

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2007**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., March 27, 2007. Councilmembers present; Gilmour, Gay, Huber, Simpson, and Helland.

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

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Helland moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed with 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour – Old Business

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Jeff Stevens gave a report on the bridge/street project. Last week we advertised for a contractor and will have a walk thru with them this week. Next week bids will be opened. He explained costs appear to be exceeding available funding for the bridge/street project. There are two sources of funds – TIB and DOT. DOT has \$300,000 of funding which will be broken into its own schedule for the fish screen. TIB funds will be used for the street from the bridge south to I90. It is possible there will not be enough funding for this entire roadway so Gray & Osborne would like to break the roadway itself into two projects if the funds come up short. It is possible TIB might have \$125,000 in extra funding for an administrative increase. The design of the irrigation diversion was prepared by R2 Resource Consultants who are consultants for the Kittitas County Conservation District. Construction will start in August or September depending on how much of the project will be completed this year.

Western Engineering has reduced their claim on the WWTP Project to approximately \$60,000. Gray & Osborne will be negotiating further with them to reduce this further.

Jeff explained that Gray & Osborne doesn't have a lot of input into the maintenance of lift stations but the manufacturer will be sending an O&M Manual to WWTP Operator Howard. Jeff suggested having an electrical engineer, Pat Connelly, provide a proposal on the inspection of the Wrangler Lift Station. Councilmember Huber moved to have Gray & Osborne work with Pat Connelly to give the City a proposal on the maintenance of the Wrangler Lift Station and it was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Monday, March 26, 2007, the new WWTP started operation according to WWTP Operator Howard.

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Jeff also discussed water/sewer rate increases. He suggests doing a small annual rate increase rather than less often and having larger rate increases.

Police – All six police officers (which includes reserve officers) are now firearm certified.

There have been several weeds and rubbish tickets issued. With the change in the code last year, on the third offense a criminal citation is issued. Councilmember Simpson thanked Chief Studer for cleaning up the streets.

Our police department arrested a Kittitas resident last week on drug charges and attempted another arrest of an individual who was later caught by another agency.

A tenant of Arvin Marchel is complaining of her living conditions. Chief Studer is working with Labor & Industries on this. Councilmember Huber will contact the County Commissioners on this issue because the Health Department referred the tenant back to the City of Kittitas.

Chief Studer purchased a firearm from Sure Shot.

Officer Shuart will be on leave for his surgery starting Monday, April 2nd, for a couple of months. He might come back a little early for some light duty and code issues.

Auto Additions put in the equipment in the police vehicles. The Intrepid has had power problems for quite awhile now which nobody has been able to figure out. Last Tuesday when Chief Studer went to start the car it started smoking. Auto Additions picked up the car and dropped off a loaner at no charge. The Intrepid was returned Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

Public Works Lead Bosch – Public Works Lead Bosch suggested sending out a letter to the residents of Wrangler Estates explaining what should and should not be put down their drains.

Public Works Lead Bosch also went to the home show and looked at some ornamental iron for the Gazebo. He will check into the pricing on these.

At the Planning Commission meeting last night a public hearing was held for the comp plan amendment and zoning changes. This will be an ongoing project for the next month or so.

Kittitas Hardware quoted a little over \$500 for the paint for Community Hall.

Councilmember Simpson suggests that Mayor Cousart contact Carolyn Johnson about painting the mural on City Hall.

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Public Works Lead Bosch suggests charging a deposit to people who rent the Community Hall at no charge (non-profit groups). Councilmember Huber suggested writing a letter to the non-profit groups and letting them know they will be charged a cleaning fee if the hall isn't cleaned up after use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Rates Review – The City code states if no action is taken there will be a 2% annual increase. Councilmember Simpson moved to allow the increase and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voted no.

Councilmember Gilmour – He requested a written report given by WWTP Operator Howard on the maintenance of the Wrangler Lift Station.

NEW BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of Bills – Checks #11636 to #11662 for \$137,719.35 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes with Councilmember Gilmour voting no.

MAYORS REPORT

Roy Carbajal – Roy was the only applicant who applied for the part-time Fire Chief. The hiring committee was Councilmember Helland and Mayor Cousart. Councilmember Simpson moved to approve Roy Carbajal as the new part-time Fire Chief and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Chief Hink – It is tradition to give the retiring Fire Chief their helmet. Councilmember Simpson moved to surplus Chief Hink's helmet and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Burn Ban – The House will vote on the lift of the burn ban on Thursday.

Duke Property Grant – Public Works Lead Bosch explained Cynthia Stewart is keeping an eye out for grants for parks and the Duke Property.

Public Officials Workshop – This will be held on April 19, 2007, from 1 to 5 p.m. to discuss emergency planning.

