

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2007**

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., June 26, 2007. Councilmembers present; Gilmour, Gay, Sorenson, and Huber. Councilmember Simpson was absent.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Court Clerk Maria Cook, Assistant Clerk Kathy Jensen, WWTP Operator Howard, and Police Chief Mike Studer.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 12, 2007, meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2007, special meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Sorenson. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Larry Nickel – Big Box Stores
George Boetcher – IOOF Hall Model
Jerry Gilmour – Old Business

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – The Water Comp Plan is 60% complete and Jeff Stevens would like to have a study session with the Council next month.

Police Department – Chief Studer reported the Supreme Court made some rulings including increasing the price of traffic/non-traffic tickets. The local revenue share will increase \$1.90 per traffic infraction and \$2.18 for non traffic infraction.

We will be receiving \$200 from Aspen for grants on vests.

Public Works Lead Val Bosch – Public Works assistant Brenda Thoennes reported it would cost the City \$3,400 per truck load (covers 1 sq. mile) to spray the City streets with magnesium chloride.

Larry Nickel – Larry Nickel and a group of citizens would like to help the City of Kittitas with economic development. He explained his perception of big box in the Kittitas Valley is Wal-Mart and believes it would benefit the City of Kittitas best. He would also like to see a third freeway off ramp between Ellensburg and Kittitas. Mr. Nickel explained there are several economic reports etc. from the City of Ellensburg that could be useful for the City of Kittitas and believes we need to do regional planning since the County has let us down.

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George Boetcher – Mr. Boetcher is restoring the IOOF Building on Main Street and would like to know if the Council would make this building a historical building with an ordinance or resolution. This would allow the restoration to be done quicker and reduce the taxes.

He also explained he talked to the State Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation. They will be meeting in the area on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. and would like to tour the IOOF building. Mr. Boetcher would like them to meet with the City of Kittitas regarding the restoration of this building and suggested anyone interested to come.

Councilmember Huber suggested Mr. Boetcher putting his requests in writing to the City for tracking purposes. Councilmember Gay suggested we take this information we get in writing and pass it on to our attorney, planner, and building inspector.

WWTP Operator Howard – WWTP Operator Howard explained the WWTP upgrade is working well and now has about five times more of the testing than before the upgrade. The lift stations are also doing well and he is tracking them in a 24 hour period. He explained he would like to eventually upgrade the school lift station to 3 horse pumps. He now will have about six hours of lab work if things go right and suggests that the City eventually have an open house at the WWTP.

Treasurer's Report – See handouts

Aging Report – See handout

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Court Clerk Position and Training Opportunities – Councilmember Huber explained we need to know where the funds would come from. She also explained if this would happen some supervisory duties would have to be passed onto the Clerk/Treasurer. Councilmember Gay explained he wouldn't like to see us use our beginning balance. Councilmember Sorenson and Councilmember Gilmour agreed with this. Court Clerk Maria Cook explained there are several grants that will not be applied for without the extra help. She also explained the court has grown from 17 criminal cases in February to 55 criminal cases this month. The training that is coming up is for the discus/JIS system put on by the State of Washington and would only cost the City travel expenses. Chief Studer explained grant writing is very "dry" and difficult as he has written a few of his own for his department.

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WWTP Storage – The storage container would cost about \$1,950 which is in the budget.

Inspector for Subdivisions – The Mayor has spoken with Tom Chini and Tom Lyons regarding this inspector position. Tom Chini explained that he believes Public Works Lead Bosch is capable of doing the work along with some training. This is a pass thru cost. Councilmember Huber feels it is best to have an outside inspector and Councilmember Gay agreed.

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Public Works Lead Pay Increase – The Mayor explained Val Bosch received the title “Public Works Lead” around the first of the year and he is now requesting the pay that goes along with this title. Councilmember Gilmour explained he believes that Val Bosch is doing too much secretarial work. He explained if some of the safety issues are not addressed he will call our insurance company. Councilmember Huber doesn’t agree with giving a raise in the middle of the year and believes it should be only at negotiations time. Councilmember Gay suggested we let the Mayor supervise and not the Council. Councilmember Sorenson would like to know where the accountability is. Councilmember Huber moved to approve Public Works Lead Bosch leave a couple of hours early on meeting days to avoid overtime and Councilmember Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gilmour – He would like to know when the electrician will be looking at the lift station. The Mayor explained he will check into this.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Public Works New Hire – Councilmember Gay explained they interviewed three qualified candidates for the Public Works Assistant and suggests that Brenda Thoennes would be the best for this position. He moved to approve hiring her and Councilmember Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. This position would start at a step 19 at \$11.53 per hour and to \$12.59 in 6 months which would be step 21-B according to the union contract.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of Bills – Checks #11853 to 11878 for \$12,611.04 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voting no.

MAYORS REPORT

Ruth Townley Recognition – The Mayor suggested if we honor Ruth Townley it should be here at the Community Hall.

WWTP Dumping – The Mayor explained there has been some dumping at the WWTP without any donations. Councilmember Sorenson suggested making a sign saying “residential dumping only”. Pubic Works Assistant Thoennes explained she would make this sign.

Special Meeting on Bridge – Our engineer would like a special meeting to hire the contractor for the Bridge Project since time is running out.

