

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

6:00 p.m. – Walkthrough of Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., January 12, 2010. Councilmembers present: Gilmour, Gay, Helland, Huber, and Lovell.

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

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2009, regular meeting.

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

Councilmember Gilmour asked why Cecil Howard now has the foreman title. The union suggested using foreman over manager as this fit his position description more appropriately.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Dorothy Nicholas – Is curious as to why other citizens don't come to the meetings.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Nancy Morter reported the bid opening was January 7th and there were 19 contractors on the fine screen project. The low bid was MRM Construction and they were the low bidder for \$237,285. The engineers estimate was \$519,912. Gray & Osborne recommends the city approve this contractor. There were some questions on possible change orders because of the low bid. Gray & Osborne spoke with MRM Construction and they assured her they are comfortable with their bid. Jeff Stevens explained it isn't a very large or complicated project so change orders shouldn't be an issue. Nancy explained a change order must be a change beyond contract documents (a change in conditions) for one to take place. Of the \$237,285 65% is loan and 35% is forgivable principal (grant). The impact on water and sewer rates could be somewhere from \$1.50 to \$2.00 if necessary. Councilmember Helland asked when the city will quit spending money on the wastewater treatment plant and why is the fine screen needed now. Councilmember Huber explained because of Department of Ecology compliance updating the plant will always be an issue. Nancy explained this fine screen should have been part of the 2001 construction but because of costs the city didn't want to do this. The fine screen will help break up the debris and stop plugging up the pumps. Also she explained this project is more from an operational standpoint because of the breakdowns and issues the debris causes. Councilmember Gilmour asked if there will still be debris getting through the fine screen. Nancy explained the holes in the fine screen are ¼" and the nozzles in the tank are 3/8".

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

The fine screen chosen is a medium grade screen. She also explained aeration tanks should be cleaned once or twice a year but usually is visible when the cleaning needs to be done.

Councilmember Helland moved to approve hiring MRM Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine Screen Project. Councilmember Lovell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the mayor signing the MRM Construction Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine Screen Project based on city attorney approval and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Huber moved to approve \$22,000 to be allocated for project administration and management in the DOE WWTP Fine Screen Project Contract and for the mayor to send a letter to Department of Ecology on this. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. Department of Ecology requires a portion of the loan/grant to be allocated to project administration even if the city isn't going to spend it.

Library Board – Chairperson Becky Bosch reported there have been some donations made to the library. The statistics from 2008 to 2009 shows an increase in attendance. Quite a bit of this is computer use.

February 9, 10, and 11 is the “Cup of Cocoa and Book to Go” for the kindergartners. Royal Vista donated the cookies again this year.

She would like to put something on the reader board at month end about the library activities.

Councilmember Gay will be helping the library with their computers and possibly getting some new “used” computers.

They are also working on cataloging all of the books. The Washington State Library will help them put everything into the card catalog once all of the cataloging is done.

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

Police Department – Chief Studer would like to see a change in our dog ordinance with tougher penalties. The City of Ellensburg has higher penalties than we do and the City of Cle Elum criminalizes their dog penalties.

Public Works Lead Bosch – He would like to use the treated wood from the bridge the Department of Parks is replacing for a sand shed.

There will be a work party for the Fire Station this Saturday around 9:00 a.m. to tear off the roofing.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

The county is getting a grant for \$150,000 for a hazard mitigation planning grant. Councilmember Gay asked if our engineers are aware of this grant. Mayor Camarata explained the county will hire consultants for the entire county. The cities within the county will have input from their departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Renewal of Hearing Examiner Contract – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this contract renewal and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials – Mayor Camarata explained the officials elected in November filling an unexpired term get sworn in November and January and those elected that are filling an expired term just get sworn in January. Councilmember Gilmour and Councilmember Helland were sworn in by Mayor Camarata. Mayor Camarata was sworn in by Pro Tem Mayor Gay.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of December Payroll and January Draws – Checks #7535 to #7543, #E991101 to #E991102, and #E881291 to #E881307 for \$39,577.21 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Lovell seconded the motion. Checks #13619 was voided. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Approval of Final 2009 December Bills and 2010 January Bills – Checks #13585 to #13635, #E771229, and #E771292 for \$104,655.14 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Lovell and seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

MAYORS REPORT

Generators – Mayor Camarata explained there is a generator planned for the new Fire Station and we are looking into one for City Hall.

Irrigation Lines – Our air compressor needs 50 psi to blow out the lines and can use Councilmember Gilmour's as this will work in the future because it is 200 psi. The Wastewater Treatment Plant cannot use theirs because it isn't mobile. (Per WWTP Foreman Howard it is mobile but only can handle 6 cfm and for this 100 cfm is needed. Councilmember Gilmour's air compressor's cfm hasn't yet been verified.)

Copier – There is a \$1,200 residual value due if we pay off the copier. This is something that will have to be decided.

Community Hall Flooring and Countertops – Perma Color will be donating the vinyl flooring but we will have to pay about \$300 for installation.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Library Computers – Councilmember Helland has a computer that needs a new hard drive he will donate. Councilmember Gay will be getting computers from Microsoft for a small fee and the software is free.

8:11 P.M. MAYOR CAMARATA ANNOUNCED COUNCIL WILL GO TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 15 MINUTES TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING AND ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY TO BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL DURING THE COURSE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND NEGOTIATIONS.

8:25 P.M. – MAYOR CAMARATA ANNOUNCED THE RECONVENE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

Union Contract – Mayor Camarata explained no decisions were made in executive session. Councilmember Helland asked who oversees the step increases (step 21 to step 22). Councilmember Gay believes we wouldn't be able to replace what WWTP Foreman Howard does for the pay he is getting. He is also concerned not recognizing what he does for the city could be a detriment to the city. Councilmember Gilmour believes all employees are replaceable. Councilmember Huber moved to keep WWTP Foreman Howard at a level 33 for one year and move to a level 35 January 1, 2011 and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Gilmour and Helland voted no. Councilmember Helland voted no because he is concerned with the economy. He would rather review it in one year than committing to a raise at this time. Councilmember Gilmour stated the last four employees at the Wastewater Treatment Plant quit because there wasn't enough work to do. It was stated that one didn't pass his test, one was fired, one was laid off, and the most recent one was about to be let go so he quit.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Huber moved to adjourn the January 12, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gay. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest: Mayor John Camarata

Clerk/Treasurer
