

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
April 11, 2022

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor McGowan at 6:00 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 Robert Omans, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland, Fire Chief Ed Mills and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ken Ratliff to add Agenda Item d, under New business to discuss the ARPA Library Grant Award and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to correct the spelling of Siw Bay-Hanson's first name the minutes of the 03/14/2022 meeting on page 1, under "Appointment to Vacated Council Position and Executive Session", and to approve the agenda as amended. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 03/28/2022 Regular City Council meeting; The meeting notes to the 03/31/2022 Study Session; March Payroll EFTs and Vouchers #44321 and 44356 – 44363 in the amount of \$252,211.87; and Claim EFTs and Vouchers #44354 and 44355 and 44364 – 44406 in the amount of \$203,220.81. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- Noted the 1st quarter budget report is included in the packets and reported the general fund is being hit hard with attorney fees for the City Heights arbitration and numerous Public Records requests. The City is looking for other revenue sources to offset the expenses.
- Building Department numbers for March include 9 permits issued and 15 inspections.
- Reported TIB awarded the City \$350,000 from Complete Streets, which is the highest award possible. A plaque was included in the award. This money will be used for the Downtown Revitalization project phases 3A and 3B. This project will be going out to bid on 04/14/2022, with a bid opening date of 05/05/2022.
- The library's request for an ARPA award from Washington State Library was approved.
- Working with Representative Kim Schrier and the House Appropriations Committee for Community Project Funding applications. The City is applying for \$5 million for the Cle Elum Sewer System Life Cycle Restart Project; \$5.7 million for the Downtown Revitalization – Phase 3C (Construction Only) project; and \$2.3 million for the Second Street and Rosetti Way Watermain Improvements (Construction-Only).

Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart - Reported:

- Working with HLA and PSE on the Downtown Revitalization project for final plans. A bid announcement will be made next week
- Working with BNSF for permits for a Park and Ride on Oakes and West Railroad.
- Paving for the emergency sewer repair on Billings was scheduled for this week; however, due to weather, the date has been moved to 04/27/2022.
- Spring Cleanup for the crew is underway.
- Irrigation systems at the parks have not been turned on yet due to wintery weather.

- Crews will grade roads and alleys when they have dried out.
- Cheryl Anderson and Jacob McCleary have been hired as the Heavy Equipment Operators. Anderson started on 04/04/2022 and McCleary will start on 04/18/2022.

Police Chief Kirk Bland - Reported:

- Officers are getting as much training as possible before the season gets busy. The department is participating with the Ellensburg Police Department training. Firearms training will begin soon at the old Ellensburg Cement range.

Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:

- The Department had 48 toned calls in March, including 26 EMS calls, 2 fires, 2 gas leak or detection calls, 8 false alarms, most of which were due to mal-functioning detectors and/or faulty batteries, 2 illegal burn complaints and 1 authorized burn complaint.
- The Fire Advisory Committee is working on reviewing the emergency Comprehensive Plan. The Council will be kept informed as the committee moves forward.
- The Fire Advisory Committee is also working with the DNR to identify City-owned properties to make them more Fire-wised.
- The Fire Department Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday 04/16/2022 at 11 am. Early attendees will get a hotdog.
- *At Councilmember Harper's request, Chief Mills defined a legal fire as being a religious or ceremonial fire in a 2' x 2' contained pit, using dry legal firewood. An illegal fire consists of construction material, cardboard, paper and nuisance substances that cause excess smoke or smell. The burning of yard waste and debris also constitutes an illegal fire. Enforcement begins with a verbal warning.*

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Beth Marker – 202 East Third Street: Thanked the mayor and planning and engineering staff for holding the meeting on the City Heights project. Thanked the City for putting up the signage regarding weight limitations. Asked about the “dropped” trailer sitting on Second Street across from the fire station. It has been there for at least one week. Asked the City to bring it within the applicable ordinance.

Larry Stauffer – 2661 Lower Peoh Point:

1. Asked the City to do the right thing and hire a top-notch land use attorney to represent the City's interest relating to the anticipated 47 Degree north proposal. He has made this request at least 4 times in the past.

2. Commented he heard the arbitration with City Heights has been resolved in their favor and is concerned the liabilities created by the handling of the City Heights issue will further spook the city from aggressively defending the community against inappropriate development proposals submitted by powerful developers. The City has lost the arbitration as a result of management decisions and bad advice.

3. Commented the 47 Degrees North application has not yet been submitted, giving the city more opportunities to steer this project than it ever will again.

Public Appearances – 15 Minute limit

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- a. **Ordinance 1630 – REET 2:** Rob Omans reported this does not have to go to the vote of the people due to a change in the law within the past few years. Councilmember Ratliff stated proceeds from REET 2 will be deposited in Municipal Capital Improvement Funds, which can be used for the pipeline projects. Councilmember Harper commented it is ¼ of a percent, which is not an appreciable impact on sales. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Ordinance 1630, establishing REET 2. The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Complete Streets Grant Agreement - \$350,000:** *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Matthew Lundh to authorize the Mayor to sign the Complete Streets Grant Agreement in the amount of \$350,000 from TIB to be used on the First Street Downtown Revitalization Project. The motion carried unanimously.*
- c. **Resolution 2022-007 – Cash Receipting Policy:** Rob Omans reported the Treasurer worked with the auditor to write the cash receipting policy presented in this Resolution. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Resolution 2022-007 as written to adopt a cash receipting policy. The motion carried unanimously.*
- d. **ARPA Award (added Agenda item) for \$6,450:** *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to accept the ARPA award and authorize the mayor to sign the ARPA award document. The motion carried unanimously.*

Committee Reports

None


Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Ken Ratliff to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:37.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday April 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.



 Mayor



 Attest