

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 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. November 12th, 2019. Councilmembers present: Rich Coleman, Holly Beard, Peter Schuetz, and Richard Hink Jr. Lou Whitford was absent. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Chris Taylor – Chief of Police, Ben Chavez – Police, Aaron Nelson – Police and Kurin Simplot – Public Works.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Whitford; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED
OCTOBER 22nd, 2019 & THE WORK STUDY MINUTES DATED OCTOBER 22nd, 2019**

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated October 22nd, 2019 as presented; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve the Work Study Minutes dated October 22nd, 2019; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- None

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REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Budget Report

- Mayor Camarata stated that the budget should be at 84%.

B. Treasurer's Report

- No Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Livestock Permit – Beck

- Councilmember Beard stated that she would like the Beck's to have chickens, and was asking what their clean-up plan was. Rod Beck responded that he usually takes the waste to the dump approximately every other month.
- Beck's also stated that the food is kept in a metal container with a lid.
- Councilmember Hink inquired if the chickens are let out to roam or if they are kept in the hen house. It was stated they are kept in the hen house.
- Councilmember Beard inquired if they rent or own their house. Beck's stated that they rent and the landlord is ok with them having chickens.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the livestock permit; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

B. 2020 Budget Discussion

- Mayor Camarata stated that the budget is almost balanced and the first public hearing will be at the November 26th Council Meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Event Application – Christmas in Kittitas

- Councilmember Beard stated that Christmas in Kittitas is pretty much the same as last year. Councilmember Beard has spoken with Public Works Lead Kurin Simplot regarding closing the street down for the lighted parade.
- The Event Application was submitted to the City’s insurance and they had no issues with this event.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the event Christmas in Kittitas; second by Councilmember Schuetz.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

B. MOU Hours of Work (Police 12 hour days)

- Councilmember Beard stated she had spoken with the City Attorney regarding the MOU and the attorney would like to add language to the MOU’s so as the City is gaining something as well as the police. Councilmember Beard disagrees with using this as a bargaining chip during union negotiations. Attorney Katherine Kenison would like to add language that the police will not ask for anything during the first two years of the next contract.
- Chief Taylor, Officer Nelson and Officer Chavez agreed to add that language. They believe the 12 hours shifts benefit the City by providing more coverage. They are following how the County works their shifts, the MOU agrees that any overtime will not be paid out unless over 12 scheduled hours of work. Officer Chavez will soon be done with his field training and the City will have continuous weekend coverage.
- Officer Nelson stated that by working this type of shift it gives the City an additional 104 hours per year at no additional expense.
- Councilmember Beard thought adding the additional language that the attorney requested to the MOU that she would agree to pass this tonight.
- Councilmember Hink has a different stance and thinks they should go back to working 10 hours shifts and then when Officer Chavez is done with his field training consider the 12 hours shifts. Councilmember Beard stated that would be in one month anyways.
- Chief Taylor stated that with officer’s working 12 hour days this will provide total weekend

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coverage when Officer Chavez has completed his field training.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the MOU amending hours worked for the Police Department adding the additional language regarding not requesting any additional benefits the first two years of the 2021 contract; second by Councilmember Beard.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

C. MOU Wage Rates Police Officer/Patrol Sergeant

- Councilmember Beard wants the wage increase but is not completely comfortable without the attorney present. Councilmember Beard thought this could possibly wait until the attorney is present at the next Council Meeting dated November 26th.
- Chief Taylor explained that when the wage was increased to attract a lateral officer they should have considered the progression of a first year officer and adjusted the wage accordingly. This increase is not huge just about a \$2.00 progression between years.
- Council was in agreement that this would not be effective until January 2020 and that it could wait until the next meeting when the attorney was present.
- Councilmember Beard stated that the attorney wanted some language added that would state no pay increases for the first two years in the next contract.
- Chief Taylor said that the wage increase for Officer Chavez has no impact on the general fund as his wage comes from the 3/10's fund and it can support this increase. The City has a lot of time and money invested in Officer Chavez.
- Citizen Bob Shuda stated that the wages are ridiculous.
- Officer Nelson and Officer Chavez would be ok with the language that the City Attorney wanted to add.
- Councilmember Beard would like to see a more detailed staff report for example the amount and types of calls that were handled during the month.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to table until the next Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Hink.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

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D. Purchase of New Police Car 2020

- Chief Taylor presented documentation to purchase a new patrol car. This was a Dodge Charger for approximately \$40,000. Chief Taylor suggested using \$17,000 from the vehicle replacement fund making a lease payment out of 3/10's until the Ford Explorer's are paid for and then the remaining payment from the general fund.
- Councilmember Coleman asked why a pursuit vehicle. Chief Taylor explained that Ford is slow in getting vehicles out to different police departments and this was something that was AWD and available.
- Councilmember Schuetz stated he has a friend who is an officer in another state and they are moving away from the Chargers because of major issues.
- Councilmember Coleman inquired as to a used SUV vs. new could this be a possibility?
- Chief Taylor stated that the City of Kittitas puts low mileage on their cars and other agency like WSP put a lot of miles and wear and tear on their vehicles.
- Council discussed maybe using someone different beside FCI asking if there were other dealers who provided police departments with vehicles.
- Councilmember Schuetz asked if money was not an object which would be the best choice for the City. Chief Taylor said an SUV.
- Councilmember Hink wondered if they would consider a used F150.
- Some Councilmembers discussed the justification of the Police Department having two vehicles when the WWTP have to share a vehicle.
- Officer Nelson gave several suggestions at other companies that offer police vehicles.
- Council asked Chief Taylor to gather more quotes and bring to the next Council Meeting.

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to table the purchase of a new Police vehicle until the next meeting; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

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PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. November 2019 Payables via EFT \$50,983.39

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve November 2019 Payables via EFT; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Schuetz inquired as to what the Rufus Tech bill consists of. It was explained that the bill is in the paper stack by the Mayor and that it is the monthly backup and work on the new computers that WWTP purchased.

B. October Bank EFT's \$5,873.65

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve October Bank EFT's; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

C. November Payroll/October Mid-Month Draw \$56,328.48

MOTION: Councilmember Hink made a motion to approve November Payroll/October Mid-Month Draws; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Camarata stated that the Law & Justice meeting will be on Thursday of next week.
- COG meeting will be on Wednesday of next week.
- Mayor Camarata attended the flood workshop up in Cle Elum today and stated it was very informative. There are grants available for frequently flooded creeks. Mayor Camarata said that Cook Creek floods often and possibly could get help with placing a new culvert.
- Councilmember Coleman asked what the process was for grant writing. Mayor Camarata stated that possibly Kittitas County could help with this.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Coleman stated that he wanted to make a correction for who he thanked for fixing the stop sign at Pacific Loop. It was actually Dave and Cathy Doyle who repainted the sign and post. Councilmember Coleman thanked the Doyle's for all of their volunteer efforts with the City of Kittitas.
- Councilmember Hink inquired as to when the job posting closes for the Utility Billing Clerk and the Utility Worker job. The Utility Billing Clerk closes on Friday the 15th of November and the Utility Worker will stay open until filled. Councilmember Hink asked if the people who turned in an application for the Public Works Lead could fill the Utility Worker position. Mayor Camarata stated that they would need to come in and apply for that specific job.
- Councilmember Beard encouraged Councilmembers to take the time and sit with Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee to learn more about the budget so when the City goes thru this process again they possibly would learn something and be better able to make informed decisions.

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Coleman.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

ADJOURN: 8:14 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor John Camarata

Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer