

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2012**

Mayor Tony Helland called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., February 28, 2012. Councilmember's present was Jerry Gilmour, Rick Hink, Linda Huber, Pat Cort, and Val Bosch.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee; and Bryan Nash, Public Works; Chris Taylor, Police and Brenda Bach of WWTP.

Mayor Tony Helland led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2012.  
Motion by Councilmember Gilmour; seconded by Hink.  
Motion Carried: 4 yes; 1 abstain (Huber due to absence)

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Amendment to Agenda – Mayor Report: Move up to earlier after Report of Officers #5.**

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda as amended to have Mayor's Report earlier in the meeting...  
Motion by Councilmember Huber; seconded by Councilmember Hink.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

Community member Bev Allphin asked if art students could decorate the ecology blocks. The Mayor indicated if that what is to be placed there that could be a possibility.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**A. Staff Reports:**

Brian Nash, Public Works reported that the city got the STP Grant notice and it is due by March 27, 2012. The Mayor indicated that he would like that email forwarded to him as he has not received that notice. Councilmember Huber suggested getting the county to help and discussion about having Quadco also help with the match.

Brian Nash, Public Works also reported that he had talked to Cal regarding finishing City Hall; the school will build the handrail and we just need to furnish the steel (round); a cement patch south side; and lettering. Councilmember Gilmour asked about a bike rack.

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City Attorney Katherine Kenison indicated that she emailed Clerk Debbie Lee a draft of the Ordinance on Medical Marijuana Garden moratorium. There is a ballot coming out in the fall, there are some rulings coming down from a variety of surrounding states, a lot of activity around this issue and no one on the same page.

City Attorney Kenison also reported AT&T mobility tax refund claim. AT&T sent out a nasty letter last year and again this year about the tax refund claim. She is requesting authorization for legal council to join with other cities in the state to have joint defense to go against AT&T regarding this tax refund claim. This authorization would allow the various city attorneys to share pertinent information on this issue with each other so they can share information with each other in responding to this claim.

**MOTION:** To authorize the City Attorney to execute joint confidentiality agreement on the AT&T Mobility Tax Refund claims.

Motion by Councilmember Huber; seconded by Gilmour.

Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Helland announced that the Kittitas Fire Chief, Roy Carbajal, has resigned as he has an opportunity to go elsewhere. The Mayor has asked Jose Preciado to be the Interim Fire Chief with council's approval while there is a search for a new fire chief. Councilmember Huber requested that the major look at the current job description to make sure it is current.

**MOTION:** To appoint Jose Preciado as Interim Fire Chief, during the search for Fire Chief.

Motion by Councilmember Hink; seconded by Cort.

Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. **Water/Sewer Ordinance #2** - The Mayor reported that there have been problems with the Ordinance regarding the Landlord/Tenant and who is responsible for paying the bill. It is suggested that the Ordinance be made to reflect that the Landlord is responsible for payment to the City. The language in Title 13: Section 13.24 needs to be reviewed. Discussion about who pays the deposit, how long is the deposit held; there are several questions. The council would like to see what other cities are doing with this issue. City Attorney Kenison will get us some examples.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Executive Session – Complaint against public official or employee RCW 42.30.110, Paragraph 1, Section F.** – Executive Session is scheduled to last 10 minutes and will begin at 7:31 p.m. and end 7:42 p.m. Regular meeting is back in session at 7:42 p.m. No action taken in Executive Session.

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- B. Usage of City Vehicles** – Councilmember Cort indicated that she asked for this to be on the agenda as some constituents were asking questions about the use of driving city vehicles home and usage being tracked. The Mayor is on the top of the call out list for city issues, occasionally run errands to Ellensburg for city issues, and as all other city employees, watches for trash, building permits, business licenses, etc. If he were to use his own vehicle, the cost would be .51 cents per mile. Councilmember Cort discussed whether there should be a policy to show the public, not that anyone is doing anything wrong but to protect the city. The Mayor told Cort to research what other cities are doing. She has found that Roslyn is in the process of putting a policy together. The car the mayor utilizes in his city business does have a light bar but only amber lights are activated for caution lights. Tracking mileage would be a good idea. More information will be gathered and further discussion. The city attorney will get some sample policies together for the council.
- C. Posting Council Meetings and Public Meetings in the newspaper.** Councilmember Huber indicated that it is very expensive to post these notices in the papers. There are Ordinances in place that indicate when the meetings are held. Some of the meetings that must be advertized could be placed on the reader board, at the post office, and other public places. Post the meetings in the post office, city library, city hall and there is an email listing of those who get the notices of the meetings.
- D. UGA:** City Attorney Kenison reported that no call from DOE to outline where we are headed as a city, what is the game plan for the work to do in data gathering. There have been sit-down meetings, telephonic meetings/personal meetings with County Commissioners, Doc Hanson, new director of CDS, and others. There are concerns about going forward. Maps are incorrect and do not show accurate information. The mayor and city attorney have been very active in attempting to clean up the record which has many errors. Attempting to pull factual information together so it is clear to UGA what we have to offer to Kittitas County for growth. They have been taking pictures to attempt to make it clearer. This is all about economic development. We have hired a planner but he has been slow to assist. Email any pertinent information regarding this issue to the City Attorney for her information gathering. A photograph of the current development in the area to superimpose over the current map would be good. Discussion regarding this issue continued. The more information we can get about growth plans or information would be helpful. Public hearings are at the end of March.

**PAYMENT APPROVALS**

**A. February 28, 2012 Payables - \$84,763.55 #3**

**MOTION:** Move to pay February 28, 2012, bills in the amount of \$84,763.55 (#3) with the exception of the payment to Brad and Burke payment pending what we are paying for. Motion by Councilmember Bosch; seconded by Councilmember Hink.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes, 0 no.

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**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- Anyone want to work on the Personnel Policy tonight. Nay.
- Bill Gordon – street naming, legal fees, architect, and planner. There will be a meeting with the Planning Commission on March 1, 2012, to see what we can do.
- Is there an historical driveway (our map shows a 48' easement) by the Graybill & Potato Shed. Does there need to be a boundary line adjustment.

**Adjourn at 8:55 pm**

**Attest:**

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Mayor Helland

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Debbie Lee, Clerk/Treasurer