

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2010**

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., April 13, 2010. Councilmembers present: Gilmour, Gay, Helland, and Huber. Councilmember Lovell was absent.

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

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Camarata announced that Councilmember Lovell resigned effective April 2, 2010.

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2010. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Camarata added the Operating Engineer Paving Project engineer contract, hold harmless agreement, and resolution #10-004R to new business.

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

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

Dorothy Nicholas – Would like something done about the dogs.

Anna Kelly, 207 N Pierce – Also has an issue with dogs in their yard.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**Police Department** – Mayor Camarata introduced Reserve Police Officer Chris Taylor to the Council.

**Library Board** – Chairperson Becky Bosch reported the statistics for the month of March. Card use was down a little because of spring break.

Councilmember Helland moved to approve the surplus list and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Huber explained that the county is supposed to be matching 40% of what the City gives to the library fund. She thinks a letter needs to be written to the county asking for the same amount as the previous year. Councilmember Gay offered to write this letter. This contract will be moved to the next Council meeting.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance #10-003 2010 Water/Sewer Rates** – The public hearing was opened at 7:13 p.m. The following comments were made:

- \*\*\* Marylou Gilmour – She asked why punish the people in raising the rates and that the water/sewer department has the healthiest budget of all funds. She also asked if they are still leaving the utility tax in place.
- \*\*\* Beverly Allphin – She agrees with the statement made above and that in this economy it isn't a good time to raise rates.
- \*\*\* Richard Hink – He asked what the proposed increase is and Councilmember Gay explained it is 2%. He would like this to be reconsidered and said the people are tired of getting taxed.
- \*\*\* Tiny Allphin – He explained this isn't required every year and that this increase is optional.

The public hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m. Councilmember Gilmour explained he is totally opposed to this increase and is wondering if this raise is just because we can do it. He stated years ago the water and sewer revenue went into the pot and was one of the biggest money makers they had until this was changed. He also stated the raise isn't needed as there is about \$300,000 in the fund. Councilmember Gay explained he believes there is a reason for rate increases including wages, insurance etc. He stated in years past this wasn't passed every year and a funding agency said if the water/sewer fund can't support its loans it will not grant loans and grants. In addition, our water rights are going to require a big chunk of revenue. Councilmember Huber said the 2% increase also goes towards replacing the aging infrastructure. She believes it makes more sense to look at this in the fall at budget time. Councilmember Helland agrees with this suggestion and believes this should be revisited every year. Councilmember Huber would like to table this ordinance until November 9, 2010 and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WWTP Project/MRM Construction Change Order #1** – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this change order for \$0 and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**Farm Animals As Pets In The City Limits** – Anna Kelly, 207 N Pierce, explained she moved here in September 2009 and has chickens as the realtors told her they were allowed. She explained they don't make much noise and many other cities allow chickens. Councilmember Huber explained the City of Ellensburg amended their code last year for 4-H kids. Councilmember Helland explains the fault lies with the realtor. He doesn't want the city to turn this back into a farm community. Councilmember Gay explained he has pigs and chickens and they keep them out of town. Councilmember Gay offered to look into them keeping their chickens in the same location where his are located. A neighbor of Ms. Kelly's spoke and also would like to raise chickens for the eggs. Council chose not to allow farm animals but no tickets will be issued until they can relocate their chickens.

**Senior Citizen Rates** – After some discussion, Council chose to not make any changes at this time to the senior citizen rates until the Mayor has done some research on it.

**Operating Engineers Agreement** – Councilmember Gilmour has some concern with paving North Mason.

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**END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1**

Councilmember Huber explained we can still require the developer to have the infrastructure in at the Brown Property development whenever construction starts up again. Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Operating Engineers Paving Project Hold Harmless Agreement and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Gilmour no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve Resolution #10-004R for the Operating Engineers Paving Project and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the Gray & Osborne Agreement for the Operating Engineers Paving Project with our attorney's approval and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT**

**Approval of March Payroll and April Draws** – Checks #7563 to #7572, #E994101 to #E994102, and #E883101 to #E883115 for \$40,356.74 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**Approval of March Bills** – Checks #13754 to #13784 and E77406 for \$12,791.26 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

**MAYORS REPORT**

**Grants** – Mayor Camarata explained the city is working on a grant with Quadco on Palmiero Park and also with COG on storm drains.

**Habitat for Humanity** – Mayor Camarata explained Habitat for Humanity purchased the 3 lots on the corner of Spokane and Patrick.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**Pump Stations** – Councilmember Gilmour explained we need someone to look at the Benton Street Lift Pumps. He believes there should be an overload button where the pump will shut off when something is going wrong. Rick Hink stated the school lift station does have this type of overload system that is needed.

**ADJOURN**

Councilmember Helland moved to adjourn the April 13, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attest: Mayor John Camarata \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk/Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_