

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020**

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. January 14, 2020. Councilmembers present: Rich Coleman, Holly Beard, Peter Schuetz, Richard Hink Jr. and Lou Whitford. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Lori Chaffee – Utility Billing Clerk, Aaron Nelson – Police, Ben Chavez – Police, Chris Taylor – Chief of Police, Kurin Simplot – Public Works, Mike Meskimen – Gray & Osborne, Michelle Geiger – Safebuilt and Anna Franz – City Attorney.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED
DECEMBER 10th, 2019**

Councilmember Coleman would like to amend the minutes to state there are times to vote from the heart and other times to vote for practical reasons the minutes will be amended.

MOTION: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended dated December 10, 2019; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Camarata is striking under New Business E. Consultant Agreement First Avenue Project. Gray & Osborne will be updating Council on that project at a later date.

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

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- Business Owner Justin Kooy asked Council if a date had been set for the Planning Commission to meet. It was explained that a couple members were out of the area for the winter and there are a possibly a couple vacant positions.
- Councilmember Beard questioned if it had to be a full Planning Commission to have a meeting. The Planning Commission consists of 5 community members and 2 business owners.
- Councilmember Whitford inquired what the residency time was. Michelle with Safebuilt stated

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she did not know off of the top of her head but will look into.

- Citizen Jerry Gilmour wanted to thank Public Works for the good job they have been doing over the last several months. Gilmour went on to state that if the 2020 Budget was set for wages and the union contract was not up for negotiations until December 2020 that should be reason enough to not have the item on the agenda.
- Chuck Tyler resident read aloud a statement:
- My name is Chuck Tyler and I am a citizen of the city of Kittitas. I would like to address the council, if you please, regarding;
- Your treatment of the MOU brought forward with much work and thought and personal sacrifice by the Police dept.
 - The MOU was to create a stronger Department and to bring it in line with state law regarding supervision.
 - The MOU was trying to create a smoother and more equitable graduation of pay.
 - At no cost to the city a 46 cent an hour raise would go in effect for one officer.
 - We have a hardworking police force that when they are out in the field are risking life and limb for our citizens.
 - Chief Taylor has a long history here and with Officer Nelson in his down time finds creative ways to make the force more efficient. Officer Nelson's grant writing skills have been invaluable.
 - Officer Chavez while still in training took a bullet for the city which fractured his leg and would have fractured the life of a lesser man. In the military he would receive a purple heart not the slap in the face that portions this council gave him. Right now you seriously risk losing him.
 - I believe that if called to any of our homes or businesses these officers would not abstain.
 - I believe this council owes the Police department an apology and the support they deserve.
- The way the business is conducted at these meetings is appalling.
 - I have a lot of experience serving on boards and understand Roberts Rules of Order and their usefulness in efficiency and gaining trust.
 - You basically run under no known rules of operation.
 - Point in question is the fiasco regarding the Motion to put on the Table. In studying your procedural manner there really are only two things to go by.
 - The first motion by councilman Hink was proper although inaccurately stated and by your special rules did not require a second. Much discussion followed which was completely out of order but the mayor allowed it. There was not a proper vote.

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- After the discussion the Mayor called for the out of order motion, to put on the table. It was unnecessarily seconded, but not out of order, but the discussion and entire vote that ensued was.
 - The Mayor called for a vote and received two ayes and two nays with the tiebreaking vote to be councilman Schuetz, who at the approval of the Mayor, was allowed to abstain. In your own council rules of procedure this creates a malfeasance of office with many repercussions against Councilman Schuetz. I believe those punishments are the responsibility of the Mayor for allowing them.
 - By your own rules of procedure the Motion to put on the table was out of order because councilman Schuetz's vote was then a nay vote and the vote was 2 ayes and 3 nays and the motion fails.
 - At this point the MOU should have been voted on.
 - I believe that the Mayor should be admonished for his actions and his indifference the city rules of operation.
 - I believe the city should adopt The RONR so that the council and citizenry can understand how a meeting is to be conducted.
 - This would give more congruity to the meetings and increase citizen trust.
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- Citizen Bob Shuda seconded that the Council's action was appalling and wanted to know why some Councilmembers voted against the MOU.
 - Jackie McNealy stated that there are a lot of issues with kids these days eating tide pods etc. and that the police have to deal with a lot of different issues and they should be compensated for doing this. McNealy went on to say that the Police Department saved a life last weekend and the department needs to become self-sufficient and not rely on outside agencies. Council voting no on the MOU does not show that they support the blue line.
 - Rebecca Thomas stated that the City needs to retain the good officers that we currently have and if it does not impact the budget this should be a no brainer. She is in support of the Police department who helps make the community safe and a nice town to live and grow in.
 - Mayor Camarata stated that if all citizen's in attendance were going to state the same thing to have one person speak for all.
 - A Citizen stated that there was lack of clarity and he had questions for Council whether this would affect the budget or impact line items.
 - It was noted that the public comment section was not a place to have back and forth dialog.
 - A letter was submitted by Steve and Cindy Breck and given to Councilmembers. Clerk Debbie Lee informed Council that the letter is in favor of the Police Department and the MOU.

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REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Swear in Council Members for 2020

- Mayor Camarata swore in Councilmembers Beard, Schuetz and Coleman.

B. Jennifer Ellis – Cahill Manor and Housing Authority

- Jennifer gave a short report on the rehab status of Cahill and Housing Authority properties she stated that they are concluding the inside phase and more extensive external work will start in the spring and summer.

C. Executive Session

- Council will be going into an Executive Session RCW 42.30.140(4) complaints against a public official, possible litigation and collective bargaining for 30 minutes.
- Executive Session started at 7:24 p.m. and Council returned at 7:34 p.m. with no decisions being made.

D. Budget Report

- Mayor Camarata stated that the budget report is for the entire 2019 year and advises all Councilmembers to compare income and expense to the current year 2020 to see how well the City budgeted.

E. Treasurer's Report

- Mayor Camarata stated that there is money available to invest into bonds with TVI.
- Clerk/Treasurer Lee stated that the City could probably invest about \$150,000 to \$200,000.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve the Mayor to invest \$200,000 with a bond thru TVI; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MOU Wage for Police Officer and Patrol Sergeant

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve the MOU for police wages; second by Councilmember Whitford.

- Councilmember Coleman stated that the MOU that was brought forward was a contentious issue. Coleman has spoken with several other agencies and putting the MOU on the agenda is out of the normal order of contract negotiations. Councilmember Coleman stated that he is fully supportive of the police department.
- Councilmember Schuetz stated that he also spoke with Ellensburg and Kittitas School Districts that they do not have any MOU's in place and that there is a procedure for making adjustments. He is in favor of opening the contract for the entire City staff and not picking and choosing a department. Schuetz feels this would be a better option.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that it would be important for this MOU to be voted on as it would restructure the pay scale and define positions. Whitford supports the police department.
- Councilmember Hink stated he supports the police and does not want this MOU to have a ripple effect so this is why he would vote no on the MOU that is being presented.
- Councilmember Beard stated that the Sergeant position is a minimum pay increase and asked Officer Nelson if this is all they would be asking for if the entire contract was opened up for negotiations. Officer Nelson replied no.
- Mayor Camarata stated that negotiations can't happen in the Council Meeting setting.

MOTION: Councilmember Hink made a motion to direct the Mayor to contact the Union to open the entire union contract; second by Councilmember Coleman.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. 20-001 Ordinance “Rate & Charges”

- Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee explained that the number’s on the previous Ordinance were incorrect on paper only and had not been updated to Code Publishing so a clerical error only. These new rates are the correct amount for January billing/consumption.

Motion: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-001 “Rates and Charges”; second by; Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Beard inquired if the public was aware; this was only an error on the previous Ordinance that had not taken effect yet.

B. 20-002R Resolution Sole Source Supplier

- This Resolution is a result of a previous audit recommendation. The City has historically purchased water meters from HD Fowler/Master Meter they are the only supplier of this type of meter in Washington State. A resolution in place allows this purchase to happen.

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve Resolution 20-002R; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried; 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Hink asked does this mean the City is not required to get three bids. Yes.

C. Payroll Cost Allocation Policy

- This is a recommendation from the previous audit that a Payroll Cost Allocation Policy be updated. The previous policy the City had in place was vague. Let it be noted that Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee emailed James Jones the Audit Lead at least 10 times and did not get a stamp of approval. Debbie wanted to get one in place to be compliant with the audit recommendation so placed on the agenda to be compliant.

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve the Payroll Cost Allocation Policy; second by Councilmember Beard.

Motion Carried; 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Whitford asked why this needs to be done, it was explained that the

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auditors want to make sure that the general fund does not take away more revenues than necessary from the water or sewer funds

D. Library Board Approval – Jerry Gilmour

Motion: Councilmember Coleman made a motion to approve the appointment of Jerry Gilmour to the Library Board; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

E. Supplemental Agreement Caribou Creek – Gray & Osborne

- Mike from Gray & Osborne explained that in the permit submission process for the Caribou Creek Project the Army Corp. of Engineers requested to have an archology study to be completed, this would be the last item to be completed and then the permitting process should continue and fall into place.
- Councilmember Beard inquired if this was a new cost. Yes.
- Discussion was had as to where this money would come from; it will come from the beginning fund balance.

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve the supplemental agreement from Gray & Osborne for the Caribou Creek Project; second by Councilmember Coleman.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. December 20, Payables via EFT \$11,949.01

MOTION: Councilmember Hink made a motion to approve December 20th, 2019 Payables; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

B. December 2020 Bank EFT's \$14,444.16

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve December 2020 Bank EFT's; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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C. January 2020 Payables \$73,538.88

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve January 2020 Payables; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

D. December 2019 Payroll \$56,047.29

MOTION: Councilmember Beard made a motion to approve December 2019 Payroll; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

E. January Mid-Month Draw \$2,500.00

MOTION: Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve January Mid-Month Draws; second by Councilmember Hink.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Camarata informed Council that a student from Kittitas School District will be using the meeting room until the District can find a suitable place to teach him.
- The Law & Justice meeting is tomorrow.
- The COG meeting is tomorrow.
- Main Street Lift Station has gone out for bid and bids will be opened January 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Whitford would like to have some kind of Roberts Rules of Order training for the Council due to the issues at the last meeting. Whitford thought maybe Bruce Reim could come and maybe do some sort of retreat/training.
- Councilmember Hink inquired about KVFR putting a sign on the Fire Station. Mayor Camarata

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said that KVFR can come to the Council and present their ideas.

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

ADJOURN: 8:26 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor John Camarata

Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer