

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2009**

Mayor Huber called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., July 28, 2009. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, Alvord, and Gay.

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

Mayor Huber led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2009, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 yes and 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Huber – Public Appearance Comments

Councilmember Alvord – Weeds

Mayor Huber – Resolution #09-013R – DOE loan authorization

Councilmember Alvord moved to approve the amended agenda and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

None

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**Public Works** – We are still on the county schedule for compost. At this point, we aren't sure if it will cost any money or not.

The park committee met and discussed putting in a foot bridge from Alpine Estates to Palmiero Park. They also discussed a picnic area.

The steps at the gazebo are in need of repair and there is approximately \$500 in the gazebo budget from 2007 which is included in the general fund beginning balance.

**Gray & Osborne**--After some discussion, Councilmember Alvord explained she was confused after the last council meeting when the Gray & Osborne contract wasn't approved. Mayor Huber explained at the special council meeting on June 3, 2009, council voted 3-2 to accept and go ahead with the DOE WWTP Project which triggered DOE to start the process. At the July 14, 2009, council meeting Gray & Osborne were asking for approval of their engineering contract for this project prior to DOE having their contract ready. He also explained if this comminutor isn't upgraded we will be out of compliance in a few years and this could negatively affect developing the south interchange. Councilmember Alvord moved to approve the DOE

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Contract on the WWTP Project which includes adding a fine screen, influent pumps, and ORP controls. This is a grant for \$259,782 and loan for \$482,453 at 2.2% interest for 20 years. Councilmember Gilmour doesn't believe this will work. Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Gilmour and Turpin voting no. Councilmember Alvord explained she doesn't understand why we are second guessing the professionals we are hiring (engineer, planner, attorney). She believes if we can't put our belief in them we need to hire someone else.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Gray & Osborne engineering agreement for the WWTP Project in the amount of \$35,595 and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Turpin and Gilmour voting no.

**Delinquent Report – See handout**

**Treasurer's Report – See handout** – Councilmember Turpin believes the payments on the interfund loan are behind. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained that is not true and will get council a copy of the amortization schedule.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Council Policy Discussion on Contacting Outside Entities** – Councilmember Alvord explained MRSC says as long as a councilmember explains they are only representing themselves they are not violating anything by contacting outside agencies. It is when they don't make it clear to the agency which causes problems. Councilmember Alvord moved to approve creating a policy under which no individual member of the council or administrative staff can speak to outside agencies or businesses giving the impression or statement that they represent the council or administration without the express authorization by the council by vote ahead of time. To do so will result in sanction by the council. Councilmember Turpin agreed but has some concern about the issue of hearsay after an individual gets the information. Councilmember Alvord would also like the information that comes back comes in written form. She amended her motion to have the attorney amend the Council Rules of Procedure to include this. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Alvord explained anonymous letters are being sent to our attorney and this is costing the city money. She would like to see anonymous items sent directly from the attorney to the city and be filed without any consideration or review. If the person identifies themselves, then the attorney should send this to the city for review. Councilmember Alvord moved to direct our attorney to stop taking action on any correspondence from citizens unless Council directs her to do something with it. Councilmember Turpin agreed with this but because it wasn't on the agenda moved to table this item until the next meeting. Council agreed 5 yes and 0 no.

**Fireworks** – Councilmember Turpin would like to see the timeframe of fireworks limited and requested having a workshop on fireworks. Mayor Huber explained Chief Carbajal would like to see the days limited. Councilmember Gilmour asked if we could pay a couple of guys to stand by in case of a fire. Council agreed to have this on the next agenda to decide on the length of days and time fireworks can be used and ask Chief Carbajal to attend.

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**Business Licensing** – Councilmember Alvord moved to approve applying for the state business license grant for \$2,000. Councilmember Gilmour asked what happens if a person walks into City Hall to purchase a business license. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb will check into this. The City will have to pay \$300 annually for this service. There is an additional \$9.00 fee the state charges for the business license. Councilmember Turpin explained we will need to change our municipal code with this new process. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1**

**Building Inspector Hire – Documented** – At the last council meeting, there was a first and second motion to approve hiring of the building inspector but no council vote. Councilmember Camarata moved to approve hiring Michelle Geiger as a part-time employee with no health or retirement benefits at \$35 per hour and Councilmember Alvord seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Weeds** – Council agreed to budget more money for weeds in 2010.

**Ordinance 09-012 2009 Budget Amendments** -- The public hearing was opened at 7:45. After some discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:53 p.m. These amendments are required by the Washington State Auditors Office. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Turpin voting no.

**Resolution 09-013R DOE Loan Agreement** – Councilmember Alvord moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Turpin and Gilmour voting no.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT**

**Approval of July Bills** – Checks #13320 to #13342, E132831, E770710, E770711, and E770712 for \$102,416.87 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Turpin and seconded by Councilmember Alvord. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**MAYORS REPORT**

**Backhoe Tires** – Councilmember Alvord was thankful for receiving the budget information showing that the backhoe tires were actually budgeted for.

**Moving of City Hall** – Mayor Huber explained we should be receiving the engineering drawings next week. We could possibly use Randy Heistand's building for city hall, fire department and police department. The cost is \$750 per month and would be split between the fire department and city hall. Councilmember Gilmour asked how much we can spend on rent. He also has concern on how long the demolition will take. Mayor Huber explained \$75,000 of the USDA RD grant/loan will go to pay for the fire department Clerf building. During the winter months the fire truck needs to be in a building that stays above freezing. Councilmember Turpin thinks the Heistand building is the best option. We need to get the demolition start as soon as possible. The complete process will take somewhere between six and nine months most likely. We can't go to bid for

