

City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

Mayor Huber called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., September 22, 2009. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, and Gay.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Police Officer Nierman, and Reserve Officer Taylor.

Mayor Huber led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Camarata moved to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2009, regular meeting and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Camarata moved to approve the agenda and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Bev Allphin – Is having cat issues and wondering if there are any county, state, or federal laws protecting homeowners.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

MRM Pay Estimate #12 Caribou Creek Bridge Project – Councilmember Turpin moved to approve this pay estimate in the amount of \$73,252.71. Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Delinquent Report – See handout

Treasurer's Report – See handout. Councilmember Turpin asked if the remaining funds from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project were ever spent. They were spent several months ago (see fund 407).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

UGA Resolution #09-015R – Our planner, Lisa Parks, briefly explained the draft resolution presented to council to affirm the independent analysis of the consulting firm, ICF Jones & Stokes. The resolution states the City of Kittitas' plan was not appealed and the overall analysis of ICF Jones & Stokes is the same as what the city found but was explained in a different format. This will be presented to the county planning commission. She explained to be cautious in picking a specific alternative at this point. One option would be to not reduce the Urban Growth Area. Lisa Parks also stated the population allocation is specifically

City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

important when talking about the residential land use. COG will be meeting tomorrow night to discuss this topic. Mayor Huber explained this document moves us forward. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance #09-016 – 2009 Budget Amendment #2 – The public hearing was opened at 7:23 p.m. for public discussion. Rick Hink asked about the money from the grant on the paving project. This money cannot be used for operating and maintenance on the street fund. It must be used specifically on the project applied for. Mayor Huber explained we were forgiven some expense to keep it at \$100,000 and were fortunate for this. The street fund needs to have a positive balance to be in compliance with the State Auditor's Office. The public hearing was closed at 7:26 p.m. The \$11,000 transfer from the current expense fund to the street fund is an estimate of what the street fund will need through the end of 2009. Councilmember Turpin explained he is not happy that the library budget amendment for \$2,500 isn't also in this ordinance. Mayor Huber explained he feels some are allowing their personal interests to get involved in making these decisions. He feels it is irresponsible to give money to a fund with a positive balance when there is another fund that consistently has a negative balance. Councilmember Gilmour explained this city wasted money on the lawyer reviewing the RSVP contract and having the Heistand Building cleaned before moving in. Mayor Huber believes it is personal when we pick and choose what contracts we want our attorney to look at. He thinks it is irresponsible to not pay debt. Councilmember Gay moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

2010 Draft Budget – The first draft of the 2010 budget was presented to council. Councilmember Turpin asked why the treasurer's report shows a different amount in building permits than what the newspaper reported in an article. Clerk Treasurer Newcomb explained the newspaper reported an incorrect amount. Councilmember Gilmour believes the council should go through this line by line like last year. In the past, he said if it was in the budget everybody spent and it got out of hand. He would like to see a list of the employee's wages and costs. Mayor Huber explained the city has done very well at staying under a budget that was already bare bones to begin with.

Open Council Position – Those who submitted their letters of interest for the open council position were Rick Hink, Mel Wilson Jr., and Linda Huber. Each one of them gave a brief presentation.

Rick Hink was first to give his presentation. Councilmember Gay asked him what he meant by wanting to have the city merge with the county. He explained he believes the fire department should merge with the county fire department because the city can't support its own fire department. He also stated he is for the remodel of the fire station and development on the south end of town and hopes the UGA issues can be resolved. Mayor Huber asked if he supports the wastewater treatment plant screen project and he stated as long as it is with grant money, as he believes we should not be borrowing money right now. Councilmember Turpin asked why he had a sudden interest in the position and he responded that he thinks he can help the city.

Mel Wilson Jr. was next and explained he would like to see a place for kids to go day and night. He also would like the streets get paved and garbage cleaned up around town. He stated he is very happy to be a citizen, as he loves small towns and not big cities.

Linda Huber was last to speak. She explained she believes people should be part of their community.

City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

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Councilmember Gay asked Linda Huber if she has any negative feelings towards the City of Kittitas. She explained seeing the divided council bothers her and believes common ground should be found and personal feelings should not get involved in the decision making of politics. The positive things she sees are growth with the UGA and wastewater treatment plant project along with the new bridge project. She also says it is important to support the existing businesses. She would like to see council approve paying off the interfund loan early in 2010 to possibly reduce the utility tax. Councilmember Turpin asked why when she was on council in 2007 did the police department spent over \$130,000 from the previous year, what services was this increase for, and would it happen again if she was brought back on council. She explained his figures are not correct but the reason for this extra expense was because there was not a police department the first part of that year and there was a public outcry at meetings for more police protection because of theft and vandalism. The citizens wanted their streets and children safe again with a police department. Everyone currently on the council served then except for Councilmember Turpin. Councilmember Gilmour stated Linda Huber was on the council when it overspent \$100,000 and asked how she would stop this from happening again. She stated she only voted for \$41,000 in loans from January through May at which time she resigned because of her appointment to county commissioner. She also stated all of the current council voted for the \$120,500 in interfund loans and understands their decision. Councilmember Gilmour explained he did not vote for the utility tax to pay back the interfund loan. Mayor Huber explained the city is doing much better financially today.

Councilmember Gay moved to go into executive session and Councilmember Turpin seconded it. The motion was approved 4 yes and 0 no.

MAYOR HUBER ANNOUNCED COUNCIL WILL GO TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:55 P.M. TO DISCUSS CANDIDATES' QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OPEN COUNCIL POSITION

MAYOR HUBER ANNOUNCED TO RECONVENE THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:59 P.M.

No decisions were made in executive session. After hearing from each of them, council voted by roll call. John Camarata for Linda Huber, Jeff Gay for Linda Huber, Jerry Gilmour for Rick Hink, and Sean Turpin for Rick Hink. Mayor Huber abstained from voting. Therefore, it is a tie vote and the council position will not be filled. Mayor Huber expressed he is very disappointed with the bad mouthing going on in the city by slandering him and his wife and therefore, would rather see this position go unfilled until after the election. The position can remain unfilled for 90 days.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of September Bills – Checks #13403 to #13433 and #E778091 to #E778092 for \$45,086.94 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Turpin and seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Check #13415 was voided.

City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

MAYORS REPORT

City Hall/Fire Station Remodel – City Hall is about 80% demolished inside and the Fire Station is about 50%. The Park Creek Boys Home has been helping with the demolition of the inside along with other volunteers. The architect will have the prints ready by the end of the month.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Chief Studer and Kittitas Valley Fire Rescue – Councilmember Turpin wanted to thank Chief Studer and Kittitas Valley Fire Rescue in responding to an emergency.

Flashing School Lights – Councilmember Turpin asked what is wrong with the flashing lights. Mayor Huber explained the police department has the program on their laptop and is having problems with it.

Seventh Street – Councilmember Gilmour asked if 7th Street is going to get paved before winter. Mayor Huber explained the estimate came in quite high and it probably won't happen. South Main in front of the potato sheds the road needs to be resurfaced where there was a water leak and probably would take priority.

Bushes on Spokane – Councilmember Gilmour explained he previously talked to Chief Studer about cutting down some bushes coming down Spokane Street. Mayor Huber explained he would send Public Works Lead Bosch to look at these and cut these down if needed.

Car Show Burn Out – Councilmember Gilmour asked if they gave Ty and Brenda McPherson a gift certificate yet. Mayor Huber is still taking collections for this.

Councilmember Discussion – Councilmember Gay suggested that most of the council discussion should go through the mayor's office so it isn't perceived as a complaint about an employee in the public meeting. This would show more respect for the employees.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the September 22, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Frederick Huber _____

 Clerk/Treasurer _____