

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2018**

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Cort led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Cort called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. December 11, 2018. Councilmembers present: John Camarata, Rich Coleman, Jerry Gilmour and Lou Whitford. Councilmember Liz Smith was absent. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Martin Thacker – WWTP and Gary Manning – WWTP.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember Smith; second by Councilmember Camarata.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED NOVEMBER 27th and WORK STUDY MINUTES DATE NOVEMBER 27th, 2018

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated November 27th, 2018; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve the Work Study Minutes dated November 27th, 2018; second by Councilmember Camarata.
Motion Carried: 3 yes 1 no. (Councilmember Gilmour)

- Councilmember Gilmour did not understand why the 2% increase to the water/sewer base rate was on the agenda. Councilmember Gilmour stated that nobody discussed that.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember Coleman.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- None

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REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

Martin Thacker – WWTP Operator

- Mayor Cort introduced Martin Thacker to Council. Mayor Cort stated that he was the new WWTP Operator.
- Martin informed Council that he has contacted DOE, DOH and bio solids with the transition of a new operator at the WWTP. Martin formerly worked for the City of Entiat and has 4 years of experience. Martin explained that he has been learning the day to day activities with Mike Varnum but has added duties of budgeting and administrative tasks that he has not had to do previously.
- Gary Manning who was filling in during the hiring process thanked the City for allowing him the opportunity to work and he stated that he would gladly fill in again if needed.

B. Special Guest – John Sinclair KVFR Fire Chief

- Chief Sinclair informed Council that the City of Kittitas fire rating dropped 1 point by annexing the volunteer district with KVFR. Chief Sinclair stated that this would have some effect on personal homeowners but should drop significantly for commercial buildings.
- The fire rating rates fire protection from 1-10 with 10 being no fire protection. The City is rated a 6 and outside the City it is rated an 8A.
- During the last year KVFR has tested all of the hoses on the equipment and SCBA. Most of the City's SCBA were out of compliance all SCBA are now fully certified. Ladders were tested and all fire vehicles were gone thru by a mechanic and rated. The aid car was updated. This aid car is used for standbys at school events and used for calls within the City.
- The generator was not activating and this has been fixed.
- At the end of December Chief Sinclair will submit a call report of all aid and fire calls, response time etc. that occurred in the City of Kittitas in 2018.
- There are two original remaining volunteers at the station; they are working with the other volunteers from the neighboring stations.
- Chief Sinclair met with the County Auditor and the Assesors regarding the certified election, they deemed the certified election as sufficient to convert the parcels with the annexation.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated he took the Fire Rating to his insurance company and he did not save any money, Councilmember Camarata stated his insurance went up.

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Lynette Johnson - Librarian

- Lynette Johnson submitted a written staff report.
- It was reported that 120 goody bags and free books were handed out by Santa and Christmas in Kittitas.
- Lynette Johnson attended the Kittitas County Regional Board Meeting and should hear soon regarding the request from the City of Kittitas for \$8,000 and \$500 for the Summer Activity Program.
- Councilmember Whitford asked if anyone had a count on how many people attended Christmas in Kittitas. Mayor Cort did not have a count.

C. Budget Report

- No Comment

D. Treasurer's Report

- No Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing "Intent To Apply for RD Funding" Improvements to the Water System

- Mike Meskimen from Gray & Osborne explained that the City of Kittitas is applying for a Rural Development loan of 1.45 million to repair/replace 6 segments of water main. These lines have been a maintenance concern for some time.
- The paving has not been done on most of these streets due to the water lines needing repaired.

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- Councilmember Gilmour is concerned about getting water to the new building being built by Bill Gordon.
- The alley between Lewis and Clark currently has a 6” line that is getting upgraded to an 8” line.
- Currently the City has a leakage rate of 25% which will be cut greatly if the repairs are made. When the lines are fixed this will cut down on the water usage.
- Councilmember Coleman was asking about First Street and the potholes. Mike Meskimen explained that the City has a Federal Grant and TIB Grant for this project so it is 100% funded. The design phase will be in 2019 and construction in 2020.
- Mike thought the base was failing this is why First Ave. is in the condition that it is, also the City has not done any maintenance on this area and there is a lot of truck traffic.
- Councilmember Cort asked how long the construction part of the job will last. Mike thought about 3 months.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked if the City was paving any streets in 2019, Mike stated no as the only remaining streets have water lines that need to be repaired. Instead the City applied for TIB money for the First Avenue Project and the grant was received so that project is fully funded.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:20 p.m. and closed at 7:26 the only comment was from Council. There was no public comment.

B. Public Hearing 2019 Final Budget 18-015

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:25 p.m. and closed at 7:26 p.m. with no public comment.

MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve Ordinance 18-015 2019 Budget; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

C. Ordinance 18-016 “Rate & Charges (2%)

- Councilmember Camarata stated that Ellensburg rates are a lot less expensive. Rates in the City of Kittitas have gone from \$76.55 to \$99.70 which is a 33% increase in the last 10 years.
- The Cost of the water has increased as well.

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- Councilmember Gilmour stated that the treasurer’s report shows that the City has plenty of money.
- It was explained that one fund cannot benefit the other.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that there were not enough cuts done to the water/sewer department and they need to go back to the PO system and only spend what they absolutely need with the Mayor’s approval.
- Mayor Cort stated that none of this was discussed during the budget meetings.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that this increase was helping plan for the future, and regarding issues at the plant, you never know when something could happen as the pumps run 24 hours per day 7 days per week.
- Clerk Debbie Lee explained to council the ending fund balance over the last few years has been depleted.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve Ordinance 18-016 “Rates & Charges”: second by no one.
Motion Failed.

- Councilmember Gilmour asked what they just voted on.

D. Ordinance 18-014 Repeal Chapters 2.20 titled Volunteer Fire Department

- This ordinance repeals the chapters pertaining to the Kittitas Volunteer Fire Department since the City of Kittitas annexed to KVFR in 2018.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve Ordinance 18-014; second by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried 4 yes 0 no.

E. Surplus Library Books

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the surplus list for the library; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

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PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. November Bank EFT's \$9,699.62

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve November Bank EFT's Payables; second by Councilmember Gilmour.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

B. December 11, 2018 Payables via EFT \$40,171.04

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve December 11, payables via EFT; second by Councilmember Gilmour.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

C. November Payroll/December Mid-Month Draw \$38,491.55

MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve November Payroll/December Mid-Month Draw; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Cort reported that she attended the Legislative Day at the Chamber of Commerce. Tom Dent was in attendance and she talked with him regarding extending the sewer.
- Christmas in Kittitas was a success; Mayor Cort thanked everyone who helped, KVFR for bringing Santa and Gary Bye and Brenda McPherson.
- The Friends of the Depot received a \$1,000 grant from the Milwaukee Railroad.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Gilmour stated that he had donated an 8 foot extension cord and would like it back.

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MOTION: No Motion or Second to Adjourn.

ADJOURN: 7:45 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pat Cort

Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer