

City of Cle Elum  
Regular City Council Meeting  
March 13, 2023, 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, Contract Planner Colleda Monick, Planning Commission Chair Gary Berndt, 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**

**Travis Cantrell – 902 E Fourth, Cle Elum:** Asked council to reconsider his request for leak relief at his home. He thought the water line was frozen; he fixed the leak as soon as it was discovered.

**Eric Cantrell – Maple Valley, WA:** Explained the family thought the water was frozen in the house. They had a difficult time find a plumber once the leak was discovered. *Mayor McGowan recommended the utilities committee meet again with Mr. Cantrell to further discuss his request. A committee meeting was set for March 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm, and Mr. Cantrell will attend.*

**Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

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

**Announcements, Appointments, Awards & Recognition**

- a. Mayor McGowan announced he has hired Acting Chief Rich Albo as the Cle Elum Police Chief. Chief Albo was then sworn into office.
- b. **Arbor Day Proclamation:** Mayor McGowan read the proclamation into the record, commemorating Arbor Day as April 28, 2023.
- c. **Arbor Day Celebration April 22, 2023 – Earth Day:** Mayor McGowan announced the City will celebrate Arbor Day on Earth Day, by planting an English Oak tree at a currently unnamed location within the City. The celebration will be held at WYE Park.
- d. The Mayor appointed Ken Ratliff and Marcus Hahnemann to the Airport Committee.

**Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Matthew Lundh to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the minutes to the 02/27/2023 Regular Meeting; Minutes to the 03/02/2023 Special Meeting; 01/30/2023 Minutes of the Joint City Council/County Commissioners Special Meeting; Accounts Payable EFTs and Vouchers #45283 - 45323 in the amount of \$455,796.01; 03/05/2023 Payroll EFTs and Vouchers #45277– 45282 in the amount of \$269,965.18. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Officer Reports**

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

- The Spring Cleanup will be held during the entire month of April. Vouchers can be picked up at City Hall beginning 03/31/2023 but cannot be used until 04/01/2023. Brush recycling will be held during the April Spring Cleanup at the Water Treatment Plant.
- To date, eight applications for the City Clerk position have been received. Interviews will be scheduled for the last week in March, with hopes of having a new clerk in place by 05/01/23.

- Two applications have been received, to date, for the City Planner position.
- Will attend training during the week of 03/20 – 03/24/2023 to learn about the new code.

*Councilmember Lundh asked why the spring cleanup vouchers will not be mailed. Mayor McGowan explained that mailing the vouchers gets abused. By having residents pick them up, we are assured renters get the vouchers and not the property owners. Councilmember Lundh responded City Hall hours are not conducive to people who work. Councilmember Bay-Hansen suggested using TextMyGov to remind the residents to pick up their vouchers.*

#### **Planning Commission – Gary Berndt, Chair – Reported**

- Thanked the Mayor and Council for increasing the allowed number of Planning Commissioners. One seat remains open and must be filled by a City Resident.
- The Planning Commission is discussing hookup fees for affordable housing, zero lot lines for condos and town houses, as well as the Comp Plan, which is at the Department of Commerce for the 60-day review.
- Asked to schedule a joint meeting with the Council and Planning Commission to discuss goals and determine what the Planning Commission should be completing. A study session was set for 6 pm on Tuesday, 04/18/2023.

#### **Planning Department – Colleda Monick – Reported:**

- Working on the 903 West First Project for Les Schwab, Starbucks and Wendy's; she has received updated civils and short plat plans on the project and is now waiting for final submittals.
- Working on franchise negotiations between River Oaks and Ziplly.
- Reviews all building permit applications for planning compliance
- Working on the annexation request by Fowler Creek Trails, LLC at the Cle Elum airport. The City has until mid-April to meet the 60-day response period.
- Continues to work on the Eagles sign complaint; members of the Eagles requested a postponement to find a new sign. A public hearing was scheduled with the Hearing Examiner later this month regarding the sign code violation. A second request was received from the Eagles to postpone the hearing date. The Hearing Examiner gave them until 03/14/2023 to respond.
- Working on code compliance for a property with items in the right-of-way.
- Code amendment research regarding false reporting.
- Helped the Fire Department update their strategic plan.
- Made recommendations regarding posting the open Planner position.
- Updated the SEPA checklist and Annexation applications.
- Provided assistance to the school district to finalize plans on their expansion project under the Bullfrog UGA.
- Performed miscellaneous other planning processes.

*Councilmember Lundh asked about the SEIS addendum for the 47 Degrees North Project. Gregg Dohrn or Richard Weinman will have to answer those questions. Mayor McGowan will schedule a meeting to include Richard Weinman at a later date.*

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

- Reported the Brush Dump will be open during the Spring Cleanup on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Spring Cleanup. He will use TextMyGov to notify the residents of Cle Elum.
- Working with the Planning Department and developer regarding property at the airport. He will be scheduling a meeting with the Airport Committee.
- Crews have been working on pothole repair.
- Construction on the Park and Ride will start next week.

- The work order system has registered 973 work orders since May of 2019.

*Councilmember Lundh asked if there is any update about the sewer issue in an alley in downtown Cle Elum. Engelhart responded the sewer is running now. The City is working with Amy McGuffin, HLA and the Department of Commerce. If funding is available, the sewer will be upgraded soon in that alley.*

**Police Chief - Rich Albo – Reported:**

- The Department will be hiring 2 of the 3 people interviewed; they will start in April.
- Members of the department will be doing in-service training with the Ellensburg PD.
- Reported he will always have an open-door policy with council, staff and the public.
- Completed the FBI training in Quantico.

*Councilmember Lundh confirmed Chief Albo has an open-door policy and encouraged councilmembers to go on a ride-along, as he did. Chief Albo is very inciteful.*

**Fire Chief – Ed Mills - Reported:**

- The Department had 29 calls in February, including 22 EMS, 1 fire and 6 others.
- The Department responded to a fire at the Cle Elum Manor on this date; crews from Cle Elum District 6 and Roslyn were on-scene quickly to check for extension and smoke overhaul.
- Advised citizens to change the batteries in all smoke detectors and to make sure they are functional. He recommended having a fire safety plan in place. In case of fire, exit the building and stay away until crews have finished making the scene safe.

**Veolia - William LaRue Reported:**

- Graphs of Water Plant Flows, Run Times, Precipitation, Wastewater Flows and Water Plant versus Wastewater Plant Flows for 02/2023 were provided in council packets.
- Both plants have been running extremely well this past month.
- Working on the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal application.
- Updating the annual Consumer Confidence Report.
- Working on the Annual Backflow Summary Report.
- Will be working on the Variable Frequency Drive on the intake.

**Public Appearances**

**None**

**Unfinished Business**

**None**

**New Business**

**a. Resolution 2023-002 – Proclaiming 04/28/2023 as Arbor Day:** *A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by Matthew Lundh to authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution 2023-002 proclaiming 04/28/2023 as Arbor Day. The motion carried unanimously.*

**b. Forest Stewardship Plan:** *Fire Chief Ed Mills, Amanda Moody and Nolan Brewer were all available to present the plan and answer questions. A Forest Stewardship Plan will enable the city to obtain grants and work with the DNR. Under this plan, the City would pay \$2,460 and will be reimbursed for one-half by the DNR when the project is completed. The Stewardship Plan lasts in perpetuity, but may be updated periodically. Chief Mills is collaborating with the Horse Park to create fire resiliency. A motion was made by Steven Harper and seconded by John Glondo to adopt the Forest Stewardship Plan. The motion carried unanimously.*

c. **KFACC Donation for Services:** Fire Chief Mills reported this donation will cover the costs of their services. KFACC will pursue other sources of funding. Discussion ensued regarding how to mitigate prescribed fires or lightning caused fires. *A motion was made by Matthew Lundh and seconded by Steven Harper (for discussion) to approve the \$300.00 donation to KFAC. Councilmember Harper commented he appreciates KFAC's work but also agrees with the sentiments in statements made during council discussions to be better about responding to fires. The motion carried unanimously.*

Gary Berndt explained KFACC (Kittitas Fired Adapted Communities Coalition) works with the Prescribed Burning Council, a free-standing organization that also participates in the Fire Adapted Communities.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Parks Committee:** Councilmember Lundh reported there will be an event at the Skate Park on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm and will include the demolition of the old skate park. Construction of the new Skate Park, Phase 1, can then be started.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

*A motion was made by John Glondo and seconded by Siv Bay-Hansen to adjourn. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.*

*The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest