

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2010**

Pro Tem Mayor Gay called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., December 14, 2010. Councilmembers present: Gilmour, Gay, Hink, Helland and Huber. Mayor Camarata was absent.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb, Fire Chief Carbajal, Police Chief Nierman, WWTP Foreman Howard, WWTP Operator Bach and Police Officer Shuart.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2010 regular meeting. Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and Councilmember Gilmour voting no. Councilmember Gilmour doesn't believe the minutes are correct with the comment "Councilmember Gay explained he spoke with one of the volunteers and she plans on staying next year".

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Helland - New business – Cole' s Crossing Street Lighting

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Dorothy Nicholas - She believes the city employees do a good job and wonders what the city would do if the employees got new job offers and left the city.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Gray & Osborne – Fine Screen WWTP Project Yard Hydrant Approval – Nancy Morter gave a summary of the fine screen project. The original substantial completion date was October 8 and the contractor did not make that date. The substantial completion date is January 5, 2011. Gray & Osborne doesn't believe the electrical is ready for substantial completion date (this is when the warranty starts). Nancy also explained she needs to know if Council would like to have the yard hydrant installed by the contractor. The 2" line has previously been installed. This cost would be about \$1,250. Prior to this, the project change orders total \$506. We also have a credit coming back of about \$1,300 for unsuitable excavations. This yard hydrant would be more of a housekeeping item by keeping odors and flies out. WWTP Foreman explained it is a 2" yard hydrant for a major blowout. The granting agency is holding a 5% retainage on this project. Councilmember Hink moved to approve this yard hydrant which will come as a change order at the next meeting and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Mike Meskimen with Gray & Osborne gave a brief summary of the sidewalk project to be completed in 2011. He explained the reason this was postponed until 20 II was because of some storm water issues. The city received a 2nd COG grant for about \$100,000 for these storm water issues which can be used starting January

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1, 2011. The 1st COG grant, which is around \$83,000, was for the sidewalk project. This project should start sometime around the first of the year and hopefully going to bid in the spring of 2011. TIB's grant is around \$286,000 with a city match of about \$18,450 which we were planning on paying out of the 1st COG grant. Gray and Osborne wrote all three of these grants on this project.

Library Board – Chairperson Becky Bosch explained they didn't follow through with the Christmas Party because of another party that was planned. In 2011 they would like a community involved party possibly with the school bazaar.

Attendance is slightly down during the winter months.

Police Department – Chief Nierman explained they were part of "shop with a cop" at Bi Mart. Officer Taylor has about one month to go at the academy.

Treasurer's Report – See handout

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance 10-017 – 2011 Budget – The public hearing was opened at 7:32 p.m. The public hearing was closed at 7:33 p.m. Councilmember Gilmour explained he can't support the 2011 budget and believes everyone is cut loose to spend every penny in their budget. He asked how we get reserves in our budget. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained we do have reserves in our budget. He also asked why we cleared the sidewalks on South Main as this is expensive and is it really necessary for employees to work on holidays and get double time pay. He believes we spend everything in our budget and those that don't spend everything Councilmember Gay takes away from them. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained for the past several years her department has been under budget and the only reason it isn't this year is because of the under budgeted Heistand rent, audit costs, and insurance increase costs. Councilmember Huber asked if anyone had any productive comments. Councilmember Hink explained he is nervous about this budget because of what he reads in the paper every day. Councilmember Huber explained we need to watch revenues more closely and often and adjust the budget accordingly throughout the year. She explained we are better off cash flow wise than we have been over the past several years. This is mainly because of the employees that were laid off two years ago. She also received some information on the work study program at the college and will discuss it with the Mayor. Councilmember Helland believes when Council tables an item it gets forgotten about. Councilmember Gilmour stated it is strange that everybody is hurting but the City of Kittitas. Councilmember Gay stated this isn't true. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained she did research on other cities raises and medical costs. Councilmember Gilmour stated he saw all of the emails that took 3-4 hours of time and what a joke that was. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb stated she spent this time on this research with other cities our size because of councilmembers saying we shouldn't get our raise and should have to pay part of our medical premiums. Councilmember Gilmour stated he doesn't care except about the City of Kittitas and stated the situation the City of Roslyn and Ellensburg are in borrowing from reserves. Councilmember Gay asked him why he thinks we will have to draw out of our reserves. Councilmember Gilmour stated when you let every city employee spend whatever is in their budget it is like Christmas to them. Councilmember Hink is concerned with having a new building and the efficiency of it including the heat and air conditioning. Councilmember Gay asked Councilmember Hink what change he would like to see in the proposed budget.

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He has concerns with the tax revenue and stated somebody is cutting every day in the newspaper and they have more revenues than we do. Councilmember Gay repeated we have our tax revenue information in the proposed budget and doesn't understand what information he would like to see . A budget is just a "best guess" estimate based on prior years and forecasts. He also believes sales tax revenue is under estimated. Councilmember Gilmour stated figures can tell you anything they want to tell you. Councilmember Helland asked if we are getting any gambling tax revenue. Councilmember Gilmour asked why budget amendments aren't being done prior to the money being spent. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained this is correct. The budgets are supposed to be amended prior to the fund going over budget. (We adopt our budget by fund) Councilmember Hink asked about the \$100,000 grant line item. This was an estimate of what was left in grant monies which was increased to \$340,000. This will be a better estimate of what will be rolled over to 2011. Councilmember Helland asked if the library budget was changed. There was \$3,000 removed from the transfer to the library and \$2,000 decrease to books and supplies expense. Councilmember Huber moved to approve the 2011 budget and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes and Councilmember Hink and Gilmour voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

WWTP Fine Screen Project – MRM Pay Request #8 – Councilmember Helland moved to approve pay request #8 in the amount of \$19,274.51 and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Wray Plumbing – Pay Request #5 – \$8,209.53 – 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 #5 – \$22,983.83 – Councilmember Helland moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Tri Ply Construction – Pay Request #3 – \$90,642.26 – After some discussion on the progress of the remodel, Councilmember Helland moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Resolution #10-020R – Cost Allocation Policy – Councilmember Huber moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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2011 EMS Agreement – Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this agreement and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Helland – Cole's Crossing Street Lights – He believes the city should be paying for the street lights in this development and not their homeowners association. We need to check into this.

