

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2008**

Mayor Arington called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., September 23, 2008. Councilmembers present: Alvord, Turpin, Gay, Gilmour, and Camarata.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Assistant Clerk Kathy Jensen, and Police Chief Mike Studer. A contingent of citizens were present for this meeting.

Mayor Arington led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Councilmember Gay – Unfinished Business/Wastewater Treatment Plant Funding
- B. Jessica Gleason – Nierman message
- C. Mrs. Nicholas – Children Riding Bicycles

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Police Department – Officer Nierman has passed his state certification. Also, the Sheriff's Office will help some with coverage but not without a cost to the City. He also explained we need to be cautious using the 3/10's funds. He would like to hire a part-time secretary in his office with these funds. Chief Studer will try to do some education at the school with children crossing streets. There also was some discussion on how we can use the 3/10's funds. The City needs to get some advice from the attorney.

Fire Department – Mayor Arington explained the Fire Department needs an AED on at least one vehicle. He instructed Chief Carbajal to go ahead and purchase this AED for one vehicle since it is in his budget.

Treasurer's Report -- See handout

Delinquent Report – See handout

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jessica Gleason – Jessica Gleason read a letter for the Nierman family explaining their grief with Officer Nierman's layoff. She also explained the new coalition committee met

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last night regarding the UGA. There was continued discussion between Council and the public on why the layoffs had happened and where the City's budget is going.

Mrs. Nicholas – She explained she was working at Johnny's Serv U the day the little girl was hit by a car and would like to see something done with these small children. Helmets are available for free at City Hall.

Gambling Tax – This will be continued to the next meeting.

Fire Department Grant Committee – Mayor Arington explained he is looking for a citizen from the community on the Fire Department Grant Committee. Jessica Gleason volunteered for this position. This will be continued to the next meeting.

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Wastewater Treatment Plant – Jeff Gay – Councilmember Gay explained a fine screen is needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for \$335,000. He explained to the audience that there is still \$10,000 in grant money available on this project. Operator Howard would like to see the bird screen and ATS monitor purchased with these funds. Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Mayor to work with Operator Howard on using this left over grant money. Councilmember Alvord seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised Ordinance 08-020 – 2008 Budget Amendment #6 – The public hearing was opened for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this revised ordinance and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Dave Arnold – Variance for Chickens – Dave Arnold is requesting to have chickens within the City limits. It is unclear whether he is in the correct zoning for animals. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the allowance of chickens if the zoning code allows it and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. Mayor Arington explained to Mr. Arnold that he would get an answer to him within the next three days.

Budget Committee – Mayor Arington explained he would like to see two Councilmembers on a budget committee with himself and Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb. The Mayor also suggested this committee continue to function as a financial committee, meeting at least once quarterly to study fiscal conditions of the City. Councilmember Turpin and Councilmember Camarata have volunteered for this committee. Fridays

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might be a good time for these meetings.

Law & Justice Council – Pat Alvord – Mayor Arington appointed Councilmember Alvord to the Law & Justice Council and she agreed.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of September Bills – Checks #12765 to #12792 and #770831 for \$59,845.08 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Budget Discussion – Mayor Arington explained we currently have a 2009 deficit of around \$60,000 in the current expense fund. The new budget committee will be meeting to discuss the 2009 budget.

Utility Tax -- Adopting a utility tax is one possibility to help the 2009 deficit. Council agreed to create an ordinance on a 10% utility tax. The ordinance will be proposed for a future meeting.

Water/Sewer Rates – There was discussion on raising the water and sewer rates for the 2009 budget.

Office Hours – The new office hours will be Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays. There will be other adjustments within the City because of the employee layoffs. Councilmember Alvord would like the departments that are affected by the layoffs to create their own volunteer rosters.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Community Hall Bathroom – Councilmember Gay explained because of Councilmember Gilmour's volunteering there is a new Community Hall bathroom.

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Palmiero Park – Councilmember Gilmour asked who is taking care of Palmiero Park. Councilmember Turpin explained there are grants available for park equipment and he is working on this.

Economic Development Group – Councilmember Turpin explained he was appointed to the board of the Economic Development Group. It is a group of individuals to promote

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economic growth. He would like to see Council revise some old city ordinances. Another issue he would like addressed is another street going into Rainier Estates for safety issues.

UGA – Mayor Arington explained once we have the go ahead on the Gibb UGA, we will proceed with the annexation.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the September 23, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at p.m.

Attest: Mayor Arington

Clerk/Treasurer
