

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 28, 2011**

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Councilmember's present was Gilmour, Hink, Helland, and Huber. Jeff Gay was absent.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

No additions or changes to the agenda. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the June 28<sup>th</sup> agenda Councilmember Huber seconded the motion, the motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

Joanne Menth states she lives on the corner of Pierce and 1<sup>st</sup> Street and she has had a dust problem for the last five years, every Mayor and Police Officer has let them sprinkle the streets with water, she has a breathing problem. A week ago she was warned by a City Police officer that it was against city ordinance to sprinkle the streets. She would like the City to re do the city code which was done in 1974. She would also like to be able to water by hand. Councilmember Huber explained that Public Appearance was not meant for discussion but they would ask the Mayor some questions. Councilmember Huber would like to know what City Code they are questioning. Mr. Menth would like some type of variance. Mrs. Menth says she will not spray anyone walking by. The way Mrs. Menth interprets the code is that she can hold the hose and spray the streets. Mayor Camarata said that the Police officer said it was code; the city council is interpreting the code as she can hold the hose and will not spray people. Councilmember Hink says he waters his street, Councilmember Huber says technically they can't take action since it was not added to the agenda. Council says it is ok for Mrs. Menth to hold the hose and sprinkle the street. Councilmember Huber would like the Mayor to talk to Officer Taylor and explain to him the plight of the citizen.

**STAFF REPORTS**

No staff reports available.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**Treasurer's Report** – Mayor Camarata asked if there were any comments on the Treasurer's report. Councilmember Huber would like to find out about the current expense why the previous balance had gone down a bit was it due to the collection of the property taxes that came in May, and the City needs to be vigilant

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and watch our fund balance and not keep dipping into it. The other thing Councilmember Huber would like to point out is the street balance, she was wondering if that was low due to not making the quarterly transfer yet, and yes the transfer will be done June 30, 2011. Council member Huber states we need to find out when the 3/10's money runs out because we are on the downhill side of that fund and the city needs to be cognizant of that as well.

**Budget Position** – Councilmember Hink is concerned about the fire control budget for the utilities, Councilmember Huber explained that at the time the budget was set we were not sure what to budget since it was a new building. The utility budget is just about used up for the fire department. Mayor Camarata said he would keep an eye on that.

Councilmember Huber brought up the jail costs for the city of Ellensburg and the City of Ellensburg has decided to contract with the City of Sunnyside to finish out the year, because the County wanted another \$150,000 to finish out the year. Councilmember Huber would like to look at the actual accounting of our Jail costs from the County and she would like to see that going into the future. We need to make sure the City of Kittitas is not actually redeeming the debt of the new jail being built, on the back of the contracts of the City of Kittitas, what councilmember Huber wants to see is what other cities are paying for. Councilmember Hink was asking how much Sunnyside charges to take prisoners back and forth, if you have a longer sentence you are going to Sunnyside since you do not have as many jail appearances.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Main Street Sidewalks & Storm Drains** – Mike Meskimen from Gray & Osborne has two contracts for the Construction and Engineering Services for Main Street and Storm Drain projects the previous contracts were only for the design part these are the construction portions. #1 TIB Sidewalk is 6 weeks of inspection services for \$31,200.00. #2 COG is for \$15,000 which includes inspection for construction services for storm drain work. Gray and Osborne is waiting for a signed contract back from Belsaas and Smith, they are expecting to start mid July. Councilmember Gilmour wanted to know why exhibit A jumped up in price and Mike Meskimen explained that it was signed one and ½ years ago. Mike Meskimen says this is typical. Councilmember Huber pointed out the scope of work is for design and the second part is for the construction phase which includes inspections, paperwork, 40 hrs per week, etc. Councilmember Huber made a motion to approve contract supplemental agreement #1 with TIB Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no. Councilmember Huber moved to approve amended agreement #2 COG for engineering services, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**Meyer's roofing payment** – Councilmember Huber questions that this pays them for everything except the retainage. Mayor Camarata said they re braced the south wall; councilmember Helland said why we are paying this. The Council was asking how this works that we get our money back from Tri-ply. Councilmember Huber said we are basically shorting Tri-ply? Councilmember Huber would like an update from Cal. Councilmember Helland says ultimately we would be holding the bag for Tri-Ply. This will be tabled until we get an explanation from Cal. Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve distribution for Meyer's roofing payment #4 based upon explanation from Cal, that we are not spending city funds for this. Clerk/Treasurer Debbie asked if they read the e mail attached. The change order was approved in April. Councilmember Huber would like to stick with that motion. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion.

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The motion carries 4 yes 0 no. Mayor Camarata says Meyers is postponed until we get an explanation from Cal.

**Variance Application for 3 dogs** – Mary Hyde explained that the first dog is her son's, who is in Afghanistan. She acquired the dog, the second dog was her grandson's dog and the dog cannot stay with her grandson because of the codes where he lives the dog is overweight. The third dog is a rescue dog. She talked to all her neighbors and all her neighbors said it is fine, that she has three dogs. She stated she could get letters if needed. She found out about the ordinance after she got the third dog. Mary will be coming in to license the third dog. Councilmember Hink made a motion to accept the variance, Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motions. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**Amendment #5 State of Washington DOE** – Mayor Camarata explained that it was just a housekeeping issue since it was approved in April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 council meeting. Council member Huber made the motion to approve amendment #5 of the State of Washington DOE, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**Official Newspaper 11-009R** – Mayor Camarata stated that the resolution 11-009R is to make the Daily Record the City of Kittitas Official Newspaper. Councilmember Helland moved to approve the motion, councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no. Councilmember Gilmour was wondering if he read it right that there were only 125 people in Kittitas who took the paper.

**Payment Approvals**

**June 2011 Bills** – \$21,313.83 Councilmember Huber made a motion to approve June bills. Councilmember Hink Seconded the motion, the motion carries 4 yes 0 no. With the caveat that Meyer's roofing is distributed after the conversation with Cal Jordan.

**Voided check** – Councilmember Huber asked what this was. Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee explained that Robin had written the check in 2010 for acquiring property for the sidewalk project, the property owners demands from the city could not be met, so Gray and Osborne did a alternate design, Councilmember Huber said it's prohibitive to keep negotiating with the person. Mayor Camarata said bids are out and changes have been made. Councilmember Huber made a motion to approve the voided check and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes 0 no.

**MAYORS REPORT**

**Computers** – City Hall is in need of new computers, they are slow and freezing up. Councilmember Hink said to talk to Joel at the High School, they just got new computers. Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee told council about a bid from Symplified. Councilmember's thought that was too much. Someone suggested spraying it out with air. Council wants 3 bids. Councilmember Helland says he got one for less than that. Mayor Camarata said he will get three bids. Someone said to buy from Costco, Mayor Camarata said we cannot buy from Costco. Debbie Lee explained that part of that price is for Symplified to transfer the data and support afterwards. Councilmember Helland will do some shopping. Councilmember Huber said CWU stated they just bought one for approximately \$690.00. Debbie stated Leslie is having problems.

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**City Hall Parking lot** – getting the drain field put in.

**Community Garden** – Mayor Camarata stated he is working with the coordinator to work out the bugs on that.

**Fire Station** – looking to bring in top soil and a diagram from Cal to see what plants to bring in

**UGA** – the City had a court date in Superior Court the Hearing will be the last two weeks in August.

**Crack Sealing** – they will start tomorrow on Patrick and then Main until they run out of material. Councilmember Huber asked why we are doing this now before we hire the new public works person. Mayor Camarata said we have to do it now since the machine is here from Spokane, Kittitas County had it then Ellensburg had it and now we have it, so we had to hire a temporary person to help. Councilmember Hink asked if we already had the product, Mayor Camarata stated we had it. Councilmember Huber said come budget time we need to budget for the crack sealing in its entirety.

**Street Sweeping** – Mayor Camarata stated 2007 the City spent \$2012.65 to sweep the entire street in town and there were less paved streets. In 2008 the City spent \$649.51 for Main and Patrick so we could paint center lines. 2009 we did not sweep the streets due to the economy. 2010 -\$712.34 was spent to sweep Main and Patrick, 2011- \$881.00 was spent on Main and Patrick for painting. Mayor Camarata said the difference this year was we had snow and all of the streets should have been swept. This year's forecast is for heavy snows so we may be looking at more street sweeping and the City should think about that come budget time.

**Councilmember Gilmour** – weeded the entrance sign into Kittitas and it looks very nice. Mayor Camarata thanked him.

**Mayor Camarata** – stated we are in the middle of the audit at this time.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Helland is very concerned about sweeping the streets, it needs to be done. He would also like new furniture for the council room; Councilmember Helland asked if we are splitting the furniture since it is a multi use room. Mayor Camarata has three bids and states it needs to come out of current expense. Councilmember Hink said he will look up some furniture prices.

Councilmember Helland does not want very much top soil out front of City Hall. Councilmember Gilmour said we have a lot of dirt; we don't need to buy dirt. Mayor Camarata says the money will come out of the general fund if we do it; we need to have Cal ok it. Council thinks that Cal needs to be at the next meeting. Councilmember Gilmour is concerned about the sign that is to go on City Hall. Mayor Camarata says the sign is ordered and will be here in 5 weeks.

Councilmember Gilmour says we need to fix the lock on the library because one of these days he won't be here. Councilmember Gilmour thinks that someone should be on shift at least until 4:30, he thinks the other employees should take turns and stay to help with problems that arise. Councilmember Huber said if anyone

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can think of a way to remedy the situation that would be good.

Councilmember Gilmour wanted to know when we were going to interview for help. They agreed on Friday the 10th of June. Mayor Camarata said there are about 13 or 14 applications and to pick the top 3 for an interview.

Councilmember Gilmour asked about a retreat. Councilmember Helland called Wild horse, you have to have a tour but you can use their facility.

Councilmember Hink asked if we installed a passing lane on Main Street, people are using it in the wrong way. Mayor Camarata said he would talk to the Police about this.

Councilmember Huber wants to know if the trees that were planted on the curve is there water to water them. They need to know that status of that, because we will lose all vegetation? Mayor Camarata does not know. Councilmember Huber thought there was a drip system.

Councilmember Hink said that Buck is doing a good job. Councilmember Helland says he should have a spotter when he is digging. Councilmember Hink wanted to know how he was shooting grade.

Councilmember Gilmour wants to get the water truck running, Councilmember Helland wants to get rid of both trucks and look at getting rid of all that stuff. Councilmember Huber suggested Mayor Camarata make a list of all vehicles and their operational status

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Camarata

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Clerk/Treasurer

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