

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2007**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., March 13, 2007. Councilmembers present; Gilmour, Gay, Huber, Simpson, and Helland.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Chief Studer, Officer Beaton, Public Works Lead Bosch, and WWTP Operator Howard.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Helland moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2007, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed with 4 yes and 0 no. Councilmember Simpson abstained.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Maury Block, the office manager for Gray & Osborne, explained they had a meeting last week with the contractor, Western Engineering Constructors, and the City about the payment disagreement on the WWTP project. Gray & Osborne told the contractor they have two weeks to get in the cost of the claim to the City. The basis of the claim is the concrete structure. The contract states they have 30 days if doing work outside of the scope of the contract to report it to Gray & Osborne and another 30 days to report costs before any work is completed. As of today there is about \$30,000-\$40,000 in liquidated damages because of the contractor being late on the project. Every day additional costs them \$500 per day. The contractor agreed that the last claim of about \$123,000 they requested is a little inflated. A similar case was Johnson vs. City of Spokane and Johnson lost because of not notifying the City of the additional work needed in a timely manner. The contractor is doing a great job according to Gray & Osborne.

The bridge project is in TIB's hands right now and best case scenario is it will go out to bid March 20, 2007. The first section to be done will be Railroad Avenue to the bridge.

Library Board – Chairperson Marylou Gilmour passed out a draft policy on the Dora Cissell donation with Edward Jones. They will use approximately \$300 per year. They have ordered \$300 worth of children's books for this year. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve the draft policy on the Dora Cissell donation and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

A surplus list of books was also handed out and Councilmember Helland moved to approve this with Councilmember Gilmour seconding the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Police – In February the police officers attended training on a variety of procedures.

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The police department is at 456 calls for the year and the activity is increasing. When Officer Beaton and Officer Shuart are off Chief Studer would like to hire Eric Geary as a temporary. Officer Beaton will be attending the academy and Officer Shuart will be on sick leave for 8 weeks. There is an additional reserve that could also work for the City to help out. The long term reserve program will require more equipment to be purchased. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the hiring of a temporary officer while our officers are on leave. Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Chief Studer would like to go with a different style of uniform that is less expensive.

The County Commissioners had a study session on the proposed 3/10 of 1% sales tax increase. They will be setting up a board to evaluate our needs. Chief Studer explained to them he would like to hire another officer. He requested the Mayor send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners comparable to the letter the City of South Cle Elum wrote them. Councilmember Huber moved to have the Mayor write this letter and Councilmember Helland seconded this motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Public Works Lead Bosch – Jerry from Superior Paving called today and asked if we were interested in some grinding. Council suggested getting a price on it.

Public Works Lead Bosch told Gray & Osborne he is unhappy with the striping of Main Street and is requesting it be re-striped.

The public hearing for the comp plan and zoning will be March 27, 2007.

Councilmember Simpson asked if there is a conflict of interest between Doug Kempf who is a local contractor and also the Chair of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Simpson noticed Public Works Lead Bosch's wife helped him pump out the lift station last week and wanted to thank both of them. He also suggested the City sending Mrs. Bosch a thank you letter for helping the City.

WWTP Operator – WWTP Operator Howard checked on the status of the lift station pumps and they should be in next Monday or so. Only a few parts of the 2h pumps can be re-used.

They are running some tests down at the WWTP and things are moving well.

Treasurer's Report – See handout

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cancel of Duke Public Hearing – Mayor Cousart announced the cancellation of the Duke Public Hearing.

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NEW BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Rate Increase – The water/sewer ordinance rate increase states there is a 2% increase per year for inflation without Council approval. Further discussion will continue at the March 27th meeting.

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Use of General Facility Reserve Fund – Councilmember Gilmour suggested using the sewer budget for the purchase of the 3h pumps and not use the general facility reserve fund. Councilmember Huber moved to take the total cost of the 3h pumps from the general facility reserve fund and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. Councilmember Huber also explained the City should not make this a standard practice of using the general facility reserve fund. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour no.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of Bills – Checks #11596 to #11635 and #770207 for \$59,045.51 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes with Councilmember Gilmour voting no. Checks #11538, #11626, #11496, and #11581 were voided.

Approval of Payroll – Checks #7017 to #7030, #882071 to #882087, and #883071 to #883075 for \$39,650.80 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. Checks #882074 and #882077 were voided.

Approval of WWTP Pay Estimate #11 – Pay estimate #11 for the WWTP to Western Engineering for \$118,285.92 was moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Fire Chief – Mayor Cousart is still trying to get a hold of the one applicant that has applied for the Fire Chief position.

Plaque -- Council suggested checking with Alnita Engravers on a plaque for Fire Chief Hink.

Retirement Party -- retirement party for Fire Chief Hink is at Laura's Kitchen on Saturday, March 31, 2007, for coffee.

Grant Training Session -- There is a grant training session coming up on May 2nd and Mayor Cousart suggests Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb and possibly temporary Court Clerk Maria Cook go. Councilmember Simpson thinks we should outsource grants.

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Extreme Makeover -- Jim Morgan suggested Council request the TV program, Extreme Makeover, come to Kittitas and Council suggested possibly for Community Hall.

Paint Community Hall -- Mayor Cousart suggested we take up donations to paint the Community Hall. Also, the gazebo has been vandalized several times. Councilmember Huber suggested the sentencing for juveniles to be repairing the gazebo for their community service. Chief Studer suggested putting in steel tubing.

COG Meetings -- Councilmember Huber announced she is still attending COG meetings. Our planner, Lisa Parks, suggests the City continue going to these meetings.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Todd Keys -- Councilmember Helland explained that ex-Councilmember, Todd Keys, had a heart attack but is doing fine.

Fire Chief Candidate -- Councilmember Helland suggested Mayor Cousart call the Fire Chief candidate this evening to set up an interview.

Sophie Brown House -- Councilmember Huber is concerned about the Sophie Brown House and the vacant building on it.

Sid Duke -- Sid Duke is still interested in selling the property on First Street.

Dust Control -- Council suggested writing the owners of Cole's Crossing I, Contour Inc., a letter and asking them if they are willing to do some dust control until Spokane Street is paved.

Sign -- Councilmember Simpson suggested putting a white board possibly behind the City of Kittitas sign.

Councilmember Simpson -- Councilmember Simpson will be gone the middle of April until September due to military duties.

Water Rights -- Councilmember Gilmour suggested someone calling the City of Roslyn and asking how they got their grant for it.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gay moved to adjourn the March 13, 2007, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Robert E Cousart _____
Clerk/Treasurer _____