

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2006**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., September 26, 2006. Councilmembers present; Gay, Gilmour, Huber, Simpson, and Helland.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Public Works Lead Bosch, Police Chief Mike Studer, Officer Shuart, and Officer Beaton.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2006, special meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 3 yes with Councilmembers Helland and Huber abstaining.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Harry Waterman/Gerry's Foreign Auto – Vandalism

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Police Department

Police Chief Studer expressed his departments need for more officers. In addition to himself and Officer Shuart he would like to hire two more full-time officers and increase the union pay scale at the same time so he not only can attract more applicants but can keep them also. He would like the police department pay scale for starting officers at level 36 which is \$2,943 per month or \$16.98 per hour. Once we employ three full-time officers (which includes the Chief) we would have to become civil service. Also, a full-time officer means sending them to the academy if they haven't already gone which costs around \$3,200 plus their monthly wage. Council suggested Chief Studer get some more facts together for the special meeting next Tuesday, October 3rd.

He explained when he was employed in the 90's with the City the number of calls that went through Kittcom were 3-4 times less than they are today. Also, the wages have only increased about \$200 per month for a police officer since then.

Harry Waterman, the owner of Gerry's Foreign Auto, explained the increased vandalism he has seen at his business 2-3 times per week and would like more police coverage.

TAPE 1 SIDE 1 ENDS

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2006**

Gray & Osborne

Jeff Stevens explained the meeting they had with Superior Asphalt regarding the New Street Project. Superior Asphalt did not have any problem with removing the sidewalks portion of the bid which is around \$260,000 less in cost which would leave approximately \$70,000 remaining for additional paving etc. Gray & Osborne and TIB agree that using these funds to pave West of Main Street on Patrick Avenue is a good idea.

On Thursday, September 28, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. will be the preconstruction conference with Superior Asphalt and Gray & Osborne. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the change order to remove the sidewalks portion of the bid and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Jeff also explained the bid for the Bridge Project should be in a couple of weeks or so.

Andy Kottkamp, Hearing Examiner

Andy Kottkamp, our new Hearing Examiner, introduced himself along with a background of how a Hearing Examiner works. He explained the process which includes him wearing a coat and tie, recording the session, staff and citizens giving their reports, and then a written decision to follow. Some of the biggest issues he has seen involve conditional use permits. The hearings are advertised and posted 10 days in advance. He also explained the process would be easier if the appeal went to Superior Court rather than to Council.

The process involves him looking at the project compared to our City Code, taking testimony, and making a decision. He explained his fee per appearance is \$700 but will keep track of his hours and if it turns out he is overcharging he will review his fee at that time. He will prepare an annual report which will include the hours worked.

Mr. Kottkamp also talked about some gang graffiti we have had in our City and suggested we contact Officer Ramirez in Wenatchee regarding the handling of this gang.

Councilmember Simpson asked what other cities charge impact fees. Leavenworth and Chelan were two cities he knew of that charged these fees.

COUNCILMEMBER HUBER WILL BE A GRANDMA AGAIN!!!! YIPPEEEEEEEE!!!

Public Works Lead Val Bosch

Public Works Lead Bosch discussed the meeting that he had with Lisa Parks and the Planning Commission regarding the Brown Property Development. They still need to put in the monuments, lot markers, a valve on the drain ditch, and meet with Cascade Irrigation Ditch on

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2006**

the pump.

He also reported that Todd Lopeman, owner of Sure Shot, would like to build a new building at 112 N. Main St., and tear down the existing building. Lisa Parks is working with Mr. Lopeman on the correct process that needs to be done.

A listing of delinquent accounts was handed out. Assistant Clerk Jensen has done well at collecting on these accounts and there is only a handful left. About half of the ones left are people who moved out 2-3 years ago.

A few high school kids are doing community service for the City for their school project. They have been working on varnishing the gazebo.

Public Works Lead Bosch also discussed the meeting with Cal Jordan on grants for the City Hall, Community Hall, and the Clerf Building. Mr. Jordan is an architect and writes grants for money from CTED and CDBG. There will be a special meeting next Tuesday, October 3rd, with Cal Jordan to discuss these projects.

The old gas station that was torn down at the South end of town has a new owner and he will need a letter from Department of Ecology before any building can take place.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mission Statement – The mission statement for the budget was discussed and Councilmember Simpson and Gay suggested some changes and offered to work on these changes.

NEW BUSINESS

School Zone Ordinance – The new school zone was discussed and some suggestions were made. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve Katherine Kenison constructing an amended ordinance for these changes and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Approval of Bills – Checks 11232 to 11249 for \$125,824.51 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- NONE

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2006**

MAYORS REPORT

DOE Loan – Mayor Cousart reported that DOE has a 0% loan to replace the new USDA loan on the WWTP remodel. Council suggested talking with Steve Troendle about what his suggestion would be as to where to use the 0% loan.

Jerry Harris – Jerry Harris who works for the County will conduct a meeting for the public on October 17th to talk about disaster preparedness.

Clerk/Treasurer 1 year review – Councilmember Huber suggested Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb and Mayor Cousart put together a non-union scale which includes 7 steps for the Clerk/Treasurer.

TAPE 2 SIDE 1 ENDS

DOH Water Comp Meeting -- Mayor Cousart, Jeff Stevens, and WWTP Operator Howard met earlier in the month with the Department of Health. DOH explained their review of the water comp plan, which is being completed by Gray & Osborne, will cost around \$1,167.

Handicap Ramps – Richard Hink Jr. asked if the City would look into handicap ramps at Wilson Park. He contacted Jeff Stevens who referred him to the City.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Benton Lift Station – The Benton Street Lift Station is constantly having problems and Council agreed that something needs to be done.

Hearing Examiner Appeal – Councilmember Helland moved to approve the hearing examiner appeal process to be changed from the appeal going to Council to the appeal going to Superior Court. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Mark Hill Car Wash – Mayor Cousart explained Mark Hill will not be building a car wash as planned. He feels the process we now have in place is more complicated than he expected.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Helland moved to adjourn the September 26, 2006, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart _____
Clerk/Treasurer _____