

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2008**

Mayor Arington called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., December 9, 2008. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, Gay, and Alvord.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Police Chief Studer, and WWTP Operator Howard.

Mayor Arington led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the revised minutes from the November 11, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the minutes with one change on the Operating Engineer Grant to 0% match from the November 25, 2008, regular meeting and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2008, special meeting and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

TIB Grants – New Business

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Public Hearing – Ordinance 08-029 – Revised Subdivision Code/Title 16 – The public hearing was opened for discussion at 7:10 p.m. The city planner, Lisa Parks, explained the revisions of the subdivision code including adding an item for dust abatement. This has been approved by the state without comments. The public hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m. Councilmember Alvord moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Library Board – Chairperson Marylou Gilmour reported the library has been maintaining its traffic.

They have been busy processing books.

There still are several volunteers helping out at the library.

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

Police Department – Chief Studer explained his office volunteer has resigned as of today.

He also explained it is possible we might lose an officer.

Court -- Mayor Arington explained today was the last day of our municipal court.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement on Jail Services – Chief Studer explained the county explained to them there is some legal language that needs to be included in this agreement. This has been rescheduled to the December 23, 2008 meeting.

Interlocal Agreement on Police Coverage/Sheriff's Department – This has been rescheduled to the December 23, 2008 meeting also.

Interlocal Agreement on Municipal Court – After some discussion, Councilmember Gay moved to approve the interlocal agreement and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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Non-Union Cost of Living Raises – Councilmember Gay moved to not approve cost of living raises for non union employees and will be revisited by June 2009.

Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. Resident Linda Huber explained there has only been an increase in the clerk/treasurer position from January 2005 to present of \$118 per year for both salary and benefits.

Councilmember Alvord moved to approve thanking the non union positions for their hard work and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 08-023– Water/Sewer 12% Utility Tax – The public hearing was opened for discussion at 7:37 p.m. Some discussion included:

Brenda Allemand, 111 Railroad Ave., Kittitas, WA – She still has an issue with the 12% utility tax showing separate for the water and for the sewer.

Marylou Gilmour, 608 N Spokane St., Kittitas, WA – Her concern is the high percent of this tax.

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Mayor Arington explained the city is playing catch up. The public hearing was closed at 7:43 p.m. Councilmember Alvord moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. Councilmember Turpin explained he isn't comfortable with the amount of the interfund loan payment still in the 2009 budget. Councilmember Gilmour would like to know what has happened with the union contract. Mayor Arington has already sent a letter to local 760 requesting the opportunity to renegotiate the 2009 salary schedule for bargaining unit members He suggested possibly filing bankruptcy. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Turpin and Councilmember Gilmour voting no.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 08-028– 2009 Final Budget – The public hearing was opened for discussion at 7:55 p.m. Some discussion was as follows:

Fred Huber, 403 N Mason, Kittitas, WA – He explained the 12% increase in the utility tax might not be enough for 2009 and those councilmembers not voting in support of it should bring concrete ideas on how to balance the budget. The public hearing was closed at 7:57 p.m. Mayor Arington reminded the council and audience that the budget is only a guideline. Councilmember Gay explained everyone has worked hard on this 2009 budget. Councilmember Gilmour explained this 12% increase is going to be hard on the citizens.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

Councilmember Camarata explained the street department, city hall, fire department, police department are all hurting. Councilmember Turpin explained some departments made cuts and other departments didn't make good enough cuts. Councilmember Alvord moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Turpin and Councilmember Gilmour voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Complaint – Mayor Pro-Tem stepped in for this issue and Councilmember Alvord took the minutes during this issue (see attached).

Fire Chief Appointment – Interim Fire Chief Hink read his letter of resignation as of December 15, 2008. Councilmember Gay recommended to advertise for this position. Interim Fire Chief Hink explained volunteers Schauer, Hanby, and Steele have resigned. Our fire department has four active and five semi- active volunteers. Councilmember Gay explained the county has discussed with council in the past the cost associated with the county taking over the fire department and the coverage they would give us. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve posting the fire chief position and

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Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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TIB Grants – Councilmember Alvord moved to approve acceptance of the Patrick to Railroad Sidewalk Grant for south Main Street. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the acceptance of the Operating Engineer Project Street Overlay Grant. Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of November Payroll, 2008 Volunteer Fire Department Payroll, and December Draws – Checks #7356 to #7365, #12903 to #12915, #881181 to #881192, and #991281 to #991283 for \$33,251.85 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Turpin and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Approval of December Bills – Checks #12916 to #12932, and #771114 for \$23,212.63 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Alvord and seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Court – Mayor Arington explained the county will take over the court January 1, 2009. Court Clerk Veronica Acevedo is currently working on this process

Union – A letter was mailed to the union requesting a meeting with the Local and representatives of the bargaining unit to discuss re-negotiating the contract for 2009.

Sander – Public Works Lead Bosch has repaired the sander.

Johnny's Serv-U – **There** is possibly a new owner for Johnny's Serv-U.

TAPE 2 SIDE 1

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Employee Overtime – Councilmember Gilmour questioned the 15 minutes of overtime for Larry Jackson.

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Water Rights – The question arose whether it would be a conflict of interest keeping Larry Martin as the water rights attorney.

Elderly/Low Income Assistance – Councilmember Gay would like to get some information into the office regarding low income/elderly assistance.

December 23 agenda – Councilmember Alvord would like a Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee formed at the next council meeting Citizens Linda Huber and Tina Morefield volunteered for this committee.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the December 9, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Arington

Clerk/Treasurer
