

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2009**

Mayor Huber called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., July 14, 2009. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, Gay and Alvord.

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

Mayor Huber led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Alvord and Councilmember Gay explained there was confusion on the approval of these minutes. Councilmember Camarata explained he doesn't believe in verbatim minutes and thinks they should be removed entirely and Councilmember Turpin agreed. Councilmember Alvord explained that is fine with her but then council needs to approve the minutes as presented unless there is proof there is an error in them.

Councilmember Gilmour explained he wants it stated in the minutes that he has never voted for the remodel of City Hall. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2009, regular meeting. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour – Unfinished Business

Councilmember Turpin – Fireworks/New Business

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Gayetta Hink, 206 Railroad Ave – She is curious about the weeds on the road. Mayor Huber explained the city employees will start taking care of them as soon as they can.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Mike Meskimen explained Schedule C on the Caribou Creek Bridge Project was funded by TIB and is complete. Schedule A is the road and bridge and is funded by TIB and COG. The construction on schedule A is finished and came in under budget. Schedule B is the diversion consolidation portion and was funded by FRIMA and DOT.

The screen was installed by MRM Construction and Doug Gibb, the owner, removed it. Because this is his property, he will be responsible to re-install it. Mike Meskimen explained Department of Fish & Wildlife will require him to re-install this at some point.

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There is approximately \$36,000 left over of the COG money and we will have to check with the county to see how this money can be spent.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Caribou Creek Bridge Schedule A Change Order #9 for bridge backfill material in the amount of \$12,000 and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the Caribou Creek Bridge Schedule D Change Order #10 for the water main in the amount of \$67,485.07 and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Alvord moved to approve the Gray & Osborne Caribou Creek Bridge Schedule B Contract Amendment #2 for \$60,000 and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the Gray & Osborne Caribou Creek Bridge Schedule B Contract Amendment #3 for \$9,000 and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Gray & Osborne engineering agreement on the DOE WWTP Project for \$35,595 contingent on acceptance on the DOE contract and Councilmember Alvord seconded the motion. The motion failed.

**7:30 P.M. -- EXECUTIVE SESSION- 30 MINUTES – WARM SPRINGS CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS**

8:00 P.M. – MAYOR HUBER ANNOUNCED AN EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES

8:10 P.M. – MAYOR HUBER ANNOUNCED THE RECONVENE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

No action was taken in executive session.

Library Board – Chairperson Terry Leader explained there are 41 kids enrolled in the summer reading program.

Friends of the Library will be serving hotdogs and root beer floats during the Cruisin for Kittitas Car Show.

He asked when City Hall uses the Community Hall during the remodel will the Library Fund still have to pay ½ of the costs of the building. The cost allocation will be revisited at that time.

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

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Public Works Lead Bosch – He explained he has a meeting Tuesday with Kittitas County Solid Waste regarding our burn pile.

He keeps reminding the State Parks the bridge on the John Wayne Trail needs to be repaired.

The Operating Engineers Paving Project is now finished. Lakeside Industries, the Operating Engineers School, and Gray & Osborne all gave us a credit on their billing as the project went over budget. He and Mayor Huber are working on thank you notes to the students of the school.

Police Department – Chief Studer reported the Interlocal Agreement with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office needs to be moved to the next meeting as the CTED Grant isn't available yet. Chief Studer would like to pay \$12,000 to the county for 2009 services with this CTED Grant. Councilmember Gilmour asked why are we paying them when our attorney says it is a county requirement to cover us and we don't have to pay them. At this time there is no agreement with the county. Councilmember Alvord asked why we are being asked to do an Interlocal Agreement now when there hasn't ever been one in the past. She wondered if we are obligated to pay the County and also asked how they work with other cities in the County. The question was asked if the County is obligated to provide us this service at no charge. Chief Studer explained it is a gray area. Our city attorney says it is required but the County disagrees with this. Councilmember Alvord asked why this Interlocal Agreement is needed. Chief Studer explained the CTED grant funds will be used for it. Council chose earlier in the year to hire a code enforcement officer in place of this Interlocal Agreement. Now that there are more funds with the CTED Grant, it is still possible to do an Interlocal Agreement. It is unsure how they would be paid after this year.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1 AT 8:30 P.M.

Dave Gardner who owns the ASPI building on south Main Street will rent it for \$1,000 per month during the City Hall remodel. This would be taken out of the USDA RD loan/grant monies.

There have been 14 code violations since the last meeting and the problem has been bank foreclosures and finding the owner of the property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hiring of Building Inspector – Councilmember Camarata recommended hiring Michele Geiger as the part-time building inspector at \$35 per hour with no health or retirement benefits. The Mayor and Councilmember Camarata interviewed the applicant the prior week and both feel she is well qualified.

Council Policy on Contacting Outside Agencies – Councilmember Alvord moved to table this discussion to the next meeting. No second is required. Council voted 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gilmour – He explained he talked to a city manager about his city being sued because the mayor didn't allow a council member to be heard after the mayor filed a complaint on him.

He would also like to know where the money is coming from within the budget for the new WWTP employee,

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Brenda Thoennes, when she works in the street department. The mayor explained she will only be used in emergency situations in the street department. If it pertains to water, it will come out of the water/sewer department budget.

He would like to know where Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb's excess wages will come from and also if the position goes hourly where in the budget this would come from. We will check with the union representative on this position having to go mandatory hourly. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained she is under budget and has plenty of room for her \$27.35 per month raise.

Mayor Huber explained union negotiations will start soon and the entire council would like to be involved this year. This will require an open public meeting and executive session with every meeting of the negotiations.

Councilmember Gay asked Councilmember Gilmour what city was sued by the business manager. Councilmember Gilmour explained it was a city in Washington.

NEW BUSINESS

DOE Loan Agreement --This was moved to the next meeting as the contract isn't complete yet.

Iron Horse Park and Wilson Park Agreement – Councilmember Camarata moved to approve this agreement and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Fireworks – Councilmember Turpin explained a citizen wrote a letter upset about the city allowing fireworks and thinks council needs to review this city policy. There were a total of 2 complaints received about the fireworks. Councilmember Camarata has no issues with fireworks. Councilmember Gilmour explained there is fire danger and asked who is responsible for the costs associated with fires caused by fireworks. Chief Studer explained this is a question for Fire Chief Carbajal. Currently the city allows fireworks over a six day period. This will be brought back to council at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of June Payroll and July Draws – Checks #7441 to #7452, #886091 to #886101, and #997091 to #997092 for \$37,858.59 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voted no as he said the Clerk/Treasurer raise isn't budgeted. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained her budget is quite a bit under budget and will more than cover this \$27 per month raise.

Approval of June Bills – Councilmember Gilmour asked how many bids were received on the backhoe tires. Mayor Huber explained there were three bids from Les Schwab, Ellensburg Tire, and he called Tire Smith 3 times but they never called back. Councilmember Gilmour asked if these were budgeted. They were budgeted under 1/3 street, 1/3 water, and 1/3 sewer. Checks #13287 to #13319, E770706 to E770708 for \$27,045.09 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Camarata and seconded by Councilmember Alvord. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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MAYORS REPORT

County Burn Ban – Mayor Huber explained there is a county burn ban but doesn't include Fire District #2 or the City of Kittitas.

Distressed Sales and Use Tax (COG) – The County approved the 2010 COG funding in the amount of \$83,450 for the city which will be used on the sidewalk project. Councilmember Gilmour asked if we need to amend our comp plan to apply for the grant next year. Councilmember Alvord asked if paving would be an approved project.

Dog Licenses -- There are still more than 162 unlicensed dogs in the city. Councilmember Alvord will continue to help with this issue.

Business Licenses – Mayor Huber explained we need to review how we charge businesses for business licenses. An option is to have Washington State Department of Licensing take over this process. Councilmember Alvord requested this be brought back to council.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Street Cleaning – The streets hopefully will be cleaned next week.

Weeds – There are weeds along the creek that need to be sprayed on North Spokane Street.

City Hall Remodel – Community Hall is an option for City Hall during the remodel. Councilmember Gilmour believes there are some things on the Community Hall building that should be repaired. Public Works will probably move their equipment down to the shop.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Alvord moved to adjourn the July 14, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Frederick Huber

Clerk/Treasurer
