

City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2006

Mayor Cousart called the Meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., January 24, 2006. Councilmembers present; Allphin, Gilmour, Helland, and Huber. Councilmember Keys was absent.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb; Utility Worker Bosch; WWTP Operator Howard, 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 January 24, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**Additions to Agenda**

1. John Sinclair and Pat Clerf with Fire District #2
2. Councilmember Helland under old and new business
3. Councilmember Allphin under old and new business

**Report of Officers and Engineers**

1. **Police**

- a. Police Officer Shuart reported he only had one letter of interest for the Police Chief position. Mayor Cousart added that Doug McLean, who was present, was also applying for the position.

2. **City of Kittitas Library Board**

- a. Chairperson Marylou Gilmour reported that the Board of Trustees had a library work day and did some organization and clean up that was needed in the library.
- b. Marylou also reported the new library assistant, Susan Martin, started working in January 2006.

3. **Utility Worker Bosch**

- a. Utility Worker Bosch reported that a material called Easy Street would be something to consider in repairing the pot holes. One ton costs \$594 plus \$150 freight. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the purchasing of this and it was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.
- b. Utility Worker Bosch handed out an aging summary on the utility accounts and a sheet on gravel prices for the roads. He reported there is a possibility of COGS dollars available to help with this.

- c. Bill Smith was present and asked the City Council if they would be willing to help with the cost of his sewer lines. He didn't own his residence when the sewer lines were put in and the owner at that time did not participate in the sewer project. Council agreed that the City should not get involved because if they were to do this for one residence then others would follow.
- d. Councilmember Gilmour offered Utility Worker Bosch some rebar to install the bike rack at the library.

**4. WWTP Operator Howard**

- a. WWTP Operator Howard reported a high level of ammonia at the Wastewater Treatment Plant but since the sludge was brought in at no charge the ammonia level has been dropping.

**5. Fire Chief #2 John Sinclair and Chairman of Board of Fire Commissioners Pat Clerf**

Fire Chief John Sinclair reported that Fire District #2 and the Ellensburg Fire Department are considering various ways for the fire districts to consolidate with them whether it would be a consolidation, interlocal agreement, etc. He said they are open to offers and suggestions.

**Correspondence, Complaints and Applications**

Council was wondering if the noise issue had been taken care of at the Jamie Lowe residence. Jay Ryan noted that the noise and traffic was much better now.

**END OF TAPE ONE SIDE ONE**

**Old Business**

- 1. Jack Miller asked the Council for approval to hook his new development, Fairview Estates, into the City sewer. This plat is located on Fairview Road West of Kittitas on 72 acres. Councilmember Huber moved to preliminary approve this and change the ordinance if needed for the size of pipe required. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. It passed 4 yes and 0 no.
- 2. Councilmember Helland has some changes to make to the Mission Statement that was drafted. Mayor Cousart instructed him to mark his changes and turn it into him.
- 3. Councilmember Allphin requested an update on mobile home parks that are not in compliance with City Code and also suggested we install permanent markers for the alley right of way East of Pierce Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. He also reminded Council that Marie Smith's park still has 6 RV's in the alley and 1 RV that isn't suppose to be in the park as it doesn't have a permit. Council agreed that the police department needs to issue a citation to her for the one not having a permit.
- 4. It was discussed that WWTP Operator Howard would be attending the Evergreen Rural Water workshop in February. Councilmember Allphin moved to approve this and it was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

## **New Business**

1. Councilmember Huber moved to approve the interlocal agreement for jail services with the county. It was seconded by Councilmember Allphin with a provision that changes might need to be made if we also contract with the county on our police department. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.
2. Jeff Stevens reported that Gray & Osborne recommends Western Engineering Constructors Inc. as the contractor for the WWTP bid. Their bid was \$1,729,231.20 and Councilmember Huber moved to approve this with the concurrence of USDA. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. He reported that the total price for the WWTP upgrade is now at about \$2.3 million dollars. This is around \$300,000 higher from the original estimate of \$2 million because of inflated construction materials. One million of this will be a grant from CDBG and around \$400,000 a grant from USDA. The remaining \$700,000 or so will be a loan from USDA.

## **END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 2**

3. Resolution 06-003R to adopt the construction specifications was moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Allphin. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.
4. Ordinance 06-001 amending Ballasting, Graveling, and Width of Streets was moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.
5. Ordinance 06-002 amending improvement standards was moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Allphin. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.
6. Jack Miller of Fairview Estates asked if he would have to comply with 4 or 5 foot sidewalks. Both the Council and Jeff Stevens agreed since he was approved before the new construction standards that he only had to comply with 4 foot sidewalks.
7. Councilmember Helland suggests we hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> police office full-time. Officer Beaton is still a temporary employee.
8. Councilmember Allphin suggests that the jobs of Office Assistant and Clerk/Treasurer be reviewed. Mayor Cousart added that Councilmember Huber was in the process of reviewing them.
9. Perry Cope who lives in Rainier Estates asked Council to approve his business at his home. He would only repair window screens and pick up and deliver to his customers. Councilmember Huber suggested he get his business license first and after the ordinance is reviewed for this type of business then the City could make a decision.

## **Approval of Bills**

Approval of Bills - #10756 to 10785 for \$19,804.80. Checks #10765 to #10767 were voided. Councilmember Huber moved to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Allphin. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

## **Executive Session**

The City Council went into executive session at 8:25 p.m. until 8:55 p.m. to discuss the union negotiations.

## **Mayors Report**

Three applicants were present for the open Council Position, John Camarata, Jeff Gay, and Gary Gleason. Council elected Jeff Gay and he was sworn into office by Mayor Cousart.

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the renewal of Sterling Savings CD from \$54,466 to \$41,528. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. The remaining dollars will be deposited into the City's savings account.

Mayor Cousart announced that City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb would be attending the Rate Settings Workshop put on by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation along with another employee in March or April. Council agreed that two employees should attend this.

Mayor Cousart also announced that they would be going to mediation with the Union since no agreement has been met but a date has not yet been set.

## **Council Discussion**

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the nomination of Councilmember Helland as Mayor Pro-Tem and it was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Huber moved to approve Councilmember Gilmour as the second check signer since this is Councilmember Allphin's last meeting. It was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes 0.

Councilmember Gilmour asked if we could do emergency repairs before actually getting the grant for City Hall. The roof is in critical condition and needs attention as soon as possible. Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb will contact Steve Troendle with USDA and see if we can do this.

Councilmember Gilmour moved to have WWTP Operator Howard either fix the Ford Taurus car or not continue to drive it and it was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 3 yes with Councilmember Gay abstaining.

Council agreed that the check signers should also be the ones to sign for release of funds from CDBG for WWTP work. Councilmember Huber moved to approve this and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

**Adjourn**

Councilmember Huber moved to adjourn the January 24, 2006 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk/Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_