

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

Mayor Cousart called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., November 27, 2007.

Councilmembers present; Gilmour, Sorenson, Gay, Huber, and Camarata.

Staff present was City Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Police Chief Studer, Police Officer Shuart, WWTP Operator Howard, Court Clerk Maria Cook, Fire Chief Carbajal, and Public Works Lead Bosch.

Mayor Cousart led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2007, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Huber abstaining.

Councilmember Camarata moved to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2007, special meeting and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gay abstaining.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Jeff Stevens explained the water system plan is still being reviewed by the Department of Health.

Nancy Morter reported the WWTP project is just about closed out. The final change order ended up being \$65,800 approximately.

She also reported on the WWTP pumps that went down. The electrical installation on one of the pumps is under warranty. The seal failure on one of the other pumps isn't clear if it is warranty or not.

WWTP Operator Howard reported that the diagnostic on the pumps was completed by Picatti Brothers and the City paid over \$800 for this. Picatti Brothers said moisture got inside the pumps and one needs to be rewound. Nancy Morter explained this would be reimbursed to the City if in fact it is covered under warranty. The WWTP contractor's warranty would fall under the performance bond.

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Councilmember Huber moved to approve this change order #3 and expedite final payment to the WWTP contractor, Western Engineering. Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Mike Meskimen reported they are starting to put in the new bridge and everything is coming along. The County Cog application has been submitted to the County and they will be meeting on this tomorrow night.

TIB has recommended the grant for the dirt streets working with the Operating Engineers School be awarded to the City. If the City gets this grant, the school would provide the labor for free and the grant would cover the materials. The amount for the first year is about \$112,000.

Police Department – The City has been fairly quiet lately with not a lot of crime.

Public Works Lead Bosch – Public Works Lead Bosch reported a couple of years ago the City got a sign from Harvey Kresge and they would like to put it up at Community Hall.

He asked if one of the Councilmembers would like to help out with the dirt street TIB project.

WWTP Operator – With the colder temperatures the ammonia levels are rising. If this happens the bugs do not work as well. He will call DOE if it gets over a 2.0 ammonia level. Our permit with DOE is still an interim permit until they see how the new plant will work.

Delinquent Report – see handout

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tom Chini – City Inspector – He is retired from the City of Ellensburg in the public works department as the engineer after 30 years. He now works on his own for consulting and inspecting various projects. He explained how projects work for the City of Ellensburg. Councilmember Huber said we would contact our attorney to see what procedure we need to go through as far as advertising etc. and get back to him.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Code and Fees Revised – Mike Burtness, the building inspector, explained the City of Kittitas is obligated to adopt the 2006 building codes. He also explained our fees

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are old and need to be revised. The fees would increase the average permit for a new house by 25-28%. In addition, he suggested we charge \$74 per square foot for up to a 2,000 square foot house and \$89 per square foot for houses over 2,000 square feet. Also, he suggested charging \$35 for the permit issuance fee.

2008 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing – The public hearing was opened. After some discussion, the public hearing was closed and turned over to Council for discussion.

Councilmember Gilmour suggested the police budget is extremely high and the City can't afford it. Councilmember Huber explained because of public outcry in 2006, Council agreed to hire a 3rd police officer.

She also explained her priority is police and fire protection. She believes with shortages it is hard to justify supporting a library and asked Chairperson Marylou Gilmour if there are any more cuts the library can make to their budget. Chairperson Marylou Gilmour explained the Doris Cecil donation/Edward Jones Fund is earmarked for children's books. Councilmember Sorenson explained the Council is making the decisions for the citizens and he believes that the police and fire departments are a major priority to them. Councilmember Gay believes each department should go back through their budgets and reduce them. Council agreed to continue the budget to the next meeting and have the final budget public hearing on December 11, 2007.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1 – 8:03 P.M.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of Bills – Checks #12197 to #12217 for \$215,995.13 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Sorenson. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voting no.

MAYORS REPORT

TIB Grant – The Mayor reported the TIB sidewalk grant that the City applied for was turned down.

Christmas Party – The Christmas Party will be at Robin Newcomb's, 1901 Badger Pocket Road, on December 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to City Hall if you are coming and able to bring a salad or dessert etc.

Union Contract – It was confirmed by the Union that the employee's wages cannot be frozen since the contract has already been passed.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION

ADJOURN

Councilmember Huber moved to adjourn the November 27, 2007, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Attest: Robert E Cousart _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____