

City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2006

Mayor Cousart called the Meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., April 25, 2006. Councilmembers present; Gay, Huber, Gilmour, Simpson, and Helland.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Office Assistant Kathy Jensen, WWTP Operator Howard, and Utility Worker Bosch.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Proclamation for National Day of Prayer was read by Mayor Cousart.
2. Gabe Oh
3. Department of Transportation needs an application completed for the \$300,000 for the fish screen monies on the bridge project. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve having the Mayor execute this application and it was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Police Chief, Robert Almeida

Police Chief Almeida requested the rehiring of Office Beaton as a paid reserve. He said we are not obligated to pay for him to go to the academy and the first 16 hours are non paid hours. Councilmember Huber suggested he check to see if it is budgeted at this point and with Department of Retirement as a paid reserve.

He also reported the Police Department has given out 13 code violation warnings in the last week.

Arvin Marchel's gas station at 100 N. Main appeared to have a break in and as they were investigating it they went inside and took photos of the condition of the inside of the building. These pictures will be forwarded to Mike Burtness, the building inspector.

The new Kittitas High School was vandalized Sunday afternoon and the police have some good leads and evidence collected. Approximately \$4,000 in damages has been done and possibly more depending on the damage to the ventilation system. The Daily Record has been contacted with this information according to Chief Almeida.

City of Kittitas Library Board

Chairperson Marilou Gilmour agreed with Council that the Library only needs to give one report per month. She will give her report on the last meeting of the month in the future.

The 2005 Library year end audit has been completed.

Councilmember Huber reported that she understood from the County that the Library would be receiving the funds for the summer reading program.

Utility Worker Bosch

Utility Worker Bosch requested the purchasing of flowers for City Hall. Council agreed if it is in the budget then it is o.k.

The Time Out Saloon's fence has been approved by the Planning Commission, Fire Chief Hink, and Mike Burtness, the building inspector.

Someone is interested in purchasing some of Bob Dodge's property near the John Wayne Trail and would like to put in a temporary sewer tank. They would like to build a 22,000 square foot building to manufacture wood trim in one half and have a wood shop in the other half that would employ about 25 people. Councilmember Huber suggested they address this in a letter to the City.

Councilmember Gilmour suggested adding more members to the Planning Commission. Mayor Cousart said he would check into this option.

Utility Worker Bosch also reported there seems to be some concern about two people reading meters. He said if they have two of them it takes 5-6 hours but if only one person does it, it can take up to two days.

Gray & Osborne

Jeff Stevens reported that the meeting with TIB last week was successful. Both Greg Armstrong and Steve Gorchester were present and they have the authority to increase the budget to include sidewalks and suggested the City also have this done. The paving of Main Street to the Badger Pocket Bridge and south of the bridge will be paved this year because of increasing costs of asphalt. Also, from Patrick Avenue & Main Street to Road 81 might get paved depending on funds available.

Jeff explained that COG money is to help the City economically and encourage growth. This money is not available until 2007.

Jon Wiese reported that construction was started this week on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The completion date is estimated for the end of December but the contractor actually has one year to finish the project. The biggest issue is getting equipment here in a timely manner.

Councilmember Simpson asked what the capacity of the WWTP would be. Jon Wiese explained at our population currently the new plant will be around 50-60% capacity. When it reaches 80% or so it will be time to look into adding on to it. He also said the lagoons need to be dealt with eventually and that WWTP Operator Howard is aware of this situation. Jeff Stevens also reported that the general facilities charges the City recently implemented should be put away for future upgrades.

Contour Inc.

Gabe Oh asked the Council if the water lines from 7th down to Spokane Street about 200 feet could be installed for Cole's Crossing. They would be able to pave after this is done. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this installation and it was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. The paving of Spokane Street to Patrick Avenue would be done after the frontage work is completed on the Brown Property. They need to do this after the frontage work otherwise they would have to tear it up and redo it.

Puget Sound Energy has been putting in the power for Cole's Crossing this week. They went outside of the 60 foot utility easement and about 18 feet back of the curb with the electrical trench. Derik Sinclair, the owner of Contour Inc., said Ron Guest permitted a set of plans for this 60 foot right of way which was dictated by Puget Sound Energy. Councilmember Huber said she would call Brian Lenz, the manager of Puget Sound Energy locally, and discuss this issue with him.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

Councilmember Huber suggested that Contour Inc. contact the City if they decide to sell any property in the City of Kittitas to a third party.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:20 to 8:40 p.m. – Property Acquisition

Councilmember Huber was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMPLAINTS, AND APPLICATIONS

Time Out Saloon – They are requesting a variance to put an 8' fence in the back. The Planning Commission has approved this along with Mike Burtness, the building inspector. The ordinance only addresses residential and not commercial limits on fences. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve this fence and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance 06-011 Amending Supplemental Uses and Yard Requirements need more clarification. Mayor Cousart will check with Katherine Kenison on this.

Resolution 06-012R Adopting a Work Program and Public Participation Program to Guide future planning activities required pursuant to the GMA. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve this resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Gibb requested having some of his property brought into the UGA south of Kittitas. Council agrees that this is a good idea. Kevin asked if the City would write a letter stating they agree with this action. Mayor Cousart agreed to this.

Low Income/Senior Citizen ordinance was discussed. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the deletion of the paragraph that states low income/senior citizens need to be approved by Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Also, Councilmember Simpson moved to approve lowering the senior citizen age from 65 to 62 and it was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Checks #10917 to 10946 for April voucher's totaling \$21,072.56 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gilmour and seconded by Councilmember Helland. Check # 10916 was voided. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

COG which is the distressed county sales and use tax as discussed earlier needs to be an economical improvement to the City. Mayor Cousart suggested that Council think of some ideas as to where this money could be used and it will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Cousart reported the City still hasn't heard from the County regarding the cost of taking over the **municipal court**.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The City is still waiting to hear from Steve Troendle with USDA regarding the grant for the **City Hall roof**.

Councilmember Simpson requested Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb look into **Mayor salaries** at other similar size cities and the next size up.

Councilmember Simpson would like to look further into implementing **impact fees** for dust control. He would like to have a presentation given to Council on the "spray on asphalt" application.

Thursday, April 27th, Council will have a **special session** to review wages for Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb, Office Assistant Jensen, and Utility Worker Bosch. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve this session and it was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9:30 to 9:50 p.m. – Union Negotiations

ADJOURN

Councilmember Simpson moved to adjourn the April 25, 2006 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____