

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008**

Mayor Arington called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., February 19, 2008. Councilmembers present; Huber, Gay, Gilmour, and Camarata.

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

Mayor Arington led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gay – Economic Development

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Library Board – Chairperson Marylou Gilmour reported the “Cup of Cocoa and a Book to Go” project was a success. Kids drank cocoa while making crafts and a total of over 100 children were in attendance.

The library board is requesting a change in their policy on hours of operation for the library. Councilmember Huber moved to approve this change and Councilmember Gilmour seconded it. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

April 16, 2008, will be when the next regional library meeting will be held. Chairperson Gilmour and Library Manager Maxine Steele attended the recent meeting.

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the surplus list handed out by Chairperson Gilmour and Councilmember Gilmour seconded it. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

A letter was received from Charlene Wilkes regarding the budget impact of the library.

Police Department – Chief Studer explained they have had a report of a mother and two missing children. Apparently the mother has left the state with the children against CPS rules.

In addition, Chief Studer would like to get the 3rd officer hired permanent full-time. Our

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008**

city attorney, Katherine Kenison, explained to the audience the legal issues involved with Proposition 2 which is the 3/10's sales tax increase that was passed last year. Some points she made were:

- the county adopted the ordinance to collect the additional 3/10 of 1% sales tax
- the county keeps 60% of it and the cities get 40% of it
- we cannot use this money for existing expenses
- 1/3 of this money must be used for criminal justice services which does include overtime for existing police officers and making part time positions full time
- the remaining funds are to be used for public safety purposes
- there is no requirement to spend the money immediately (it can be saved for future use)
- some suggestions were to fill the 4th officer position, make the court clerk full time, add an additional court date, or save the money for a later time
- the council has an obligation for the decision and expenditure of the money
- the estimate for the first year is was originally approximately \$42,000 but according to Catherine Clerf it will be much less that this due to declining development

Several citizens and Councilmembers spoke and gave their opinions on this subject.

Catherine Clerf explained she was the chairperson of the Citizens Committee on proposition 2 and said the revenues from this sales tax increase will only trickle in for the first 1 ½ years and to not depend too much on this revenue.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

February 18, 2008, the county land use committee gave the state 88 days to find our county either in compliance with their policies and procedures.

Public Works Lead Bosch – There will be a meeting tomorrow on the STP funds. Public Works Lead Bosch will find out why our city was not granted this funding.

The Benton Street Lift Station pump went out over the weekend but is back up and running. Apparently there was a problem with a moisture switch.

The state parks is working on the John Wayne Trail Bridge and cleaning up the area.

Treasurer's Report – There was some discussion on the negative January 2008 balance. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the January water/sewer interfund loan transfer for the amount of \$20,000 and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Council agreed to monitor and determine the amount of the loan on a monthly basis.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008**

Council agreed to do the fund transfers quarterly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hiring WWTP Trainee – There were several candidates for the WWTP Trainee position. There will be three candidates interviewed for the job. A decision should be made by next week. Councilmember Gilmour disagrees in hiring for this position because of the budget. Councilmember Huber explained we have to be in DOE compliance. Office staff will contact the chosen candidates and set up interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Pro Tem Mayor for 2008 – Councilmember Huber moved to approve Councilmember Gay as Pro Tem Mayor for 2008 and Councilmember Camarata nominated Councilmember Gilmour. There were 2 votes for Councilmember Gay and 2 votes for Councilmember Gilmour. Mayor Arington broke the tie voting for Councilmember Gay.

Fire Department Surplus List – Councilmember Camarata moved to approve the Fire Department surplus list and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. Our city attorney explained as long as we are receiving fair market value we do not need to go out to bid. Councilmember Huber moved to table this motion and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Council agreed to check with MRSC on getting a policy in place for surplus inventory.

Bank Accounts – Signers – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve Mayor Arington, Councilmember Huber, and Councilmember Gay as check signers for all City of Kittitas bank accounts and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Accept Councilmember Sorenson Resignation – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this resignation and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Mayor Arington suggested having an ad put in the paper for a new Councilmember.

Court Clerk Job Posting – The court clerk is currently looking for a full time job and Council agreed it is premature to advertise yet.

Gray & Osborne Amendment #4 to engineering agreement – Councilmember Huber

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008**

moved to approve this agreement and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay/Economic Development – He explained he met with Bob Hansen who is with the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce which really serves the entire county. Mr. Hansen is developing a packet for developers state wide which covers all of Kittitas County. Councilmember Gay suggested having Mr. Hansen coming to one of our council meetings to explain this process and Council agreed.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of January Payroll and February Draws – Checks #7183 to #7195, #880181 to #880195, and #990271 to #990274 for \$41,380.07 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Checks #7196 to #7236 were voided.

Approval of Bills – Checks #12235 to #12375 and #770131 for \$152,955.61 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Job Descriptions/Evaluations – Mayor Arington explained he will be working on job descriptions and job evaluations in the future. These are currently not up to date. Katherine Kenison explained job evaluations are not public record but closed disciplinary actions can be public record.

Rios Family Home – Mr. Rios contacted the city and explained he is currently looking for someone to demolish his house that burned down.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 2

Memo from Mayor Arington – He explained if any councilmember or employee has a problem with an employee, they need to come to him since he is the supervisor of all employees.

Tom Chini – Mayor Arington explained Tom Chini cannot afford the insurance coverage suggested by our city attorney. Another option agreed upon would be to hire him as a part time employee. Council agreed on this. Mayor Arington will contact him to see what

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008**

hourly rate he is expecting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Cascade Irrigation District LID – Councilmember Gilmour explained that Cascade Irrigation District wants to put an LID on surrounding property owners.

Councilmember Huber/LUPA – Katherine Kenison explained that an order has been entered for February 25th regarding the Cole’s Crossing II LUPA decision. They will ask for reconsideration first. The city can only recuperate the statutory fees which are currently about \$200.

Councilmember Gilmour/Benton Street Lift Pump – Councilmember Gilmour explained that WWTP Operator Howard told him that he believes it is brand name of the pumps that is the issue. They are not a high quality of pump.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Camarata moved to adjourn the February 19, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Arington _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____