

Amendments
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City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2008

Mayor Arington called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., November 11, 2008. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, Alvord, and Gay.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb.

Mayor Arington led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2008, workshop and Councilmember Alvord seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- Councilmember Gay – Dog and business licenses
- Councilmember Alvord – Community Hall
- Councilmember Gilmour -- Budget

Ordinance 08-024 2008 Budget Amendment #8 was stricken from the agenda. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the revised agenda and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Library Board – Chairperson Marylou Gilmour passed out a statistic report on the library. Computer usage is down.

The library received a donation last month in memory of Gary Gleason Sr. and will use this money for DVD's and some collections.

They have received 150 items donated last month and processed 50. Things are going well with the volunteer help.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the surplus list and Councilmember Alvord seconded it. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Staff Reports-- See handout from public works.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Gilmour – He would like to give the city back his councilmember pay.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases – Council agreed to create a resolution stating any purchases of the city over \$800 would need 3 bids.

Dog and Business Licenses – Councilmember Gay would like to see dog licenses go to \$15 a dog and if not spayed or neutered the fee would be \$40. Council agreed. He also would like to see business licenses increased \$10 per step and Council also agreed on this.

Community Hall – Councilmember Alvord suggested \$15 per event. Mayor Arington suggested possibly thinking of allowing alcohol.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of October Payroll and November Draws – Checks #7344 to #7355, #881081 to #881092, and #991181 to #991183 for \$32,517.65 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Turpin. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Approval of November Bills – Checks #12853 to #12876 for \$39,193.57 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Turpin and seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Court – Our attorney offered to write up the interlocal agreement and the county agreed. The city will be meeting with the county Wednesday, November 12, at 9:00 a.m.

Fire Department – Councilmember Turpin explained some other small cities are paying about \$250 per month to their fire chief. The new fire chief will be hired in 2009 as an advertised position. Councilmember Gay proposed \$2,500 per year for the fire chief salary. Council agreed to offset this with dog and business licenses.

Proposed 2009 Budget – Councilmember Turpin suggested using the short lived asset reserve for the saw in the water/sewer budget. This is being checked on with USDA RD who required this short lived asset account.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

Non-Union cost of living raises – Councilmember Turpin would like to cancel all cost of living raises including union raises and to take a chance of a lawsuit by the union. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Councilmember Turpin also stated he believes the clerk/treasurer annual salary review isn't accurate as it is based on the AWC annual salary survey and he believes it should be based on other city budgets and not population. The AWC survey categorizes cities according to population. His interpretation was the

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clerk/treasurer was giving herself a 9% raise but it was explained that raises cannot be implemented without being approved through council action in the minutes.

2009 Budget Workshop – Council agreed on a workshop for the 2009 budget on Thursday, November 20, at 6:00 at City Hall.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Parks – Councilmember Turpin explained the meetings are continuing on the parks discussion.

Economic Development Group – Councilmember Turpin asked Council how they think the group should handle economic development.

Police Vehicles – Councilmember Alvord is currently working on surplusung police vehicles.

Budget Projection – Councilmember Alvord suggested looking at a city plan over several years.

Maintenance on Pump Stations – Councilmember Gilmour asked how WWTP Howard is able to do the maintenance on the pump stations if he has a back problem. Mayor Arington explained WWTP assistant Larry Jackson assists him.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Alvord moved to adjourn the November 11, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Turpin. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Arington
Clerk/Treasurer




UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Gilmour-“I would gladly give the City back my \$50.00 a month, but I guess I would like to keep some restrictions on how it’s spent. When this city started down in it’s dark hole, it started for the first time in the history of Kittitas it started with ‘when it’s in the budget, spend it’. It got spent and it got spent real quick. Before the Council had a say in it. If it goes over five hundred dollars the Council talked about it and said yes or no. If we can’t do that again or do something, maybe that’s not the right answer. But what is going to keep this from happening again. I don’t never want to ever see this happen again. And... when it was in the budget spend it. I was setting here like a bump on a log, I seen Val drive down the road in a water truck and I said to Tiny, ‘where did he get that rig?’ ‘He bought it!’ And I’m on the council and... there has to be some checks and balances and if were just going to set here and watch the money go out the (door), I feel I just as well go home. Cause I’m not helping Kittitas a bit. We gotta have some checks and balances so this doesn’t ever happen again. If there is you can have my money for the rest of the year, or however long I am around.”

Begins to discuss another matter, but holds for latter discussion.

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers Gay, Alvord, Gilmour, and Mayor Arington.

((Time required for transcription: 25 mins.))

NEW BUSINESS

Purchases- Council agreed to create a resolution stating any purchases of the city over \$800 would need 3 bids. Mayor Arington stated that he would develop a memo the next morning (Nov12) outlining purchases and bring a resolution back to the Council for action “next month.”

((Time required for transcription: 12 mins.))

MAYORS REPORT

Non-Union cost of living raises-((Comments: Initial discussion summed up within reason by existing notes on page two of minutes. Much discussion was centered upon other cities in comparison to the City of Kittitas.))

Amend as follows: Councilmember Turpin expressed concern that proposed 3% salary increase would be “just under \$40,800.00” while the proposed Budget reflected \$43,000.00 for clerk treasurer’s position. This would amount to a 9.2% increase. He questioned why the cushion was necessary. Discussion ensued between council members and clerk with the result being a further line break down of proposed budget.

Mayor requested further breakdown of proposed budget.

((Time to review: 30 mins.))

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Parks-Councilmember Turpin explained the meetings are continuing on the parks discussion.

Add the following gist: There are plans to hold a formal meeting in January. There has been good response from members of the community.

((Time to review tape: 8 mins.))

Comment: Total time spent to recover these corrections was 75 mins. This is unrealistic to expend this much time on minutes. I found nothing glaringly wrong with the gist as prepared. Council must discover how additions/amendments to the minutes can be completed in a more timely manner.

Faithfully submitted,


Stephen R. Arington, Mayor