

City of Kittitas
Work/Study Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2017

Work/Study Meeting Attendance

Pat Cort - Councilmember
John Camarata – Councilmember
Jerry Gilmour – Councilmember
Liz Smith - Councilmember

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer
Chris Taylor – Chief of Police
Michelle Geiger - Safebuilt

Points of Discussion

- Councilmembers had no concerns with the minutes.
- Council agreed it would be good to start reading the staff reports out loud.
- Discussion was had about Mayor Whitford stepping down a bit early. Lou Whitford will resign as Mayor and then Pat Cort will read the oath of office to Lou Whitford for Councilmember, then Pat Cort will resign as Councilmember and Lou Whitford will read the oath of office to Pat Cort as Mayor.
- The livestock Ordinance was discussed and it specifically states no swine are allowed.
- In January there will be a vacant Council seat. Currently one letter of interest has been received.
- Only two Councilmembers showed up to the budget meeting.
- Clerk Debbie Lee had a conference call with Chad at Bias Software regarding the state of the water sewer fund. Councilmember Camarata and Cort attended the call. Chad explained that if the City continues to use the ending fund balance to balance the budget in 3-4 years there will be no fund balance. He explained the history of the last 4 or so years and how it has dwindled from there. It was explained that the City is not charging enough to cover its debt service requirements (loans) and operating expenses on an annual basis.
- Kittitas Municipal Code states that the base rate for water and sewer will be increased by 2% every year in April unless Council denies the increase, it was shown that since 2008 the increase has not been done on a regular basis, thus not collecting enough to cover expenses due to inflation (cost of gas, electricity, materials, etc.).

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- It was also discussed that if the City did get to a very low balance in the water/sewer fund this is how private utilities come in and then the rates can be what the private utility dictates.
- Councilmember Smith felt that the citizens needed to help carry that burden.
- Councilmember Gilmour had questions regarding the Community Hall and Streets budget.
- Fire Chief Tim Schmidt was concerned about the volunteer wages being reduced in the 2018 proposed budget.
- Fire Chief Sinclair will present a draft annexation agreement to Council at the next meeting. The City attorney will need to look over as well. KVFR would like this agreement to be approved prior to 2018.

ADJOURN: 6:51 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pat Cort

Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer