

CITY OF CLE ELUM
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call**

Commissioner Berndt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All commissioners were present; Gary Berndt, Colin Brissey, Matt Fluegge, Liz Kurtz, Elizabeth Torrey

Set Agenda

Commissioner Torrey motioned and Commissioner Fluegge seconded to set the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

2. **Adoption of Minutes**

Commissioner Fluegge motioned, Torrey seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

3. **Staff Report**

a. Chairman Berndt – will report later during the discussion of the Firewise Amendments.

b. Designated City Planner Gregg Dohrn reported that:

1. The Planning Commission's request to Council to increase the commission's members by two, increasing the overall commission count to seven was well received. An ordinance will need to be passed before this increase goes into effect.
2. City staff is discussing options for filling the city's Planning needs with HLA and Chad Balla. Commissioner Torrey inquired if the city will continue to seek out full time staff.
3. Three candidates were interviewed for the Hearing Examiner position. The Mayor is considering two of the three for appointment and approval via the City Council.

2. **Public Hearing**

None pending.

3. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Continued discussion of Docket 2022-001 Firewise Amendments and authorization to initiate public review and comment, presented by Chairman Berndt. Updated amendments distributed at approximately 4 pm today. Berndt, moved to initiate the public review and process for a future meeting. Commissioners all in agreement to move it forward. Commissioner Torrey encouraged the commission to consider altering 'should' to 'will', which she believed could carry more influence. Commissioner Brissey brought up including specific time parameters for the commission to consider, Torrey in agreement.
- b. Continued discussion of potential revisions to critical area regulations based on agency comments. Dohrn presented state agency comments which encouraged the city to par down repetitive and redundant information. Commissioners have a first draft of the streamlined regulations, Dohrn will provide the technical manual during the next meeting along with further reductions to the regulations presented

as a final draft. Commissioner Torrey had questions related to process, Dohrn answered and provided information on next steps. Dohrn to provide examples from other municipalities that have similar plans for review. Torrey recommends including sources in instances where “best available science” is used as an appendix or incorporated into the technical manual. Torrey also had questions related to using the phrase “best available science”. She wondered if, “work sited”, or “referenced materials” might be more appropriate and less charged. Dohrn expressed challenges associated with deviating from what is generally accepted, but noted it was not impossible.

4. **New Business**

- a. Mr. Dohrn presented on the request from Kittitas County Commissioners. Mr. Dohrn requested that due to the complex nature of this request, additional time is needed to review. Staff would like to be able examine how impactful this request is and how the information can best be relayed to the commissioners for appropriate review and discussion. Brissey had a question related to who else received this request? Torrey questioned if this was adopted quickly, if it could have impacts on any current planning?

5. **Next Meeting Agenda Development**

- a. New Planning Commissioner training – Mr. Dohrn discussed setting a future date for training at a time when new commissioners have joined. Commissioners favorable to scheduling at a future date.

6. **Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items (limited to 5 minutes)**

Chad Balla introduced himself to the commission and made remarks related to “best available science”, per previous discussion by Commissioner Torrey.

Phil Hess, sits on the City’s Firewise Advisory Board, is pleased to see the commission move forward with the Comprehensive Plan recommendations related to the Firewise document. Stressed the importance of fire resiliency and management of vegetation. Also addressed the city letter related to weekend traffic impacts and stressed the commission to think about how firewise and weekend traffic mitigation go hand in hand.

Colleda Monick introduced herself to the commission and expressed interest in working with them and city on future planning needs through HLA.

7. **Commissioner Comments and Discussion**

No additional comments or discussion.

8. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Berndt called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fluegge motioned and Commissioner Torrey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 8 at 6 p.m.