

City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2006

FACILITIES STUDY – Council met with Jeff Stevens for a facilities study at 6:00 p.m. to discuss charges to developers for future improvements on land being developed. The water and sewer charges were suggested to be put into a reserve fund for future costs incurred. Jeff Stevens with Gray & Osborne suggested we first do an inventory to determine cost and replacement based on ERU's. The current rate would be approximately \$3,254 per ERU and by 2015 it would be estimated at \$4,200 per ERU. The City of Ellensburg is currently charging \$462, the City of Yakima is charging \$6,000 and some other cities our size are charging \$1,000 to \$2,000 for water and sewer each.

COUNCIL MEETING --

Mayor Cousart called the Meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., February 28, 2006. Councilmembers present; Gay, Keys, Gilmour, and Helland.

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

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**Additions to Agenda**

Tiny Allphin, Richard Hink, and Gayetta Hink all requested to speak regarding the proposed sewer rate increase.

**Report of Officers and Special Guests**

**Robert Almeida**

Police Chief Applicant, Robert Almeida, introduced himself. He explained he has been with the Union Gap Police Department for 19 years as both Sergeant and acting Chief of Police.

**TAPE 1 – SIDE 1 ENDS**

**Relay for Life**

Kim Heistand and Stacy Weekes requested the use of the City's reader board for some Relay for Life functions they will be having. The dates requested are as follows:

April 1, 2006 – Chili feed at the Moose Lodge for \$10 per ticket

May, 2006 – Bake food sale

June 24, 2006 – Relay for Life

Council agreed that it would be o.k. to put up a donation can at City Hall.

### **Police**

Officer Shuart reported that All Sevens Trailer Park is back in compliance since Marie Smith's tenant purchased a RV permit.

Rob Van Wagoner was issued a two week notice for garbage issues.

Cole's Crossing would like to name the emergency access but Office Shuart reported Kittcom would like to keep it "emergency access" since that is what it is.

### **City of Kittitas Library Board**

Marylou Gilmour reported she had a discussion with David Bowen and he said if the Library Board would write him a letter requesting the additional funds of \$1,500 for the Summer Reading Program then he would look into it.

Marylou requested that there be an addendum to the Library Agreement for \$1,500.

Councilmember Keys moved to approve this and it was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

### **Utility Worker Bosch**

Gabe Oh with Contour Inc. needs signs for Cole's Crossing and would like the City to purchase them and they will pay us back. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the signs to be ordered and it was seconded by Councilmember Keys. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

### **Ron Guest – Cole's Crossing II**

Ron Guest reported our last water plan was done in 1997. To comply with this we still need to obtain another water source and additional water storage.

### **TAPE 1 -- SIDE 2 ENDS**

Ron reported our water usage has continually decreased since 1998, according to a study he has done. He will continue more analysis at no charge and when completed will send the information to Gray & Osborne for their review.

The Council told Ron Guest that his plot plan needs to go in front of our Planning Commission.

Councilmember Gilmour asked about the paving that was suppose to be done up by Cole's Crossing. Ron Guest said he would look into it and let us know. He also said he would push for the work to get done.

## **Correspondence, Complaints and Applications**

Ordinance 06-005, amending the Planning Commission Secretary compensation to be paid, was moved to be approved by Councilmember Keys and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

Ordinance 06-007, the sewer rate increase, was discussed in great length. The following is a list of those who spoke regarding the rate increase: Tiny Allphin, Richard Hink, Gayetta Hink, Lee Gonsor, Joe Weinand, and Mary Lou Gilmour. The suggestions that were brought up include lowering the water rates and to look into the low income/senior rates along with the school rates.

### **TAPE 2 -- SIDE 1 ENDS**

Councilmember Gilmour moved to deny Ordinance 06-007 and Councilmember Keys seconded the motion. The ordinance failed 4 to 0.

The Council decided to meet again Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. to continue the discussion of the sewer rates and alternatives.

## **Mayors Report**

The repairs to the City Hall roof haven't been started yet. We are still waiting on the USDA grant to be approved.

Mayor Cousart reported the State Senate has approved \$300,000 in emergency funding for the Badger Pocket Bridge. It now goes to the State House for approval.

Robert Almeida, Police Chief applicant, is requesting a minimum of \$4,200 per month for a salary. After discussion Councilmember Gay moved to approve his hiring at \$3,800 per month and at year end review this. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no.

## **Approval of Bills**

Checks #10830 to #10841 for \$1,977.33 and #10814 a void. Councilmember Keys moved to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

## **Approval of Payroll**

Councilmember Helland moved to approve February payroll checks #6547 to #6578 for \$25,607.70 and #6553, #6555, and #6562 voided. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keys. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

## **Executive Session**

9:25 to 9:50 p.m.

**Council Discussion**

The Gibbs property was discussed. Their lawyer sent a letter to the City of Kittitas explaining that they had been approached to sell the property that the City is taking in trade with them but that they are not interested at this time.

**Adjourn**

Councilmember Helland moved to adjourn the February 28, 2006 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keys. The motion passed 4yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 10:15p.m.

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

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