

City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 27, 2005

Mayor Cousart called the Meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., December 27, 2005. Councilmembers present; Allphin, Gilmour, Helland, Keys, and Huber.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb; Utility Worker Bosch; Police Chief Dunnagan, and Police Officer Shuart.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Allphin moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour with a correction to be made stating that he voted no on the payroll. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Keys abstained. Councilmember Allphin also moved to approve the minutes of the special session meeting on December 22, 2005 with Councilmember Huber seconding the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

### **Additions to Agenda**

1. Councilmember Gilmour on paving of streets with the bridge project.
2. Councilmember Allphin on water/sewer rates.
3. Councilmember Allphin reported he is retiring 1/25/06.
4. Executive Session to discuss union negotiations.

### **Report of Officers**

#### **1. Police**

- a. Police Chief Dunnagan reported that the City has been approved for a grant through Law & Justice for \$2,500 for a server for the police department. The City would pay the difference between the total cost and the amount of the grant which shouldn't exceed \$2,500.
- b. Police Chief Dunnagan also gave a report on tickets issued – both criminal and code violations. He estimated about \$46,000 has been issued this year.
- c. The council was given a letter of resignation by Police Chief Dunnagan effective January 17, 2006. He explained the City's options are to rehire a new police chief, contract with the county with a resident deputy here in Kittitas who would attend council meetings, or do a partial contract with the county leaving the Police Officer Shuart and Police Officer Beaton in place. Councilmember Keys moved to approve the advertising of the police chief position while looking at the City's options. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

## **2. City of Kittitas Library Board**

- a. Chairperson Marylou Gilmour reported the library board would like to hire an assistant librarian. She reported the prior manager worked 1520 hours a year and the current library manager, Maxine Steele, works about 440 hours less. Grace Wilson is the only volunteer left. She also explained again the funds awarded by the county of \$2,400 would be used for an assistant. Councilmember Huber moved to approve a library assistant for 20 hours per month for the first three months of 2006 and would like the library board to make a list of goals to be accomplished by the library manager and her assistant. This motion was later amended to make this assistant position a six month position and to be reviewed at the end of that time. Councilmember Allphin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Chairperson Gilmour also reported the communication is much better with the new library manager.
- b. The beginning/ending balances in the budget were also discussed. Chairperson Gilmour asked if the budgeted money isn't used in 2005 if they lose it. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained the State Auditor, Toni Nelson, told her the beginning balances are for a cushion in case of emergency.

## **3. Utility Worker Bosch**

- a. Utility Worker Bosch reported the hose for the vac truck would be increasing in price in 2006 by several hundred dollars. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the purchase of a new hose for the truck, repair the oil seal and clutch, and check into getting a cover on the reel. Councilmember Allphin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.
- b. Utility Worker Bosch also reported a delinquent water/sewer account cut the lock he placed on his meter and now it would become a police matter with a ticket to be issued.

## **Public Hearing for Final Budget/Presentation of Ordinance**

The 2006 Budget was again discussed and Councilmember Gilmour suggested we look into repairing the roof etc. at the Community Hall and we need bids. Councilmember Huber moved to approve the adopting of the Ordinance 05-794 for the 2006 Budget. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

## **FIRST SIDE OF TAPE ONE ENDS**

### **Correspondence, Complaints and Applications**

None

### **Old Business**

1. Jack Miller with Farmview reported he is having issues getting Gray and Osborne to call him back. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the 15 water hook ups by January 10, 2006, for Farmview with an amendment that Gray and Osborne must approve this first. Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Also, Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the preliminary plat on Farmview if Gray & Osborne approves of it. Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

2. Mayor Cousart reported we received a roof bid from Wagner. Councilmembers Gilmour and Keys would like to evaluate the bid a little more. Councilmember Gilmour offered to replace the plywood portion of the new roof. Councilmember Huber suggested we set a plan on exactly what we want and then go to bid. We are looking into applying for a \$30,000 grant from RDA which we would be required to pay 25% of this amount.
3. Arvin Marchel requested we look at water/sewer rates for apartments and mobile home courts. He understands these are billed as if they are always occupied. He thinks this is unfair to be charged for empty units. Councilmember Huber and Allphin explained the only option according to City Code is to have each unit have its own meter if you don't want to be charged for empty units.
4. Mayor Cousart reported the City has received two bids for bond counsel – Jeff Navee with Foster, Pepper and Shefelman and Michael Ormsby with Preston, Gates & Ellis. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve Preston, Gates & Ellis with Councilmember Huber seconding the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.
5. Mayor Cousart read a written proposal from Bob McCollum with the Time Out Saloon. He would like the City to charge him a flat fee of \$500 per year in place of the gambling tax. Council would like some kind of figures supporting this fee. Councilmember Huber moved to deny his request and it was seconded by Councilmember Allphin. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.
6. Councilmember Allphin noted our water and sewer revenues are up for 2005, therefore, not needing to increase residential rates – only commercial rates.
7. Councilmember Allphin also noted that Worker Jeremy Combs six months is almost up and he is due for a raise and moved to increase his rate to \$12.00. The motion was not seconded. Council agreed they need to study his job duties first. Councilmember Helland offered to review his job description. It also was noted per the union that he isn't a permanent employee until he passes his sewer test.
8. Councilmember Gilmour asked if any of the street paving would take place before the new bridge project was completed. Mayor Cousart explained there would be no paving until after the bridge completion. Councilmember Huber said she would like to take a day off to go to Olympia to try and get funding for the Gibb's diversion.

### **New Business**

1. It was discussed to move Court Clerk Dunnagan from a contract to an employee status. Councilmember Huber stated she would like to see her case load to justify the increase in hours requested on the proposal. She explained that her hours were once increased due to back log and they were never decreased back to the original amount. Councilmember Huber also stated she would like to see a summary of the court clerk position over the past several years and the progression of it.

2. The EMS/TC interlocal agreement was proposed for the new year. This agreement covers ambulance calls, 911, etc. Councilmember Huber moved to approve this agreement and it was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**END OF 2<sup>ND</sup> SIDE OF TAPE 1**

3. Councilmember Allphin announced he will be retiring effective January 25, 2006. Mayor Cousart said he would get a notice in the paper to advertise for a councilmember.
4. Utility Worker Bosch suggested we send Marie Smith a letter along with our City's code regarding trailer parks. Councilmember Gilmour displayed a copy of the City of Ellensburg's ordinance on trailers/mobile homes for us to review.

**Approval of Bills**

Approval of Bills - #10717 to 10726 for \$1,251.68 and Long-Term Disability Refunds #6476 to #6479 for \$2,965.02. Councilmember Keys moved to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.

**Mayors Report**

Mayor Cousart reported Ron Casario is operating without a business license and it needs to be investigated by the police department as he needs to abide by City Code. He also suggested we prioritize three issues that are pending. Review of water/sewer rates for businesses is top priority followed by implementing facilities charges on developers. The other issue is reviewing and/or modifying our ordinance on trailers and trailer parks.

**Executive Session**

The City Council went into executive session at 9:20 p.m. until 9:50 p.m. to discuss the union negotiations.

**Council Discussion**

It was discussed to hire Bob Morrell at the sewer plant while WWTP Operator Howard is off on Labor & Industries. Councilmember Allphin moved to approve the hiring stipulating he be kept on for at least one week. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.

**Adjourn**

Councilmember Huber moved to adjourn the December 27, 2005 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_