

City of Kittitas
Work/Study Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2017

Work/Study Meeting Attendance

Lou Whitford – Mayor
Pat Cort - Councilmember
John Camarata – Councilmember
Ben Whitehurst – Councilmember
Jerry Gilmour – Councilmember

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer
Chris Taylor - Police Chief
Tim Schmidt – Fire Chief

Points of Discussion

- Councilmember Camarata asked if the marijuana excise tax revenue was received monthly or quarterly. It was explained monthly.
- Councilmember Gilmour was wondering why the City would pay someone like Aspect Consulting to research the Cities water rights.
- Councilmember Cort inquired if Dan Haller from Aspect Consulting was going to be present at tonight's Council Meeting. Yes he will be in attendance.
- Mayor Whitford stated that when she is no longer Mayor she would like to partner with Public Works and help them with inventory and organizing.
- Mayor Whitford informed Council that the City Attorney Ok'd the Manufactured Home Ordinance. Discussion was had about how the wording was being changed to reflect Good Sense Homes and Energy Star Homes are approved to place in Manufactured Home Parks. The Ordinance previously stated that the homes had to be 10 years or newer. Good Sense Homes are now being built with 2x6 construction and have been being built better since 1994. Also the language of "may be less than 24 feet in width" will be deleted.
- Council wondered about the numbering and it was explained that Code Publishing will fix that when they update the Kittitas Municipal Code.
- Councilmember Cort said that Council will always be changing and updating the 5 year plan all the time. Councilmember Cort also stated that she has started to put information in the different months and years. Cort also said it would be nice to list all of the achievements that the City has accomplished for example; repair of the paint on the water tower, Cintas cleaning for City Hall,

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paved streets, cleaning up the parks, Cook Creek Project to help with further flooding, new hires etc.

- Council wondered how the process of hiring a new officer was going. Mayor Whitford stated that Chief Taylor will inform Council during his staff report.
- Councilmember Cort thought it would be nice to have a Council retreat in the fall of next year. This is something that could also go in the 5 year plan.
- Councilmember Cort thought it would be a good idea to have possibly a spaghetti dinner and celebrate volunteers on an annual basis. Mayor Whitford liked that idea.
- Council would like department heads to get a wish list together and prioritize their needs.
- Mayor Whitford stated that the Library was good at putting their budget together and making a wish list. The Library budget will be presented at next Tuesday's budget meeting.
- Council would like to see department heads give a staff report at least one time per month to Council, there has been little communication from the Library.
- It was discussed that a committee organizer would be nice so all events have a point of contact and to be aware that there are actual costs that the City incurs related to these events.
- There is a meeting at the Community Hall on October 19th at 6:00 p.m. for Christmas in Kittitas for anyone interested in attending.
- Councilmember Cort will get a copy of the 5 year plan with updated information to clerk Debbie Lee.
- Mayor Whitford informed Council that it would be a good idea to add Mercer Creek Volunteers to this 5 year plan as they help every year with different projects. Mayor Whitford would like to see the Palmerio Park sign freshened up in 2018 as one of their projects.
- Mayor Whitford reported to Council that Chris Taylor is now the official Chief of Police. Chief Taylor will inform Council what he has planned for the next couple of months and introduce the new Police Officer during the Council Meeting.
- Chief Taylor told Council that new officer Ryan Whetstine has adapted well and picking things up quickly. Officer Whetstine is riding along with Chief Taylor this month. Officer Whetstine will probably start working the weekend shift soon. He will attend the Washington State Equivalency Academy in January. This is a two week class.

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- It is legal for Officer Whetstine to work for the City of Kittitas prior to the academy training.
- Chief Taylor is going to advertise for a lateral position for the Code Enforcement position in November. His goal for this hire would be to strictly work code the first 4 hours of the shift and the remainder of the shift to take calls and traffic stops. During the interim Chief Taylor and Officer Whetstine will be working code as well.
- Chief Taylor stated that hiring an officer is a process and takes time.
- Mayor Whitford liked the idea of having one main point of contact for Code Enforcement and likes the goals that Chief Taylor has.
- Chief Taylor stated that a Code Enforcement Officer is beneficial to the City of Kittitas.
- Discussion was had regarding a yard waste/garbage cleanup day. Chief Taylor will contact Waste Management and see what the cost is to providing this service to the citizens.
- Fire Chief Tim Schmidt stated that the election is coming up regarding the annexation and put together a list of benefits regarding the annexation. Fire Chief Schmidt would like to see more information in the local newspaper regarding the annexation so all of Kittitas County is aware of the annexation that will be on the November ballot.
- Councilmember Cort stated she and Jeanette Bryant will handout information fliers at the Post Office.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired if the station would be manned. Chief Schmidt thought this could be a possibility. Councilmember Gilmour also asked if any volunteers stepped forward it was explained yes one will be coming on Thursday.
- There are currently four volunteers.
- Chief Schmidt will work on the 2018 budget.
- Chief Schmidt stated that there will be a list of items that need to be discussed if the annexation is approved. There is a possibility that some of the items will be left for the City of Kittitas to surplus.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked how the \$1.50 property tax amount is considered. It was explained that this is what all residents in Kittitas Fire District 2 are charged via property tax collections.

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- Mayor Whitford would like to thank the Volunteer Fire Department for helping during the burnouts. Mayor Whitford would also like to know if they could help out during Trunk of Treat.

ADJOURN: 6:45 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Lou Whitford

Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer