

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010**

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., November 23, 2010. Councilmembers present: Gilmour, Gay, Helland, Hink and Huber.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Gay moved to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2010 regular meeting. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour – New Business – Union Wages

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Bev Allphin – Would like to see the employees and business people be more united. She believes a town hall meeting would be a good idea.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Treasurer's Report – See Handout. – Mayor Camarata explained we are over budget in many categories and doing well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance 10-014 – Amend Water/Sewer Rates – The public hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m. This will increase the water/sewer rates 2%. The public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m. After some discussion, Councilmember Huber moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance 10-015 – Amend Water/Sewer Utility Tax – The public hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m. This will decrease the utility tax 2%. The public hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m. After some discussion, Councilmember Huber moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

PUBLIC HEARING – Final 2011 Budget – The public hearing was opened at 7:08 p.m. After some discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m. The following items were discussed:

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010**

- Councilmember Huber asked why the part time positions are back in the budget. Mayor Camarata explained if we do away with the library we won't be able to get a grant for the Community Hall. Councilmember Huber explained nobody suggested at the last meeting to get rid of the library—just the paid position in the budget. Councilmember Gilmour believes the library will close if we do not hire a paid librarian. Councilmember Huber explained if we add new positions we are probably the only municipality adding positions in this state. Mayor Camarata explained we didn't contribute as much to the library last year as in the past. Councilmember Helland doesn't believe it is right to hire new employees but feels at some point we need to bring back the employees we laid off two years ago. He believes bringing back a police officer position before any of the other positions that were laid off should be top priority. He also doesn't believe the employees should get their union raises during these times. Councilmember Gilmour doesn't understand why Councilmember Huber doesn't want to support the library. She explained she supports the library but thinks we should prioritize our positions. Councilmember Gay explained he spoke with one of the volunteers and she plans on staying next year. Councilmember Gilmour moved to keep the budget as is with the three part time positions. No second motion.
- Council agreed to remove the paid library position and in turn reduce the sales tax revenue. Councilmember Huber explained the library fund has an ending balance year to year and this could be used to hire a part time librarian. Councilmember Gilmour explained they are over in their fund because they are conservative with their budget.
- Councilmember Helland suggested we hire contract labor to do the lawn mowing rather than using an employee. Council agreed to keep the part time street position budgeted because of the street projects and the city hall remodel and check into the contract mowing. There will be the sidewalk and paving projects in 2011. Councilmember Gilmour doesn't believe we should be leaving on the lights at Palmiero Park. Councilmember Helland would like to get some quotes on contract lawn mowing. Councilmember Hink would like to see us use prisoner help from the county. They must have supervision at all times. With a part time position in the street, we would be able to use this labor to help out on the city hall remodel. Council agreed to keep the part time street position in the budget at 64 hours per month.
- Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained she believes there isn't enough emphasis put on city hall and the clerk's office. Two years ago the assistant clerk was laid off and the office is only open part time to compensate for this. She also stated during union negotiations last year the agreement between the city and employees during union negotiations was to not give raises in 2010, 2% in 2011, and 3% in 2012 because of the economy. Councilmember Hink believes the employee should have to pay some of this cost. He contacted some cities on what they pay out of pocket and will bring that information to the next meeting. In 2010 the employer pays \$578 for medical, \$125 for dental, and \$16 for vision. The medical will be increasing to \$672 in 2011, dental to \$132.20, and no change in vision. Mayor Camarata would like to go through Central's work study program for the part time office help. Councilmember Helland believes the city office should be open full time. Councilmember Huber will look into a work study person. She also believes with this part time position filled we might be able to bring in more dog and business license revenue. Councilmember Helland doesn't believe we are aggressive enough on our collection of dog licenses as it gets later in the year. Councilmember Gay still has reservations about hiring any of these part time employees. Councilmember Helland believes it doesn't look very good having the city hall closed part time.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010**

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

- On the library, Councilmember Gay suggested reducing the transfer from current expense from \$13,574 to \$10,574, library book expense reduce from \$4,000 to \$2,000, and keep the library position. The library historically has an ending balance carried over year to year which can be used in the budget. Council agreed to make these changes and the remainder to come from the ending balance to balance the 2011 budget for the library fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #10-016R – Yard Waste Collection – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Resolution #10-018R – Small & Attractive Items Policy – Councilmember Helland moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Tri Ply Construction – Pay Request #2 – \$184,219.81 – Councilmember Hink moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Wray Plumbing – Pay Request #4 – \$8,994.21 – Councilmember Huber moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Vance Heating – Pay Request #4 – \$11,974.26 – Councilmember Helland moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Five K Electric – Pay Request #4 – \$43,856.37 – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Change Order #1 – Wray Plumbing – \$81.25 – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this change order and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Change Order #2 – Wray Plumbing – \$13,734.20 – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this change order and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Change Order #3 – Wray Plumbing – \$943.93 – Councilmember Helland moved to approve this change order and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Change Order #3 – Tri Ply Construction – \$1,036.88 – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this change order and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Change Order #4 – Tri Ply Construction – \$7,952.34 – Councilmember Gay moved to approve this change order and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010**

Charter Communication Contract Extension Agreement – Councilmember Helland moved to approve this extension agreement and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Union Wages – Councilmember Gilmour would like to revisit the union contract on benefits and raises. He doesn't believe we should keep paying for all of the benefits. He also believes we should make the employees earn they raises by working together. Mayor Camarata explained the union employees are not in agreement to re-open the union contract. Council would like the Mayor to send the union a letter requesting to re-open the contract. Councilmember Gay doesn't believe we should hire new employees and take away benefits from the current employees. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb stated you can't just re-open the union negotiations and Councilmember Gilmour disagreed. She explained she forwarded an email from the union representative, Wayne Johnson, to the Council stating the employees must agree to this. Councilmember Gay stated the county tried to do this with their employees and the union said no. Councilmember Hink believes if the employees get a 2% raise they should give days of pay (take off with no pay) similar to the state and their furlough days. Mayor Camarata explained our employees gave up their 2010 raises in order to get 2011 raises.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of November Bills – Checks #14217 to #14244 for \$287,338.07 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Hink and seconded by Councilmember Huber. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no. Councilmember Helland asked why we didn't hire a local person instead of Roto Rooter to do the backflow device test. He also thought we had a backflow specialist in house and wondered why we couldn't do the testing. Councilmember Huber explained backflow testing has to be by a certified person and the city doesn't have a certified backflow assembly tester. Councilmember Helland explained he thought we have our guy check everyone else in the city. Mayor Camarata will check to see if we have anyone certified in this area.

MAYORS REPORT

Well Pump – The well has a good quality casing and is 211' deep. We are checking with Gray & Osborne on what size of pump is needed. The existing pump needs to be replaced. The water hasn't been tested yet.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Street Pickup – The pickup being purchased is in the 2011 budget.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gilmour moved to adjourn the November 23, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hink. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Attest: Mayor John Camarata _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____