

CITY OF CLE ELUM
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Berndt called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Commissioners present; Gary Berndt (chair), Elizabeth Torrey, Colin Brissey (zoom), and Colonel Paul Kantwill. Torrey moves to approve the absence of Matt Fluegge, Brissey seconded. Motion carries.

Set Agenda

Commissioner Kantwill motioned, and Commissioner Torrey seconded to set the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Torrey motioned to accept the minutes of both November and January as presented and with no corrections, Commissioner Brissey seconded. Motion passed.

**Brief introduction and welcome of new Planning Commissioner, Colonel Paul Kantwill. Kantwill provided a brief overview of his professional background, as well as his connection to and interest in participating on the commission.*

3. Staff Report

- a. Chairman Berndt provided a short report that he was asked to act as a moderator for a joint meeting between the board of county commissioners, city and mayor. Berndt took 9 action items from that joint meeting and is willing to share those with anyone interested. The city provided the county with a draft resolution in hopes of keeping forward momentum directly after the meeting.
- b. Torrey requested an update for where the commission is at in scheduling a joint study session with the Council for a discussion of priorities. Brissey seconded the need for a joint study session. Planning Consultant Dohrn to work on scheduling.
- c. Designated City Planner Gregg Dohrn – No reports.

4. Public Hearing

None scheduled.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Wildfire Safety/Firewise, Dohrn provided an overview and update of where the commission was at in the process. Specific time was spent going over the context for why an addendum to ingress and egress for emergency vehicle access should be included into the document. He proposed that if commission is in agreement, next steps would include public notice which include, notifying state agencies and the general public; scheduling a public hearing to receive any additional comments; and then relaying recommendations to council. Commissioner Torrey requested further edits to the proposed ingress/egress policy, specifically identifying access in order to promote uniform and clear standards. Dohrn requested all further inputs to be delivered to him by February 28th, 2023. The updated document will then be brought forth at the next commission meeting for next steps.
- b. Commissioners discussed a City Council request to review sewer hook-up fee waivers for affordable housing, which was presented by Dohrn. Commissioner

Torrey requested more information on what the purpose of this request is for and referenced that she still had not received answers to her previous questions that she submitted via email to commissioners. Commissioner Brissey was in agreement with Torrey and questioned if not lowering monthly costs to the actual user, rather than reducing initial set-up would be of better benefit. Brissey reiterated that the commission would benefit from a joint session with council to better understand this request and others. Chair Berndt was also in agreement with the commissioners that this proposal is lacking concrete analysis. Berndt requests that the commission submit several questions to council to obtain further direction and information along with the request for a joint study session.

- c. Planning consultant Monick discussed the lack of municipal code providing regulations governing townhomes as it relates to approving zero lot line construction. Two members of the public provided comments regarding how this was impacting their development proposals, Mark Kirkpatrick and Jeff Stubbs. Commissioner Torrey requested that staff prepare some possible code language revisions to be presented at the next meeting for further discussion and consideration.
 - d. Discussion of potential 2023 Planning Priorities. Commissioners were in agreement that this be moved to the first agenda item for the joint discussion between the commission and council.
6. New Business - none
 7. Next Meeting Agenda Development (a, b, c will be carried over. Decisions to be made on Firewise and Critical Areas).
 8. **Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items (limited to 5 minutes)**
Ian Steel, NW Roots Construction, City of Cle Elum resident, and potential new planning commissioner, introduced himself by providing his professional background and interest in playing an active role in the community.
 9. **Commissioner Comments and Discussion**
No reports.
 10. **Adjournment**
Commissioner Berndt called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Torrey motioned and Commissioner Brissey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6 p.m.

A joint study session between Council and Commissioners is in the process of scheduling.