

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting
October 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, Sarah Lackey, Steven Harper, Siw Bay-Hansen, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Rob Omans, City Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Acting Police Chief Rich Albo, Fire Chief Ed Mills, Veolia Water/Sewer Treatment Plants Supervisor William LaRue and City Clerk Kathi Swanson.

Public Comment – Limited to 5-Minutes

Larry Stauffer – 2661 Lower Peoh Point Road: Asked if there would be a vote tonight on the General Sewer Plan, stating he is curious how this could be submitted to the Department of Ecology before council approval. Mayor McGowan responded the plan must have DOE approval first. **Mr. Stauffer** asked if the City has made a decision on the Hearing Examiner. Mayor McGowan responded the decision will be presented at the next council meeting. **Mr. Stauffer** asked if Sun has submitted an application. Mayor McGowan responded no.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

a. **2022 Pangrazi Award Ceremony:** Mayor McGowan read one of the 3 nominating letters received for Jim Fossett into the record. A plaque, the original nominating letters, a Certificate of Award and a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 was presented to Mr. Fossett. Honorable mention and Certificates of Nomination were given to Andrea Baker and the Cle Elum Skate Park Committee, as well as Marc Kirkpatrick for nominations received on their behalf.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by John Glondo to accept the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 09/26/2022 Regular City Council meeting; the 10/10/2022 Accounts Payable EFTs and Vouchers #44852 - 44895 in the amount of \$230,970.50; and September 2022 Payroll Vouchers #44845– 44851 in the amount of \$278,057.64. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- Of the 225 vouchers handed out for the Fall Cleanup, 158 were used.
- There were 6 building permits issued and 21 inspections in September.
- There was a power outage or surge on 10/09/2022 involving, which caused the Wholesail Networks internet connections to fail. The T-Mobile Cellular failover is being used until Wholesail can make the repairs needed to get back online. The Police and Fire Departments have been out of service. All involved are looking at the easiest and fastest way to get back online; but this has been a good live test.

Public Works Director – Mike Engelhart - Reported:

- The crew has been preparing for winter.
- The brush dump held during the Fall cleanup went well. The chipped debris will be used for tree insulation and weed control.
- Most of the equipment is running well, but 1 grader will need more work.
- The open Public Works position has been filled by Mikey Butorac.

Acting Police Chief Rich Albo – Reported:

- Changed shift hours to start an hour earlier, which seems to be working well. The new shifts are from 6 am to 6 pm and from 6 pm to 6 am.
- Officers are going through interview training.

Councilmember Lackey asked if anything is being done about the fifth wheel trailer parked by the Cottage Café. Acting Chief Albo responded the department is looking into it.

Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:

- The Department had 41 toned calls in September, including 30 EMS calls, 1 building fire, 3 hazardous conditions, 5 service calls or good intent, 3 false alarms and 2 special incidents.
- The burn ban has been lifted in the City limits but advised citizens to use extreme caution as there is still a high hazard. Outdoor fires 3 ft in circumference and 2 ft high are the maximum allowed and must be contained in a fire pit or outdoor fireplace, using only seasoned firewood. No yard debris burning is allowed. Permits will be required.
- Engines have passed their pump tests and are recertified for the year. Hose testing is scheduled for 10/26 and should complete the year for required certification.
- There are 4 new members being sent to the Yakima Burn Academy during the weekend of 10/15/2022 for live fire training. Additional training will be required before they will receive their certification. One more training is planned before the end of the year.
- Introduced Amanda Moody, part of the DNR partner team, who gave a short report on the Firewise project on the 4.9 acres where the City's water tanks are located. Moody reported on the Horse Park Wildfire Risk Mitigation Project and asked the City to allow the DNR to proceed with the project, which is on City property. The project includes flagging of boundaries and issuing an RFQ for a contractor to start the project next fall. The focus is to eliminate trees that are less than 8" in diameter and removing limbs from the higher trees up to 10 feet. No timber harvesting will be done on this project. *A motion was made by Stephen Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to authorize the mayor to sign the Horse Park Wildfire Mitigation project letter. The motion carried unanimously,*

Veolia - William LaRue Reported:

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for 09/2022 were provided in council packets.
- Both plants have been running well.
- Working on winterizing and looking at emergency processes at both plants.
- The gate project is moving forward at the water treatment plant. The contractor has installed the operator pedestals at both plants; the saw cuts have been completed in the asphalt for the electricians.
- Water production is down due to shorter days and cooler weather.
- The annual motive pump service at the wastewater treatment plant has been completed. The old grit pump from the headworks was removed and a new pump installed while the equipment was on sight. Staff is working on electrical connections.

Public Appearances – 15-Minute Limit

None

Business Requiring Public Hearings

a. **Ordinance 1633 – 2023 Property Tax Levy:** City Treasurer Robin Newcomb explained this process is done annually and does not necessarily increase property taxes. Mayor McGowan opened the Public Hearing at 6:36. There were no comments from the public, either in person or via Zoom. The Mayor closed the meeting from public comment at 6:37. Council discussion included the council asking if council could raise the levy by 2% next year if they do not approve the increase this year, to which the Treasurer responded they could. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Beth Williams to adopt Ordinance 1633 for the 2023 Property Tax Levy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

Unfinished Business

a. **Resolution 2022 017 – General Sewer Plan:** Dean Smith of HLA reported he met with the Utilities Committee, who understand that approving the General Sewer Plan does not approve any Development that has yet to submit an application. It is recommended to review the General Sewer Plan annually to identify projects that may be coming up. The City must prove to funding agencies they have an adopted a plan in order to apply for additional project funding. Dean Smith reported the committee discussed the question brought up at the last meeting asking why the 47 Degrees North Development was mentioned and if the capacity was calculated correctly. The document shows the capacity is available no matter who makes the application. It would cost the City more money to resubmit the plan to DOE. Councilmember Harper added it does not limit the City from building or negotiating building other properties but brings the City into local and state compliance. *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to adopt Resolution 2022-017 to adopt the General Sewer Plan. The motion carried unanimously. Larry Stauffer challenged the council's decision and whether the math is correct.*

New Business

a. **Release of Retainage - \$8,201.28 – Advantage Dirt – Billings Avenue Emergency Sewer Repair:** Mike Engelhart reported the sewer system repairs have been approved by HLA and Public Works, and recommended council approval of the Release of Retainage. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by John Glondo to approve the Release of Retainage in the amount of \$8,201.28 to Advantage Dirt for the Billings Avenue Emergency Sewer Repair. Councilmember Harper asked if the City could find a way to expedite putting the street back to normal after repairs are complete. The Public Works Director explained asphalt plants are not open in the winter when this repair took place. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Progress Estimate No. 2 – \$26,683.42 – Knobel Electric – First Street & Douglas Munro Boulevard:** Mike Engelhart reported this Progress Estimate includes finishing the sidewalks and asphalt patching. The project is still waiting for signal poles and lights. There is no definitive date when those will be completed due to supply chain issues. Councilmember Harper asked what the minor change on item 1 included. Mike Engelhart explained the State did not remove all of the concrete from First Street, which used to be I-90. Asphalt cutting had to be done to install conduit. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to authorize the Mayor to sign progress estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$26,683.42 to Knobel Electric. Councilmember Ratliff asked if the signal would be delivered soon to finish the project. Engelhart responded there are supply chain issues, but the City and the contractor hope the signal will be delivered and the project completed within the next few months. Councilmember Harper stated he opposes to the project and would not vote to approve the progress estimate. The motion carried by a vote of 6 ayes and 1 nay.*

Committee Reports

a. **Budget Committee:** Councilmember Harper reported the council will receive a draft of the budget soon and recommended they review it and provide input prior to the first meeting in

November. Councilmember Lundh asked to have a budget study session. The study session was set for 5:00 pm on 10/24/2022 before the regular council meeting.

b. **Lodging Tax Application – CEDA – Holiday Lighting:** Steven Harper reported the Lodging Tax Committee met to review an application received from the Downtown Association and recommend approval in the amount of \$44,000, which is less than the original amount requested. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Ken Ratliff to approve the application for holiday lighting for the Cle Elum Downtown Association in the amount of \$44,000. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Upper Kittitas County Community Recreation Center Alliance:** Councilmember Lundh asked the City to approve an update to the contract from \$400,000 to \$1,900,000 to make money available for Professional Services. This will be in the next council packet for discussion. The Recreation Center Alliance is actively seeking funds from other sources.

d. **Homelessness Committee:** Matthew Lundh reported a cold weather shelter will be in place and will rotate between churches in the Lower County. There is significant movement between the county and the City of Ellensburg for a sleep center until there is more permanent shelter available. Cle Elum is not being asked to contribute money at this time. Ellensburg and Kittitas County have written an ordinance preventing camping within City limits. Councilmember Lundh asked for a committee to be formed to review our existing no-camping ordinance to insure it is written correctly.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday October 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.



Mayor



Attest