

**City of Kittitas**  
**Work/Study Meeting Minutes**  
**April 9, 2019**

**Work/Study Meeting Attendance**

John Camarata – Councilmember  
Lou Whitford - Councilmember  
Liz Smith – Councilmember  
Rich Coleman- Councilmember  
Pat Cort - Mayor  
Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer

**Points of Discussion**

- Discussion was had about having a policy for the Police to enable them to take home a car. Attorney Katherine Kenison prepared the policy.
- There was discussion about the term always on call. It was talked that police are always on call due to the nature of their job.
- Councilmember Smith inquired if the new officer lived 26 miles from the City of Kittitas and the policy states 25 miles. Council thought maybe this number should be changed to 30.
- Councilmember Coleman was wondering why there was even an issue, when in the police policy it states case by case issue and the Chief can decide. Mayor Cort stated that the last policy did not have a lot to it and this will clarify some issues that needed tightened up.
- Council thought allowing taking home cars was a small stipend to pay to keep officers longer.
- Councilmember Coleman thought it was definitely worth the extra step to keep officers.
- Councilmember Whitford also thought this would help the City keep quality employees.

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- Mayor Cort stated that the take home car in question is owned by the City and may be taken on dirt roads and have extra miles put on it and when this car needs replaced possibly sooner the City will have to do that.
- New tires were just purchased for this car.
- Council discussed changing the 25 mile to 30 mile, checking to see if a page three was missing as it appeared to be and then the City will need to notify the union to have this policy put into the union contract.
- Hopefully next Council meeting all of these things will be fixed and council can make a vote.
- Mayor Cort had given Council a handout regarding vacant buildings and how some towns charge a monthly fee to businesses that have vacant building on Main Street. The City attorney did not think this was a good idea. The City needs to promote businesses downtown.
- Councilmember Coleman stated that insurance companies do not like vacant building and they may be the city's allies.
- Mayor Cort stated that some small Cities have received grants to fix up some storefronts downtown.
- Mayor Cort also thought a downtown Association would be helpful. This would get all business together on the same page and discuss ideas on promoting people to visit Kittitas and work together with the other business.
- The Chamber of Commerce has a first Friday coffee this could help with networking.
- Councilmember Coleman inquired what type of businesses the City of Kittitas can support.
- Discussion was had regarding the Civil Service Commission. Council thought it would be difficult to find 3 members to sit on this board when they cannot get a

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fifth Councilmember. This is a requirement after three officers are in place in case there comes a time when the City is in the position to fill a fourth position.

- There are Rules to the Civil Service Commission that must be followed.
- Council has questions for the attorney that they will ask her at the next meeting.

**ADJOURN: 6:50 p.m.**

**Attest:**

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Mayor Pat Cort

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Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer