

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008**

Mayor Arington called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., February 26, 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 Gilmour moved to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Huber moved to amend the agenda and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – We discussed the Operating Engineers Street Project and are waiting on some information from our engineers on engineering costs and fuel costs. Etc. Resolution 08-001r and the Hold Harmless Agreement both need Council approval but some revisions might need to take place on both of these documents and city staff meets with the Operating Engineers tomorrow. These documents will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Police Department – Lyda Davis, a citizen of Kittitas, explained she would like to see another officer hired with proposition 2 (3/10 of 1% sales tax increase). Mayor Arington explained to the audience what our attorney stated at the prior council meeting and how this monies will only trickle in over the next 1 ½ years.

Chief Studer reported after a quiet January there have been more than 4 juveniles arrested for vandalism, two children taken out of state by a parent when not allowed, and a suicide.

Delinquent Report – See handout

Bob Hansen and Ron Cridlebaugh Of Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce – There are a variety of services that the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce offers. The

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008**

Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce isn't just for Ellensburg but all of Kittitas County. A few of these services are helping businesses with marketing plans, promoting the community, and operating a visitor information center in Ellensburg. The Chamber has several committees for a variety of programs, special events, and business lunches in addition to the other services listed above.

The Chamber is also working on a convention bureau.

Bob Hansen explained they are working on bringing family wage jobs into the community. He believes we have a quality of life that other areas in Washington do not. They are putting together a program of all of the amenities and meeting with the Tri Cities in April to get help with this. The objective is to put together a package to meet everyone's needs. He would like to get some of our council members to attend this meeting in the Tri Cities. He believes industrial growth will be more likely than commercial in the City of Kittitas. The Chamber also contacts our legislators in Olympia on issues. They meet at the Chamber office the 2nd Thursday at noon every month.

Because the Chamber of Commerce now involves the entire county, it was suggested they change their name to show this representation and partnership. Councilmember Gay moved for the city to join the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Cascade Land Conservancy – Skip Swenson explained Cascade Land Conservancy is Washington's largest independent conservation organization. They originated in 1989 and conserve about 140,000 acres of mainly timber and agricultural land. They are interested in conserving working lands. They are not an environmental organization. The county has hired them to develop a transfer of development rights program. The idea is for the owner to sell off the development right but keep ownership and all of the other rights of the land. The purchaser of this right can build more than what the zoning allows because of this ownership. When a land owner sells these rights the value of the land will go down along with the taxes associated with it.

This process is allowed under the GMA as an innovative technique.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

One of the benefits to the city would be amenity funds from the county paid to the city to offset additional costs. This county program should be completed sometime in the fall.

Our planner, Lisa Parks, explained in an agreement like this, the city would define what is beneficial to the city and asked Council to keep an open mind of this opportunity.

She also explained the planning commission is updating the subdivision and SEPA codes

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008**

working on getting an update of the hearings board on the appeal of the UGA. Joyce Phillips, the regional planner for the City of Kittitas, explained CTED agrees with our position of expanding this area of the UGA.

Lisa believes there should be better communication between us, our attorney, and the county.

Councilmember Huber explained she talked with Mike Jackson today and retail development in the south end of Kittitas and he explained their concern is with this UGA appeal.

Public Works Lead Bosch – Public Works Lead Bosch explained they have a meeting tomorrow with the Operating Engineers. The price on asphalt they received is \$56 per ton and will come from the west side. Council suggested having Gray & Osborne look into the travel distance this asphalt will make.

He attended an STP funding meeting and some possibilities next year would be to re-seal Main Street to Benton Street on Patrick Avenue.

Kittitas County will be widening Kittitas Highway with the STP funds and putting in a bike lane. The City of Ellensburg received funds for Dollarway.

Puget Sound Energy will be giving us a rebate of about \$1,800.

There is a grant for a bicycle safety route that is coming up as a possibility.

Dave Gardner with ASPI is starting excavation on his building next to Curly's.

Council agreed to not put the court hours on the new sign.

WWTP – Mayor Arington recommended to not approving the purchase of a pickup truck for the water/sewer fund. Council agreed. He also explained that the Fire Department has a pickup to surplus and this would be a possibility for the water/sewer fund to purchase.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Advertising for Project Inspector – We will need to advertise for the project inspector since we are hiring the position as a part time employee. Council agreed to this policy.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008**

Councilmember Position – We have received one letter so far from Dan Sherman on the open council position. Council agreed to have it put in the paper again with the cutoff to be March 6 and interviews to be held on March 11.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 08-002 Revised USDA Bond – Since the loan amount from USDA on the WWTP won't be as much as anticipated, the bond needs to be revised. The public hearing was opened for discussion. The public hearing was closed and Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve Ordinance 08-002 and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance 08-003 2008 Budget Amendments – The public hearing was opened for discussion. The public hearing was closed and Councilmember Huber moved to approve ordinance 08-003 and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of Bills – Checks #12376 to #12394 and #770214 for \$8,960.56 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Loans – Mayor Arington suggested consolidating some of the loans the city has. Councilmember Gay suggested helping the city in this consolidation process.

Transferring of Assets – Councilmember Huber explained that one fund cannot benefit from another, therefore, if the water/sewer fund purchases the Fire Department pickup there needs to be a transfer of funds.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 2

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Surplus of Equipment – Councilmember Huber explained that when equipment is surplus there is policy to follow.

State Library Commission – Councilmember Camarata stated there is possibly a state library commission being formed in Olympia.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008**

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gilmour moved to adjourn the February 26, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Arington _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____