

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2011**

Mayor Pro Tem Gay called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. July 26, 2011. Councilmember's present was Gilmour, Hink, Helland, and Huber.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee, WWTP employee Brenda Bach, Chief Nierman, Officer Shuart, and Fire Chief Carbajal.

Mayor Pro Tem Gay led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Hink asked that the minutes be amended to say Fred Barnhart. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the minutes from the July 12th meeting, Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion carries 4 yes with 1 abstention Councilmember Huber.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour would like to add the topic of the Mayor, under New Business to the agenda. Councilmember Hink approved the motion Councilmember Helland seconded the motion 5 yes the motion carries.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Tiny Allphin would like more agenda's available at the Council Meetings. He also stated that he thought the reader board was for official City business, not Old Time Fiddlers, John Wayne Trail Riders, etc. Tiny Allphin also complained about the garbage/weeds at the Habitat for Humanity House, Chief Nierman said it would not be a problem any longer Officer Taylor has spoken with the owner.

STAFF REPORTS

Police – 4H volunteers pulled weeds around the City Hall and cleaned up graffiti around the City of Kittitas. The Fire Department also helped with their water truck. Chief Nierman stated that he would put a notice in the Daily Record thanking the volunteers. The Police department also received their new evidence lockers.

Garden Committee – Pat Cort stated that they would like to postpone meeting with the Council since the first Garden Committee meeting is August 2. Pat Cort would like to submit to Council the history of the Garden Committee and submit the ordinance by the end of August, hoping to get all the public input/support they can get. Pat Cort talked about putting an ad in the Daily Record; Councilmember Huber suggested the public service strip.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Treasurer's report – Councilmember Gilmour was wondering why we pay the planner so much. Mayor Pro Tem Gay said that he would check and make sure that costs are being allocated to the correct people.

Budget Position – no comments

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Computers – Mayor Pro Tem Gay states the money will come from current expense to get the two new computers for the Assistant Clerk and the Clerk/Treasurer. Councilmember Hink made a motion to accept the bid from Symplified for the computers, Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. 5 yes the motion carries. Councilmember Gilmour is happy this decision was made, it was something needed.

Utility Worker Application – Mayor Pro Tem Gay reposted the position in the newspaper and the City received 19 applications. Councilmember Huber was the only Councilmember not to look at them. Mayor Pro Tem Gay suggested everyone send him a list of the top 3 and he will make the list for interviews. Gay stated that the interviews would be the first week of August and Rick Hink, Jerry Gilmour, Chief Nierman, Cecil Howard, and Mayor Pro Tem Gay would be doing the interviews.

Mayor – Mayor Pro Tem Gay stated that he does not want to be voted in for the position; he is in it for the short term 30 days but not long term he does not feel like he has the time to put forth. Councilmember Huber stated that the City has 90 days to appoint a Mayor and we should go to the City at large. It is too late to get on the November ballot. Councilmember Gilmour stated that the weeds are so tall, and the City has a water leak we need to get a Utility Worker hired and a Mayor hired tomorrow. Councilmember Gilmour would like to nominate Councilmember Helland; Councilmember Hink does not want the position. Mayor Pro Tem Gay stated that the parking lot was a big project and it is taking longer due to lack of man power and equipment. Councilmember Helland would accept the position. Councilmember Gilmour would like to make a motion to appoint Councilmember Helland as Mayor. Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. 3 yes 2 no Councilmember Huber and Mayor Pro Tem Gay. Councilmember Helland will be sworn in as Mayor of Kittitas August 9, 2011.

Speaker Phone – tabled until after budget time along with tables and chairs. The speaker phone is for the meeting room. Councilmember Hink made a motion to table the topic.

Variance Application for 3 dogs – Val & Becky Bosch adopted two dogs they already had one. All dogs are inside dogs and their yard is fenced. Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve the variance, Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. 5 yes the motion carries.

Policies & Procedures – Mayor Pro Tem Gay wanted all Council members to see it, so everyone has a subjective understanding; the Mayor is in charge of hiring and firing of employees. The Council can be involved with concurrence of the Mayor. Mayor Pro Tem does not think the way Mayor Camarata handled the situation was wrong. Councilmember Helland thinks we need to change our City Code, he thinks the Council needs to be involved in at least the approval of the applicant. Councilmember Huber thinks this is a question for Katherine to either amend the code or have it in our personnel policy. Councilmember Huber thinks you get the best cross section of views by letting the council review the process, along with the Mayor. Councilmember Helland said it is in the minutes that they just wanted to be involved that all that was said. Councilmember Huber thinks that the City is sharing the liability by letting the Council be involved in the hiring process. Mayor Pro Tem Gay said he will look into having Katherine review the chapter on hiring and get back to the Council.

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Community Hall – Councilmember Huber says this is a FUND issue, in Government you can't have one fund that benefits from the other. Technically maintenance of the building is a fine line. Maybe there is something we can do, possibly a nominal inter-fund rent to cover the costs of the Community Hall. Police and Fire are current expense. Library is technically a different fund. Street and Library are a different fund. The City can not cut the Fire Departments budget; we need to be mindful that the City uses the room also. Councilmember Gilmour would love to finish the floor at the Community Hall; he would like to use the rent for that purpose. Mayor Pro Tem Gay thinks that it is already set up this way. The City needs to re-think how our Community Hall is used, will alcohol be approved, extra man power, police on duty. Council thinks that the Mayor should sign off on the inspections to see if the people get their deposits back. The Community Hall issue is tabled until next meeting.

Payment Approvals

July 2011 Bills – \$17,053.66 Councilmember Huber made a motion to approve July 2011 bills, Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. 5 yes 0 no the motion carries.

MAYORS REPORT

Ellensburg Telephone – Mayor Pro Tem Gay was not sure about sending a thank you to Ellensburg Telephone, he wasn't sure if someone would be in trouble, Councilmember Gilmour said no they wouldn't be just send the letter. Ellensburg (Fairpoint) communications helped raise the flag with their bucket truck on June 11th, 2011.

Sidewalk Project – Katherine the City attorney wanted something changed in the insurance part, we just heard from Mike at Gray & Osborne today and Debbie the Clerk/Treasurer forwarded it to Katherine.

Car Show – the City had previously gotten the barriers from MRM, which they are no longer in business; Councilmember Huber said she would have Fred ask Russ at Belsaas & Smith about getting the ecology blocks.

Audit – Mayor Pro Tem Gay stated that there was more money in each fund budgeted for the audit, approximately \$14,700.00. The audit is finished

Cal – Thursday is the day tentatively scheduled for a final walk thru with Tri-Ply

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

COG – Councilmember Huber went to the COG meeting for schedule C & D of the storm drain project. The application was for \$155,000 they took it down to \$134,000 in the end the City of Kittitas was awarded \$100,000 for a project that will cost about \$116,000. This money will be able to be spent in the year 2012.

Circus – Is in town this Saturday at the School.

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Retreat- the Council would like Councilmember Helland to schedule a retreat in September for approximately 4 hours.

Theresa McCullough – donated a sleigh and reindeer to the library, Councilmember Gilmour asked if this could be stored in the storage room at City Hall, Council gave their approval. Councilmember Huber asked Clerk/Treasurer Debbie if she could take pictures of the benches and make a surplus list. Also a surplus list for the vehicles that Cecil & Chief Nierman will work on.

Council Room – solicit bids for furniture at budget time. Police and Fire would like everyone to keep in mind to have comfortable chairs.

Supervisor Training – Councilmember Huber stated that CWU offers supervisor training/effective communication/labor relation classes and would like to see Councilmember/Mayor Helland attend the training.

Councilmember Gilmour – would like to see the names of each Councilmember in the lobby.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Pro Tem Gay

Clerk/Treasurer
