

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., December 12, 2006. Councilmembers present; Gay, Gilmour, and Simpson. Councilmembers Huber and Helland were absent.

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

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2006, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

NONE

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne

Jeff Stevens with Gray & Osborne reported that more time will probably be needed on the WWTP Construction Contract but he will have more of the details at a later time.

The New Streets Project Phase 2 Final Pay Estimate #2 for \$8,041.20 was moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

The Gray & Osborne contract amendment #2 was moved to be approved by Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

The New Streets Project Phase 2 Change Order #3 for \$7,150 was moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

Library Board

Chairperson Marylou Gilmour announced that Doris Cissel had willed the Library a mutual fund/money market account now worth about \$6,610. It is not a trust fund and is for the purchase of children's books. She requested that a Councilmember be at the January Library Board Meeting which will be held the first Thursday in January.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

She also presented a list of surplus books. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the list and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

Police

Police Chief Studer reported the last criminal court had about 40 defendants and that should continue to rise with 3 police officers.

Officer Beaton was rated as a low risk officer based on his tests.

He requested at some point for Council to analyze the possibility of expanding or moving the Police Office. With 3 officers they don't have a lot of room in one office.

Spillman Software has been installed but probably won't be up and running until 2007. The City has paid \$4,300 on this software and will pay the remaining \$4,300 after we receive the \$4,300 grant from the County. The 2 cars that the Police Department is getting from the County should be here in June 2007 or so. One will probably be an Explorer and the other one a Crown Victoria.

Public Works Lead Bosch

Public Works Lead Bosch reported they will hopefully get the flashing light up at the new school in the near future.

Councilmember Simpson agrees with the new meter reading program that is budgeted for 2007.

Councilmember Gay suggested having Public Works Lead Bosch go to Yakima to comparison shop on mower/tractors.

Public Works Lead Bosch along with Jerry Harding from the school and Jan from the County are working together to put either a sidewalk or path from Road 81 to Clark Street.

Treasurer's Report

See reports handed out.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 06-037– Morfield/Flood Annexation – The public hearing was opened for comment on the Morfield/Flood Annexation. Our planner, Lisa Parks, introduced the ordinance and explained there are 2 tax parcels with approximately 10 acres and currently 2 homes on the land. There is 500 feet of frontage on the Kittitas Highway and they are proposing a 42 lot subdivision. Some public comment included providing more traffic signals for the increased traffic and possibly a path to the John Wayne Trail. The public hearing was closed and Councilmember

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

Gilmour moved to approve this annexation. Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

Ordinance 06-038 – Cole’s Crossing II/Guest Annexation – The public hearing was opened for comment on the Cole’s Crossing II/Guest Annexation. Again, our planner, Lisa Parks, introduced the ordinance and explained there are approximately 29 acres which will consist of about 121 houses. The public hearing was closed and Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this annexation. Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion and the motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 06-032 – 2007 Budget – The public hearing was opened for comment on the 2007 Budget. After several comments were made, including Councilmember Gilmour telling Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb “hey miss you are an employee and in 3 years when he (pointed to the Mayor) is gone the shoe will be on the other foot”, the budget ordinance was not approved with Councilmember Gay and Simpson yes and Councilmember Gilmour no. See additional comments made on page 5.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 2

Ordinance 06-039 – Amending Open Burning Ordinance – The public hearing was opened for comment. There were no comments so the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance 06-040 – Amending Garbage Ordinance – The public hearing was opened for comment. There were no comments so the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve this ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance 06-041 – Amending Weeds & Rubbish Ordinance – The public hearing was opened for comment. There were no comments so the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Approval of Bills – Checks #11380 to 11421 for \$46,478.92 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no. Check #11405 was voided.

Approval of Payroll – Checks #6880 to 6922 and 991261 to 991265 for \$40,541.52 were

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

Completed New Streets Project – Councilmember Gay moved to approve the New Streets Project Phase 2 as complete and Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Buried Hazardous Waste at WWTP – Council suggested having Public Works Lead Bosch look into the disposition of the hazardous waste at the WWTP.

Sidewalk Snow Removal – Council and Mayor Cousart agreed the City needs to start educating people that they are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their house of snow. The current ordinance on snow removal states the homeowner is responsible for their portion of the sidewalk.

May 2, 2002, Council Meeting – Donald Picatti with Picatti & Sons attended this Council Meeting and answered questions on the difference of pump stations and grinders for the WWTP. Council agreed that the grinder application was the best application for Wrangler Estates.

Wrangler Estates Lift Station – Councilmember Gilmour suggested having WWTP Operator Howard stop by the lift station weekly to clean it rather than just driving by it.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Judge Pay Increase – Councilmember Gay moved to approve the pay increase for Judge Chmelewski from \$750 per month to \$1,000 per month. Councilmember Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and 0 no.

At 9:50 p.m. the meeting was recessed from the public meeting to adopt a strategy for collective bargaining and back in session at 10:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION at 10:00 p.m.

Evaluation of an employee – no action taken
Back in session at 10:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gay moved to adjourn the December 12, 2006, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed 3 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

COMMENTS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER GILMOUR:

If we approve this budget we are giving every one of these employees in this town a blank check. Whatever they want to buy they go buy it and I think that is poor management.

Anybody in this City that wants to go buy something they just con him (points at the Mayor) into signing the deal and they go buy it.

How can I be responsible for anything this City does if they say I got \$500 and say I'm gonna buy a red and white spotted dog and just go buy it and that's the end of it.

The other thing is you can go to the hardware store and buy a shovel for \$10 but what keeps them (the employees) from going to town and buying a shovel with a fancy handle for \$250. They can do it. It is poor management.

What if everyone spends everything in their budget. Then we are broke.

Did anyone come to us when you bought the water truck?

Val bought a \$950 drill set and I saw it in the expense sheet. You can buy it now down at Lowe's for \$350 or \$400.

What is our job? What in the world are we suppose to do?

I do not agree on an ordinance that gives a blank check to every employee in the City.

I guess I didn't go to school long enough to make you understand anything.

Right now any employee in this City can buy anything they want as long as it is in their budget. Cecil's got his \$2,500 in here so he can run to town and buy all of his fancy do dads he wants in that truck that he has never used and the Mayor has asked him and asked him and asked him to go use that truck to see if there are any flaws in the Cole's Crossing sewer line – it snowed, it rained, he's sick, I've never seen the likes of it. I've never seen any employee – he's not working for the City – we are working for him.

There are no checks and balances on what anybody is buying. What if they all go overboard And this budget shrinks down to little of nothing.

I thought it was your job to oversee things (Councilmember Simpson). If you don't then don't.

You can get up and go home. (said to Councilmember Simpson)

I don't understand how you think. You can talk all day and it ain't gonna make any difference.