

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
September 12, 2022, 6:00 pm

**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, Steven Harper, Siw Bay-Hansen, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Sarah Lackey was absent. Other members present were Contract Planner Gregg Dohrn, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Police Chief Kirk Bland, Sergeant Richard Albo, Fire Chief Ed Mills, Planning Commission Chairman Gary Berndt, Veolia Water/Sewer Treatment Plants Supervisor William LaRue, Planning Tech Virgil Amick and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Steven Harper to excuse the absence of Sarah Lackey. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comment – Limited to 5-Minutes**

**Dr. David Bridgeman - 124 East First:** In an effort to eliminate snow and ice issues, Dr. Bridgeman would like to replace the sidewalks with heated sidewalks by the Schober Building on Harris Avenue. Some of the existing sidewalks are slated to be torn up and replaced as a result of the First Street Downtown Revitalization Project that is currently taking place and it would be a good time to make the change. The placement of power for the heated sidewalks will be at his expense, at no cost to the city. Mayor McGowan stated he will talk to the City engineer and Public works director Mike Engelhart to determine if this proposal can be accomplished.

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Beth Williams to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

- a. **Appointment to Planning Commission:** Mayor McGowan noted a copy of the application submitted by Colin Brissey was provided to council in their packets for their review. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Steven Harper to endorse the appointment of Colin Brissey to the Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Acting Police Chief:** Police Chief Kirk Bland publicly announced he is retiring from the department as of 09/30/2022, noting the community has always shown their support of the Police Department. Chief Bland also commented the demand for police services has increased over the past 20 years, yet the department has only expanded by 1 officer. Chief Bland introduced Sergeant Rich Albo as the acting Police Chief effective 10/01/2022. Sergeant Albo has been on the Cle Elum police force for the past 13 years and has had extensive training and become certified in many aspects of the police department. **Sergeant Albo** thanked the council and the community for the opportunity to serve the area. Mayor McGowan noted there will be a process to determine a permanent police chief in the near future.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 08/08/2022 Regular City Council meeting; the 09/12/2022 Accounts Payable EFTs and Vouchers #44771 - 44819 in the amount of \$640,831.30; and August 2022 Payroll Vouchers #44764 – 44770 in the amount of \$259,266.47. The motion carried unanimously.*

## Officer Reports

### Planning Department – Gregg Dohrn - reported:

- The City received 3 Statements of Qualifications from 3 firms/individuals interested in becoming the City Hearing Examiner. Interviews will be conducted on 09/22/2022. City Staff, the City Attorney and some members of the council will make up the interview panel.
- The City continues to review applications received for the Planning Commission.
- Having informal discussions with the local planning consultant who may be able to provide some on-site planning services to help with the increasing case load of land use applications the city is receiving.
- Conducted a Pre-application meeting with Sun Communities in anticipation of their submittal of an application for Major Modifications to the Approved Master Sight Plan and Development Agreement. An application is expected within the next 90 days. Public notice will be made at that time.

### Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart - Reported:

- The First Street Project is progressing well. Most of the concrete is poured from Billings to Pennsylvania Avenue and crews are continuing to work easterly. Belsaas and Smith is working with the business owners to minimize the impact to the businesses.
- Crews have been working on breaks and leaks in water lines.
- The mechanic is prepping equipment for winter.
- The Fall Cleanup is in progress through September 30<sup>th</sup>. City residents may pick up their vouchers at City Hall. The Brush Dump will be open on 09/14, 09/21 and 09/28/2022 from noon until 4. The equipment will be located at the Water Treatment plant.
- *Councilmember Harper asked who the City representative is that coordinates the alley closures due to construction. Engelhart responded he meets with Belsaas and Smith every Thursday to coordinate; otherwise, Debbie Bogart from the Downtown Association is the contact. Councilmember Harper reported the alley behind his business has been blocked off often.*

### Police Chief Kirk Bland – Reported:

- Labor Day weekend was busy in Roslyn with the parade, log show and market; there is a need to develop a better traffic plan during these events.
- There is an ongoing bear problem in Cle Elum and Roslyn, which Fish and Wildlife is working on. Chief Bland advised citizens to keep their garbage contained.
- Officers will be attending various trainings before the end of the year, including a street crime seminar, FTO Supervisor Course, interview techniques and firearms training.
- The roof overhang at the back door of the police Department building is being repaired; the roof overhang at the front door will be repaired, as well, if funding comes through.
- A separate entrance door will be installed to the BAC (Blood Alcohol) testing room; grant money was received to accomplish that goal.

### Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:

- The Department had 61 toned calls in August, including 49 EMS calls, 2 fires, 3 hazardous conditions, 4 service calls, 3 false alarms.
- The burn ban is still in full effect.
- The Horse Park is in need of more Firewising.
- The Big Trails project is starting. The Fire Advisory Committee will meet with DNR on 10/04/2022 regarding this project, which includes the property with the water storage tanks.
- Trying to identify effective evacuation routes. A team is being developed to make that determination and educate the citizens.
- Engine 511 is having a def sensor issue; the City mechanic is working to fix the issue.
- The Lighting Evaluation came up with a program to redo all of the lighting at station 51. This will provide a savings to the City by changing the lights to LED

**Veolia - William LaRue Reported:**

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for August 2022 were provided in council packets.
- It has been very quiet this past month and both plants have been running well.
- Water production in August was at a historical high since the plant was established in 2002.

**Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit**

- a. **Community Recreation Center Update:** Claire Nichols provided a presentation of the progress of the project to date. The UKCCRC members are asking what role the City would like to play in the future facility operations. Councilmember Harper suggested sending this to a committee. A Council committee will be formed using some members of the Lodging Tax and Budget Committees, as well as the City Clerk, to help facilitate the meetings. Commissioner Lundh is on the UKCCRC. Mayor McGowan recommended John Glondo, Stephen Harper and Matthew Lundh for the Community recreation Center Council Committee. Melissa Becker of the Shoemaker Foundation stated they would like to have an answer within the next few months as to what level of support the City is willing to contribute.

**Business Requiring Public Hearings**

- a. **Continued Public Hearing – Ordinance 1632 – Flood Hazard Regulations:** This public hearing was continued from the 08//08/2022 Council meeting so answers could be obtained as to why Wetland Management Chapter 15.24.160 was struck from the original document. Gregg Dohrn explained the provisions were deleted at the request of the Department of Ecology to keep regulations more streamlined and avoid double references. The Wetlands Chapter has been moved to the Critical Areas Ordinance. When the Wetlands Ordinance is brought to council, Mr. Dohrn will point out the wetlands are not duplicated in the Flood Hazard regulations at the direction of the D.O.E. Councilmember Harper asked to re-open the public hearing for comments. Mayor McGowan opened the Public Hearing at 6:56. Hearing no comment, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:57 pm. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Ordinance 1632 Flood Hazard Regulations as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

- a. **Progress Estimate No. 1 – First Street and Douglas Munro Intersection Improvements - \$244,039.93:** Mike Engelhart reported the underground, curb and gutter and asphalt repair has been completed. HLA has reviewed all documentation and the project is 40% complete; the contractor is waiting for electrical. *A motion was made by Ken Raliff and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve Progress Estimate No. 1 for the First Street and Douglas Munro Intersection Improvements in the amount of \$244,039.93. Councilmember Harper voiced his opposition to the project and that he will vote negative on the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 1.*
- b. **Progress Estimate No. 3 – Belsaas & Smith – First Street Downtown Revitalization – Phases 3A and 3B - \$107,450.72:** Mike Engelhart reported progress has gone according to schedule. HLA has reviewed the prevailing wage and other documentation and everything is

accounted for. The project is about 25% complete with a completion date for Phase 3B and 3B sometime this fall with all concrete poured and landscaping installed. The contractor is currently waiting for the lighting. Councilmember Harper asked why a portion of the sidewalk that was poured was pulled up. Engelhart explained it had to be replaced due to a problem with the elevation of the original pour and will be considered warranty work. The inspector called attention to the problem prior to the original pour. The surveyors came out to the site, re-shot it, and determined it was not poured correctly. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve Progress Estimate No. 3 for Belsaas & Smith for the First Street Downtown Revitalization Phases 3A & 3B in the amount of \$107,450.72. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Discussion: Planning Commission Changes:** Gary Berndt, Planning Commission Chair, and Gregg Dohrn, Contract Planner, proposed changes to the makeup of the Planning Commission by eliminating the 2 alternate positions and increasing the membership from 5 to 7 full-time commissioners. Gary Berndt recommended considering the other 2 applicants that were not appointed to fill the open positions that would be created by the expansion. This action will require a change to the Cle Elum Municipal Code by ordinance. Additional training and the implementation of a Planning Commissioner Handbook for the Commissioners was also recommended. The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the Critical Areas Ordinance; however, if they cannot come together with a quorum, the City Council will have to conduct the required public hearing process. Dohrn and Berndt suggested all planning commissioners live within the City. Councilmember Harper noted he is in favor of this and would support the change. A draft ordinance will be brought to council in the future and will also be reviewed by the Planning Commission. The implementation of a Hearings Examiner will alleviate some of the duties of the Planning Commission, enabling them to spend more time reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Committee Reports**

- a. **Pangrazi Award Report:** Beth Williams reported the city received 2 nominations. The committee met and made a determination to select Jim Fossett for the 2022 Pangrazi Award. The other nominee was Marc Kirkpatrick. The award will be presented at a future council meeting.
- b. **Lodging Tax Application – SNPJ Lodge:** Steven Harper reported the Lodging Tax Committee reviewed an application from the Slovenska Narodna Polporuna Jednota Lodge for a kiosk and plaque at the SNPJ Cemetery, which is within the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Cle Elum. The SNPJ Lodge is dedicating this portion of the cemetery to the City and would like the kiosk in place to inform visitors of its history. The committee agreed to fund the application in the full amount of \$5,587.11. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Ken Ratliff to authorize the granting of \$5,587.11 for the SNPJ kiosk and plaque. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

*A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday September 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.*

  
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 Mayor

  
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 Attest