

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Camarata called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Councilmembers present: Rich Coleman, Holly Beard and Lou Whitford. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer and Ben Chavez – Police.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED  
AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 3 yes 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Councilmember Beard stated she still wanted to have the discussion with Kooy's Irrigation about developing, and would like to see this added to the agenda.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Beard made a motion to add under New Business – Kooy's Irrigation; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 3 yes 0 no.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford approved the agenda as amended adding Kooy's Irrigation under New Business; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 3 yes 0 no.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

- Bob Shuda stated that he listens to the scanner and notices that when Kittitas Police responds to Kittcom that their responses are broken and Kittcom cannot hear the signal.
- Officer Chavez stated that the radios are a little older and that it also has to do with the repeaters in the valley and this not only affects Kittitas Police but all police county wide.
- It was also noted that Jose Preciado recently installed an antenna in the police department to help with this issue when the police are in the building.

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- Councilmember Beard asked what a repeater was. It was explained that they are towers and that the signal bounces from one to the other. New radios would be helpful but not solve the entire problem.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**A. Budget Report**

- Mayor Camarata stated that the budget is looking good and revenues are higher than budgeted.

**B. Treasurer's Report**

- Mayor Camarata stated the treasurer's report show a good surplus and good interest on the TVI Bonds.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Executive Session (evaluate qualifications of an applicant) RCW 42.30.110(1)**

- Mayor Camarata informed Council that Executive Session is a very strict process and they are not to make any decisions or take straw polls in this session. They may only talk about qualifications and again no decisions are to be made.
- Five applications were submitted for the two vacant Council Positions.
- Mayor Camarata asked that applicants tell a brief explanation why they want to be on Council and their qualifications.
- Tony Helland stated that he has been on the Council several times since 2005 and was Mayor from 2011-2014. He likes serving the City and feels like he has a lot of qualifications that he can bring to the table. Helland stated that over the years it has been difficult to keep the Council Seats full.
- Richard Hink stated he grew up in Kittitas and has been a volunteer fire fighter when Kittitas had a volunteer department and still serves with KVFR. He has helped with the City sewer projects in the past. Hink would like to help the City move forward. Councilmember Whitford asked what his ideas of moving forward are. Hink replied he could bring knowledge to the area of construction and weed control.

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- Pete Schuetz has lived in the City of Kittitas for 17 years and would like to be a part of helping the City move forward. Councilmember Beard asked what his vision is. Schuetz stated that the City needs to figure out a solution to developing the interchange and sees this as a huge opportunity. Councilmember Whitford asked if he has ever served on the Council. Schuetz stated no but that he has applied a couple of times. His background is IT.
- Brooklin Shelley was raised in the Kittitas Valley and has lived in the City for the past 2 years with her family. She is a school teacher and hairdresser and has owned her own business over the years. Shelley stated she is aware of the challenges that a small city faces and would like to see the City thrive, she would like to see the interchange utilized and getting the community involved. Councilmember Coleman asked if she knows why the downtown is empty. Shelley replied that she is not sure but would suggest talking to the current business owners and educate the population on what is available in the City and what type of business are open to moving here and market those ideas. Councilmember Whitford asked if she had any ideas about events in the City. Shelley thought enhancing on the events that are already in place for example trunk or treat and Christmas in Kittitas and really advertise and market these events.
- Mita Cruz stated she is a student at Central currently getting a degree in Sociology. She has lived in the City of Kittitas for 8 years. Cruz stated that it is important to have a village that surrounds you. Cruz stated that people need to make time for things that are important to them and this will show changes in the community. Cruz said that she noticed that the hardware store is closing and thought maybe a youth center for kids as kids are the future and will make a difference in the community. Councilmember Whitford asked Cruz business wise what is her vision. Cruz said that what there is great but maybe some entertainment or something like a taco wagon.
- Councilmember Coleman said that he is impressed with all five candidates and encouraged the ones who are not selected to still stay involved.
- The five candidates were asked if they understood the time commitment that being on Council would take.
- Helland stated he is retired and has time.
- Schuetz stated he works full time from home but if he didn't feel confident he could put in the time he would not have applied.
- Hink works full time as well but he finds time to volunteer for the fire department and would have time for Council.
- Shelley stated that she has the energy to be on Council as two of her children will be in school and is a stay at home mom most of the time and works a few hours a week as a teacher.

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- Cruz stated that she would not have applied if she did not have the time.
- Council went into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. for 10 minutes until 7:35 p.m. to discuss qualifications of applicants.

**B. Vacant Council Positions**

- Councilmember Coleman voted for Richard Hink.
- Councilmember Beard voted for Richard Hink.
- Councilmember Whitford voted for Richard Hink.
- Richard Hink was sworn in as a Councilmember for Seat #1 by Mayor Camarata.
- Councilmember Coleman voted for Pete Schuetz.
- Councilmember Beard voted for Pete Schuetz.
- Councilmember Whitford voted for Mita Cruz.
- Councilmember Hink voted for Pete Schuetz.
- Mayor Camarata swore in Councilmember Pete Schuetz for seat #2.

**C. Paid Family Medical Leave**

- This is a required deduction from employees similar to Unemployment Insurance. Union employees are exempt if in a current contract. Currently the City is required to withhold from Council, Mayor and the Librarian.
- Council would like more time to understand this and would like to discuss this at a Study Session before the Council Meeting of August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to table this topic until the next Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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**D. Ordinance 19-009 Compression Brake Code**

- Mayor Camarata stated this was an ordinance to stop the use of Jake brakes in the City Limits.
- Citizen Tony Helland inquired if this needed to be a Public Hearing? No.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-009 Compression Brake Code; second by Councilmember Coleman.  
Motion Carried; 5 yes 0 no.

**E. Second Signer on Umpqua Bank Account**

- Mayor Camarata informed Council that checks written from the City require a double signature and he would like Councilmember Whitford to be a signer since she has been one in the past.
- Council agreed with this.

**F. Kooy's Irrigation**

- Justin Kooy stated that they are renting the Main Stop Building and using it for their irrigation store and are running out of room. They have encountered some problems with the City and the procedures to go thru.
- Kooy's started one year ago with this process they also have a store in Quincy that is well established.
- They had a pre application meeting and were told the requirements, it was noted at that time that they did not need to make frontage or sidewalk improvements but since that time they have been told differently. It was also noted that the pre application is not binding.
- Kooy's also did a Preliminary Site Analysis and on that form it states 7-10 days to process, Justin Kooy stated he contacted the City multiple time and it took 34 days to get a response.
- Justin stated he is unsure what it takes to do business with the City of Kittitas.
- Councilmember Whitford thought that was strange because usually Safe Built answers in a timely manner and something is missing.
- Mayor Camarata stated that Gateway Commercial is zoned that way due to the GMA and

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Kooy's should apply for a CUP.

- Kooy's were under a time crunch to start and decided to only open as a retail store and not apply for a CUP. The current code restricts how stuff is stored outside.
- Councilmember Beard stated the City should work on changing the code.
- Councilmember Whitford thought it best to have Michelle with Safe Built and Pertect to have a face to face discussion regarding zoning and requirements.
- Justin Kooy inquired who usually make decisions on the PSA. Either the Building Official or Pertect the planner.

**PAYMENT APPROVALS**

**A. July Bank EFT's \$15,923.75**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve July Bank EFT's; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**B. August 2019 Payables via EFT \$18,858.83**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve August 2019 Payable via EFT; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**C. July Payroll/August Mid-Month Draw \$56,386.33**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve July Payroll/August Mid-Month Draw; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Camarata stated that the audit is complete for 2016, 2017 and 2018. There were no findings. They looked at all aspects of utility billing, payroll, cost allocation, IT and procurement/purchases. Some policies will need to be made for cost allocation, IT and procurement/purchases. Overall the City did well with the audit.
- Wednesday Law & Justice will meet and go over the grants that were applied for. The City of Kittitas applied for plates for the police vests.
- The COG meeting will meet and go over the grants that were submitted. The City applied for more funds to help with the sewer extension.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- Councilmember Coleman stated that the Facebook page and web page need to be updated and who was in charge of them. Clerk Debbie Lee stated she would get ahold of Tech2go and update him on the Council and Mayor changes. Councilmember Smith was in charge of the Facebook page but since she left who is in charge, Coleman stated he noticed that the former Mayor had posted something and believes that it should be one person who is in charge of posting.
- Councilmember Coleman was frustrated that he believed there was a study session before the Council Meeting and was informed the day of that there was not a meeting. He is tired of the miscommunication with City Hall.
- Councilmember Coleman stated he has been on Council for a year and is trying to learn how government works but feels that some people are seat warmers and have musical roles. He encourages people to take an active role and figure out responsibilities and glad to see new faces on Council. Coleman said that City Hall does not set policies.
- Councilmember Beard said that the goal is to educate.
- Councilmember Coleman said sometimes the issue is having a quorum.
- Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee will make contact with Canfield and schedule a training for Council since the City has a full Council.
- Councilmember Whitford thanked Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee for having a clean audit.
- Council asked if compression brake signs would be placed since the Ordinance was passed. Mayor Camarata stated he would talk to Public Works and get signs in place.

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**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Coleman.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**ADJOURN: 8:30 p.m.**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor John Camarata

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Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer