

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2006**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., November 28, 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, and Police Officer Shuart.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the revised minutes of the May 9, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed with 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

NONE

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Police

Police Chief Studer reported the County Commissioners will be reviewing the offer the Law & Justice Committee made to the City of Kittitas on the Spillman Software. It must be approved by the Commissioners for final action.

Officer Beaton is in the process of completing his employment tests.

Officer Shuart is signed up to take a "high risk incident" class.

Police Chief Studer has applied for a grant "Drive Hammered, Get Nailed" for \$1,000 towards payroll costs. It should be reimbursed to the City by the end of the year. He also is working on a grant for hand held radar detectors.

Charges were filed this week against 2 juveniles and possibly 4 more on the new Kittitas High School vandalism that happened this past summer.

The Police Department is now working 10 hour shifts which seem to be going well.

Police Chief Studer would like the weeds & rubbish ordinance to be changed so on the 2nd or 3rd offense it would become a criminal charge.

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State Parks Sign

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the new sign presented by Jared Liening with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Public Works Lead Val Bosch

Pro Insulation gave a bid of \$895 plus tax for the ceiling above the Police Department and Mayor's Office. Public Works Lead Bosch will forward the bill to Puget Sound Energy.

The Community Hall has several new leaks.

Cole's Crossing I is looking for some fill dirt. Public Works Lead Bosch explained the City has excess dirt and wanted to know if it would be o.k. to give it to them in exchange for removing some of the old concrete at the same time. Council agreed with this action.

There have been 3 quotes on lawnmower tractors. The first one is a Kubota for \$19,586 including tax; the second quote was out of Yakima for \$18,916 plus tax; and the third quote was from John Deere for \$26,067.

Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the drafting of a new ordinance requiring the citizens of the City of Kittitas to care for and maintain their sidewalks in front of their residence. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion and the motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

The Wrangler Estate lift station broke down again so Picatti Bros. repaired it and suggested using a "strainer" to catch some of the debris. Councilmember Huber suggested having Public Works Lead Bosch, WWTP Operator Howard, Picatti Bros., and Mayor Cousart get together to discuss maintenance issues on the lift pump.

Public Works Lead Bosch reported the Planning Commission is working on some zoning changes for 2007.

Councilmember Gay would like to look into replacing the City's yard waste disposal service with another program possibly like the City of Ellensburg's.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 06-029– 2006 Budget Amendments was read by title and section only. The public hearing was opened with some discussion by Council. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the 2006 budget amendments and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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Preliminary Budget – The preliminary budget hearing was opened for discussion. Councilmember Huber suggested adding transfers of \$4,500 each from Water and Sewer into the Cumulative Reserve Fund for a possible lawnmower/tractor purchase. Also, Council requested more detail on the line item “collection inspection vehicle” listed in the Sewer Expense Fund for \$2,500. The Mayor will get more information on this line item.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 06-035R – DOE WWTP Loan Resolution. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve this resolution required by DOE for their funding package on the WWTP. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion and the motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Resolution 06-031R – Amending Daily Banking Procedures -- Councilmember Gay moved to approve this resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Resolution 06-036R – Establishing a Public Hearing to Consider a Petition to Vacate a Portion of Public Right of Way (Gritzan) – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Judge Chmelewski – Requesting a Raise – Council suggested having Judge Chmelewski research what salary other judges in small cities make and report when and if he received his last raise with the City of Kittitas.

Liquor License Renewals – Exit 115 Mini Mart and Time Out Saloon – Council suggested the Mayor discuss with Mr. McCollum the lack of respect Officer Beaton and Officer Shuart receive when they enter his business doing bar checks.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Approval of Bills – Checks 11352 11379 for \$581,908.07 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

The Public Portion of the meeting was recessed for the purpose of allowing the Council to plan or adopt strategy for collective bargaining pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b).

MAYORS REPORT

Cole’s Crossing I TVing – WWTP Operator Howard will do the Cole’s Crossing I TVing when he gets back from vacation in December.

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Christmas Party – The City of Kittitas’ employee Christmas Party will be at Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb’s house this year on December 15th at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up for a side dish and there will be a \$5.00 donation per person for the meat that Public Works Lead Bosch will prepare.

Winterfest – This year Winterfest will be on December 2nd at Community Hall.

Sterling Savings CD – One of the Sterling Savings CD has been renewed at 5.4%. The City currently has 2 that are allocated for reserves required by funding sources.

City Secondary Well Pump – This well pump has an old chlorinator that doesn’t work. WWTP Operator Howard will look into what repairs are needed.

Kittitas County Solid Waste Programs – Councilmember Simpson will remain on this committee since there were no new volunteers.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mural -- Councilmember Simpson spoke with Caroline Johnson, the Art Teacher at Kittitas High School, regarding having a mural painted on the North side of City Hall. She agreed this would be a good project for students each year. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the City to donate \$100 for art supplies each year for the mural and it was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Audit Exit – The audit exit conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 30th, at 2:00 p.m.

Utility/WWTP Worker Rob Moffatt – Council suggested having the Mayor discuss with Utility/WWTP Worker Moffatt the requirements of his job.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Helland moved to adjourn the November 28, 2006, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____