

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

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

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Fire Chief Carbajal, Police Officer Shuart, and Police Officer Nierman.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Huber would like to amend the minutes on the library contract approval by adding and stating "Councilmember Huber explained the County's contribution to the City Library is compensation for County residents patronizing our Library. She questioned why the City of Kittitas' funding was the only City reduced and why it was reduced without proving an actual decrease in the number of County residents patronizing the City Library".

Councilmember Hink moved to approve the amended minutes from the June 29, 2010. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Helland abstaining.

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

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Library Board – Chairperson Becky Bosch explained card and computer usage have increased. They have over 25 kids for the summer reading program.

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

WWTP – Councilmember Gilmour and Councilmember Helland believe if there is a leak, get it fixed. Councilmember Hink asked why there has been a leak since 1999 as stated in the WWTP report and not taken care of. Councilmember Gay suggested the Mayor and WWTP Foreman Howard make a plan so they can find the leaks and where the lost water is going. Jeff Stevens with Gray & Osborne will be helpful to work with.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Potential Litigation on the UGA

7:14 P.M. MAYOR CAMARATA ANNOUNCED COUNCIL WILL GO TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 30 MINUTES TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL LITIGATION ON THE URBAN GROWTH AREA DENIAL BY THE EASTERN WASHINGTON HEARINGS BOARD

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7:42 P.M. – MAYOR CAMARATA ANNOUNCED THE RECONVENE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AND NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kittitas County – UGA – Neil Caulkins explained the options originally available to the City. Option #1 is the one denied by the Eastern Washington Hearings Board to expand the UGA as intended. Option #2 would be a reduced version of Option #1, and Option #3 would be to leave the UGA in its original state. The County does believe Option #2 would work and be the best option. This option would remove an area east of Road 81 Road and an area west of the WWTP. Councilmember Huber asked Mr. Caulkins how the County would feel about the City paying for the appeal. An appeal is expensive and would take several years. At the end of the appeal the Eastern Washington Hearings Board could at that point find issues with our Capital Facilities Plan which they did not rule on yet. The compliance schedule is for us to have a decision by November and the board would hopefully make their decision by February. Mr. Caulkins explained the analysis has only been done on the 3 options above. An analysis hasn't been done on any other options so to come up with a 4th option would cost us more. Councilmember Gay moved to approve the County filing an appeal with Superior Court and having the City of Kittitas pay for this appeal and the County working with our planner and attorney for their supporting documentation. Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. Councilmember Gilmour asked where the money would come from. Councilmember Helland doesn't believe we can go backwards after all of the work that has been put into it to date. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voting no. The County will have an executive session this coming Thursday that the Mayor and Councilmember Gay will attend.

Fire Station/City Hall Remodel – Cal Jordan would like Council to make a decision on the keypad locks as the contractor will be ordering the doors in the next couple of weeks. Councilmember Huber moved to approve 4 mechanical keypad locks and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief of Police Hiring Recommendation – Jeff Gay explained the hiring committee is recommending Brent Nierman as the Chief of Police after interviewing 3 applicants. Councilmember Huber would like to see the department look for grants. Councilmember Gay moved to hire him at \$4,200 per month and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Police Officer Hiring Recommendation – The hiring committee explained they interviewed 5 candidates for Police Officer of which 3 were very qualified. The hiring committee is recommending hiring Officer Jerry “Buddy” Shuart III. They also recommend hiring Reserve Officer Chris Taylor who will need to attend the police academy. Chris Taylor would be hired for the Code Enforcement Officer position. Chief Nierman recommends hiring Officer Shuart at a level 32C which is \$3,168.91. Councilmember Gilmour has concern about the Code Enforcement Officer working nights. He also wants to know how we are going to pay for this position in 5 years when the 3/10's money is gone. Also, the 3/10's fund will not support a full time officer so a portion will need to come from the current expense fund. Chief Nierman explained an employment contract

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would be in place with Officer Taylor which would require him to give us 3 years of service since we would be paying for him to go through the academy. If he quits before then he would have to pay back what he cost the City on a prorated share. Councilmember Huber would like to see another Reserve Officer hired. She also explained that Chief Studer covered the majority of the on call and overtime so this expense wouldn't be an additional expense by the officers. Chief Nierman explained he would do the same. (Due to budget cuts most of the on call and overtime was eliminated in 2009 and 2010).

Councilmember Gay moved to approve hiring Jerry "Buddy" Shuart III as a full time Police Officer at \$3,168.91 per month (step 32C) and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Gay moved to approve hiring Chris Taylor as a full time Code Enforcement Officer at \$2,916.49 (step 32A) and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion was passed 5 yes and 0 no. Chief Nierman will try to get him into the academy at the first of the year.

Iron Horse State Park Agreement – Councilmember Gilmour is wondering who is supposed to be in charge of watering the park – the City or the State. He says when the state waters it they let it run for 3 or 4 days. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this agreement and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

WWTP Fine Screen Project – MRM Pay Request #3 – Councilmember Huber moved to approve pay request #3 in the amount of \$14,306.22 and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Resolution #10-009R – Request Public Hearing to Vacation Portion of South Main – Our planner, Jerry Litt, explained when we were negotiating for the road, the Gibbs/MD Jackson started a short plat on their property. If the short plat would have been finalized then this portion of the old right of way would have been vacated through this short plat. Since then, Mr. Lathrop has taken over this property and has stopped the short plat process, leaving this vacation process needing to be completed. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. The public hearing and ordinance will be on the August 10th Council agenda.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of June Payroll and July Draws – Checks #7595 to #7603, #E997101 to #E997106, and #E886101 to #E886116 for \$34,898.58 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Huber and seconded by Councilmember Hink. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Approval of July Bills – Checks #13924 to #13954, #E770610, and #E776102 to #E776103 for \$209,949.03 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Helland and seconded by Councilmember Hink. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

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MAYORS REPORT

Yard Waste Removal – Mayor Camarata explained the County will grind up the yard waste once but we have to agree to have them come take it away annually which would cost around \$3,000 per year. Councilmember Hink and Councilmember Huber think we should look into several vendors and go through the correct process competitively. Councilmember Huber suggested a company in Royal City.

Fire Works Ordinance – Councilmember Helland would like fireworks to be able to be set off in the parks. Katherine Kenison explained the purpose of the ordinance is to limit it to private property so the City isn't liable for someone injured on public property. If we allow fireworks in the park then the City will be named in a lawsuit. Parks are for recreation and if there is a mixture of people there for recreation and those letting off fireworks this could be a liability. Just because the City has it in an ordinance doesn't make the City liable. Also, if it is in an ordinance and we do not have the manpower to enforce it, this doesn't make us liable.

Addressing Ordinance – Katherine Kenison agrees with Kittcom's comments and will incorporate those into the ordinance for Council to pass at a later date.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Fire Department/City Hall Remodel – Councilmember Huber asked why there isn't a safety fence around the remodel and also was wondering where the ARRA sign is for the project that is supposed to be up.

Volunteer Help – The Council appreciated the volunteer help with the streets last weekend. Councilmember Huber said we need to be cautious pruning trees this time of year as this could damage the trees. In the future, she would also like the political parties to not involve the City of Kittitas as we are non partisan.

Chickens – Councilmember Gay explained Anna Kelly at 207 N Pierce is working on moving her chickens out of the City.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Hink moved to adjourn the July 13, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Attest: Mayor John Camarata _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____