

City of Cle Elum
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023

Call to Order – Roll Call of Membership

The Regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Jay McGowan at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Roll was called. Members present were Matthew Lundh, John Glondo, Sarah Lackey, Beth Williams and Ken Ratliff. Other members present were City Administrator Rob Omans, Public Works Director Mike Engelhart, Acting Police Chief Rich Albo and City Clerk Kathi Swanson. *A motion was made by Ken Ratliff and seconded by Beth Williams, to excuse the absences of Steven Harper and Siw Bay-Hansen. The motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comment – Limited to 5 Minutes

Kerry Clark – 411 Swiftwater Boulevard, Suite 110: Commented the City water and sewer infrastructures in the business district have a lot of problems, and the City does not have a plan to fix the issues. Several businesses have had multiple sewer backups. There are also fire hydrants that are out of service but are not bagged. Clark asked the City to address these problems. *Mayor McGowan reported the City considers the sewer system a high priority.*

Seth Kitzke - 205 E. First Street – Upsidedown Wine: Commented he is one of the business owners affected by the sewer backups and has experienced losses in revenues.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Ken Ratliff to approve the meeting agenda with the change to move New Business before Unfinished Business. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition

Appointment of Ian Steele to the Planning Commission: Mayor McGowan appointed Ian Steele to the Planning Commission. *A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Sarah Lackey to approve the appointment of Ian Steele to the Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.*

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Beth Williams to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes of the 02/13/2023 Regular City Council meeting; and 02/27/2023 Claim Voucher EFTs and Checks #45252–45276 in the amount of \$357,422.79. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports

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

- The City has advertised for the City Clerk, City Planner, Equipment Maintenance, Seasonal Parks and Seasonal Cemetery Positions. Ads will run until the positions are filled.
- The RAISE grant application was submitted today. Results are expected to be available in September.
- The Congressional Directed Spending grant application was submitted to Patty Murray's office today. Results will be available next year.

Councilmember Lundh asked why the City did not advertise the position opening for the Police Chief. Mayor McGowan responded the process will begin in March.

Public Works Director - Mike Engelhart – Reported

- The Park and Ride project will start on 03/20/2023 and will last for 40 working days. Parking will be closed at that location by the end of next week and no parking will be allowed until the completion of the project.
 - Crews have been working on sewer issues.
 - Showed a sample of orange water that came from the tap of a local residence. The issue has been ongoing for the past 6 months. The orange-colored water is caused by old rusty iron pipes, which demonstrates the City should seriously consider upgrading the water lines. Samples have been sent to the lab; some results should be back within 48 hours.
 - Crews are working on upgrading street signs so they meet FHWA standards.
 - Crews are still plowing snow on occasion.
 - He and Aaron Barr are taking care of the vehicles until a mechanic is hired.
 - Fire hydrants are not being flushed on a regular basis due to the lack of volunteer firefighters. Volunteers should be trained in the proper way to flush a fire hydrant.
- Councilmember Lundh asked why the parks restrooms are still closed. Engelhart responded the restrooms will open when a Parks Worker is hired in April.*

Acting Police Chief – Rich Albo - Reported:

- Conducted oral boards on 02/17 and 02/18/2023; the Department has chosen 3 individuals to offer the positions to. One entry level applicant, with experience, and 2 laterals will be offered the position upon the completion of background checks. Names of the successful applicants will be released at that time.
 - Will be attending FBI leadership training in Quantico next week.
 - Received \$10,000 in funding for training.
 - Purchased new technology for the speed trailer, to record vehicles, time of day and speed.
 - The new trucks cannot be equipped for another 10 weeks due to supply chain issues. The additions will go over budget by about \$10,000.
- Councilmember Lundh asked if the department has considered modifying the policy to allow take home cars to be provided if the officer lives more than 10 miles away. Perhaps it could offset not providing for sign-on bonuses. Council member Ratliff asked for data on distance and costs.*

Public Appearances**Chamber of Commerce – Amy McGuffin:**

- The State of the Community Address will be held 03/07/2023 at Hotel Windrow in Ellensburg.
- The Chamber will sponsor a 4-week series campaign workshop beginning 03/23/2023.
- The Business Development Center in Cle Elum will be hosting 4-week quarterly education opportunities, including Childcare Assessment, Resources and Solutions in April; Labor and Industry education in July; and a digital marketing series in October.
- The Chamber is working on permitting requests for the 4th of July events, including the Pioneer Days Parade, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Fireworks and the Independence Day celebration.
- Working with the Lodging Tax Committee regarding a partnership this year.

Downtown Association Report:

- The Brunch Punch activity will continue into April.
- Façade and Beautification Grants are now open for applications.
- Cle Elum in Bloom hanging baskets are on sale and can be ordered through the website.
 - The Downtown Clean Up is scheduled for 04/29/2023.
 - The re-opening for Tuckaway is scheduled for 03/11/2023.
 - The Tap and Tapas opening took place in February.

- Planning for summer events will begin soon.
- Announced her retirement, effective 03/03/2023.

Horse Park Update – Leslie Thurston:

Leslie Thurston announced her retirement after 16 years, and thanked the city for the support provided. In that time, many updates to the Park have been done. Wendy Hensley introduced herself as the new Executive Director.

Business Requiring Public Hearing

None

New Business

Task Order 2023-04 – City Safety Plan: This Task Order provides for crash data analyses. Development of the City Safety Plan update will help the City meet eligibility requirements for WSDOT and Federal safety funding. The money to pay for this process will come from the Chip Seal Fund. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Sarah Lackey to authorize the Mayor to sign Task Order 2023-04. The motion carried unanimously. Deborah Lacombe thanked Debbie Bogart from the Downtown Association for providing a letter of support, containing 40 signatures, for the RAISE grant application.*

Old Business

Prioritize List of Goals for the Year:

1) Update the water and sewer utilities infrastructure. Councilmember Ratliff recommended obtaining an inventory that will allow the city to prioritize pipe replacement. Mayor McGowan reported the city is working to finalize the Sewer Comprehensive Plan, which prioritizes projects.

1) Regional Transportation Planning: Councilmember Ratliff commented this is the most important goal of all and should take priority over the utilities infrastructure updates. The City should coordinate with the County and WSDOT for joint planning, to include traffic management and capacity, new roads, a second bridge across the Yakima River and other related projects.

2) Strengthen the funding for the Roslyn-Cle Elum Police Department. Councilmember Lundh reported there is a bill in the legislature that deals with another mechanism for public safety funding.

3) Councilmember Williams reported the Fire Oversight Committee identified a deficit of about \$150,000 in the Fire Department fund for salaries. Only ¼ of the Chief's salary can come out of the levy. This goal will be discussed more when the Fire Chief is present.

4) Repair water tower and water pipes. Mike Engelhart reported William LaRue of Veolia has a plan to have divers look into the possible repair of the towers. No quote has been provided at this time. William LaRue will follow up and report back to council.

The 5 items listed above are all matters of public safety which should be top priority.

5) Affordable Housing: Councilmember Lundh commented the City should change regulations on connections to make ADUs more affordable, including allowing pre-stamped plans. There will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the Council to discuss planning of all phases of housing planning

6) First Street Revitalization – The City is working hard on this project; the RAISE and CDS grant funding applications will help this project, if awarded.

7) Finish the Mayor/Council Handbook. A study session will be set at a later date.

8) Hanson Ponds

9) Preservation of the lower portion of the Coal Mine Trail, which is a vital emergency access. Mayor McGowan is working with the county to transform the 100-acre coal slab heap into a regional solar farm. An integrated Planning Grant is available to help fund the elimination of the brown field waste on the slab heap. *Councilmember Lundh suggested approaching the County to obtain some of the Covid money to be used on this project.*

- 10) Monthly reports from the Planning Department is now in place.
- 11) Cemetery Irrigation will be addressed at the next meeting.
- 12) Regular reports from the Horse Park will be expected.

This list will be condensed and brought back to council for review.

Committee Reports

Utilities Committee: Councilmember Ratliff reported a request for an adjustment for a water leak was received, asking for the maximum amount allowed of \$500.00. The request was denied because the leak took place within the crawl space.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by John Glondo to adjourn. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:35 The next scheduled regular council meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm.



 Mayor



 Attest