Elum but again just very concerned about how this might have a negative impact on the cemetery".

Brenda Charlton: "I am writing in regards to the proposal of the off leash dog park in Cle Elum and am hoping for positive feedback from the community in favor of such. Cle Elum could really use a place that is fenced in for pups to run around and socialize in a supervised manner. All dog parks I have been to have always been a positive experience for not only the pups, but for the parents as well. Hoping this can be considered for Cle Elum and I am willing to help in any way possible".

John Golubiec: "My wife Liz and I are in full support of the dog park project. We often take our dog Willie on errands and it would be great to have the park for him and to meet other residents. It also is a safe and welcome addition to the city for dogs to be able to enjoy. We will also make a donation to the construction and thank all the city and volunteers involved".

Heather Lynn: "In regards to the proposed new dog park location, it would be such a wonderful addition to the community! Please vote Yes!"

Kitty Wallace: "I am in full support of a dog park. There is such a need in our community for this. This is also a big request from many of my clients looking to relocate here. A dog park would be a great benefit to many and I fully support it".

Dave and Charlene Cline/Frank and Grace Cline: "We are so excited for this new dog park! Separate spaces for little and large dogs is spot on. Rest rooms will also be a great benefit. We go up to the Suncadia dog park from time to time, but to have our own city park will be so much better. We would also be happy to assist with getting this from concept to reality. Feel free to reach out to us if there is any form of community involvement that we can help with".

Patricia and Jerry Hein: "We have strong reservations about the location of the proposed dog park! The traffic at the intersection after the 190 exit (Safeway, proposed McDonald's and Warrior quick stop) is already a disaster not to mention the disrespect of the cemetery and it's families! We are extremely disappointed that this is your proposal!"

Ashley Dunn and Glen Helm: "We feel that the location for the dog park will work. Even though the location is close to the cemetery, it looks like there is enough separation for people visiting both locations so the dogs won't cause a disturbance. A benefit to having the dog park here is that it will be easy to access for visitors passing through the town. Our biggest priority is access to water and shade for hot days. If there aren't enough trees, then having something constructed for shade. We're so excited to have a dog park in Cle Elum!"

Shelley Bingham: "As a resident of Cle Elum, I strongly believe we need a dog park and the location near the cemetery is as good a spot as any other. Our furry kids need a place to play and get some exercise. As an added benefit, it give people a way to meet other residents doing something they have in common. As an older new resident that doesn't drink, I have found it difficult to meet people. There aren't a lot of ways to meet people in Cle Elum other than hanging out at bars. It's my understanding that this issue of where to put dog park has been going on for several years. It would be wonderful if creating a dog park would become a higher priority to the city than it appears to be at this time".

Disclaimer: The above comments are presented exactly as received in written form. No further written comments were received; therefore, Mayor McGowan closed the public hearing at 7:17. Discussion by Council: John Glondo commented the perception is that people are in favor of the dog park, but not necessarily this location and asked if other locations are being considered. Matthew Lundh reported the Parks Committee has heard the well-reasoned comments from the Veterans and others stating the location near the cemetery is not the appropriate place and recommends not pursuing this location and are withdrawing their proposal

for this site. Other proposed sites are the original proposed location, and behind the Community Gardens behind Centennial Field. Alternate locations will be brought to the next regular City Council meeting. Greg Meshke and Gordon Gaub are donating \$7,500 towards the implementation of a dog park in Cle Elum. Mayor McGowan announced the Parks Committee is withdrawing their request for this particular site at this time and future dog park sites will be explored and brought back to council. No further motion is required at this time.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- a. **Progress Estimate #5 - \$114,576.40 – Strider Construction – First Street Stormwater Project:** Mike Engelhart reported the project 99% complete. This Progress Estimate covers sidewalks, curbs and gutters, but not landscaping. This will not be the final payment. *A motion was made by Mickey Holz and seconded by John Glondo to approve Progress Estimate #5 and make payment in the amount of \$114,576.40. The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Resolution 2020-019 – Agee Land Exchange:** City Planner Lucy Temple reported this is a standard vacation resolution to set the Public Hearing time and date at least 20 days after the first publication. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to pass Resolution 2020-019 setting a time and date for September 14, 2020 for a public hearing regarding this street vacation. The motion carried unanimously.*
- c. **Resolution 2020-020 – RCO Grant – Horse Park Covered Arena:** City Planner Lucy Temple reported the Horse Park is asking for \$500,000 to complete the covered arena project through the RCO grant process submitted by the City of Cle Elum on behalf of the Horse Park. Resolution 2020-020 authorizes the City Planner, Treasurer and Administrator to submit, communicate on and amend (with approval) the 2020 Horse Park RCO grant application. This is the only RCO grant the City is applying for as the city does not have any applicable projects. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Ruston Weaver to approve Resolution 2020-020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

Committee Reports

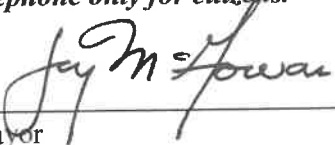
Matthew Lundh: Reported the CARES and IT Committees are moving forward in purchasing the I-Pads for council and committees and will be using CARES money toward those purchases. The devices may be available at the next regular council meeting.

Mayor McGowan: Informed the council members that the second meeting in August will be cancelled, which is done every year for Council vacation. The regularly scheduled meetings resume September 14, 2020 at 6 pm. If a special meeting is necessary, it will be called.

Matthew Lundh: Reported he will bring the Dog Park information to the first meeting in September. Mickey Holz recommended Centennial Park should be fenced if the decision is made to put the Dog Park at that location.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Beth Williams to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday September 14, 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