

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2012**

Mayor Tony Helland called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., August 14, 2012. Council members present were Jerry Gilmour, Rick Hink, Todd Veness, Linda Huber, and Pat Cort.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee; Brian Nash, Public Works; and Scott Ciraulo, Fire Chief; Chris Taylor, Police Department; Brent Nierman, Police Chief.

Mayor Helland led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of July 24, 2012.
Motion by Councilmember Hink; seconded by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain (Huber absent).

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda as presented.
Motion by Councilmember Huber; seconded by Councilmember Hink.
Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- Dot Nicholas wondered why Mayor Helland did not thank the police and fireman per her request at a past Council meeting. Mayor Helland responded that he forgot. She did not accept that as an excuse.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports:

- Brent Nierman, Police Chief, reported the review of their department budget issues and they do not have a lot of areas they can cut. They discussed ways to save on fuel expenditures and this past month they saved approximately \$300 over past months' averages on fuel expenditures. They will continue to be aware of keeping this expense down in order to cut budget.
- Scott Ciraulo, Fire Chief, reported that he was able to acquire for the City of Kittitas four new first generation defibulators that are in great working order. The plan is to place one in the first responding aid car; one in the first out fire engine; one in the support unit; and the fourth defibrillator will be hung in the City Hall for staff to utilize in the staff or lobby area. The staff will be trained on how to use this defibrillator.

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- Fire Chief Scott Ciraulo also reported that they have four new volunteer fire staff members who will complete the September volunteer academy
 - Brian Nash, Public Works, passed out a handout regarding the back-up well and the Department of Health information which explains what to do to stay compliant. This is regarding the missing pump from the pump house and the pump company came and took the pump out to fix but did not return it. The attorney will write a letter to the pump company. This is informational about the chlorination system and check into getting the old pump back.
 - Debbie Lee, Clerk/Treasurer, reported that Sterling Bank came out and indicated that they could save us from \$150 per month in fees down to \$30 per month. We are also looking into implementing a way for the customers to pay their utility bill online with their credit card at a reduced rate. (Currently the credit card company charges our customers \$5.95 to pay with a credit card.)
- B. **Budget Report #2:** dated 08/03/2012, presented. No discussion.
- C. **Treasurer's Report #3:** dated 08/03/2012, presented. No discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Ron Earwood – Council position appeal #4** – Ron Earwood was not present. Mayor Helland indicated that the two City Codes that Mr. Earwood referred to in his appeal do not apply in his situation. These codes are referring to positions such as police chief and city clerk and do not apply to elected officials. Eligibility to hold elected office is in RCW 42.23: it says we must elect a qualified applicant – a registered voter of at least 18 years of age and a resident of the city for at least one year.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Executive Session – Possible litigation #5.** Mayor Helland said executive session will be for 15 minutes beginning at 7:23 pm. Out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm. No decisions were made and no action taken. Assistant Attorney Anna was present from Ephrata
- B. **Tami Merkle – Dog Variance #6:** Tami Merkle & Calvin Stewart reported that they live at 100 N Mason. They have three dogs: 2 year old boxer, 9 year old red healer, 5 year old pom/poo. Licenses are current; no reports of dog at large, always out with our dogs when they go out.

MOTION: To accept the Dog Variance application for Tami Merkle & Calvin Stewart.
Motion made by Councilmember Hink; seconded by Councilmember Veness.
Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no.

- C. **EPYK – Education Project #7:** Police Chief Nierman discussed the education program to help protect the youth of Kittitas as they live, grow, and develop with the Kittitas Community. This program networks and partners with National resources such as National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as local resources such as ASPEN (DV Advocacy) and SAFE KIDS, EPYK staff will be able to offer up-to-date training modules for the ages of Kindergarten through 12th grade. Police Chief Nierman networked with the US Army and received, free of charge, a decommissioned armored military Humvee which has been assigned to the Kittitas Police Department.

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Chief Nierman donated time and resources to outfit this Humvee for use in this educational program for the youth of Kittitas. The 2007 Humvee has 17,000 miles and is in excellent condition and is free. It will only cost \$37 to transfer the title. Chief Nierman is asking for any questions that the council has to ask them so he can research the answer and wants to make a team decision if this is a wise move. Mayor Helland added that the Police Chief and Officers are very dedicated to the City of Kittitas and are the best Chief and Officers that Kittitas has ever had. He feels it will make a difference in Kittitas. Councilmember Huber is saying it is not personal but a budget issue. Chief Nierman will see how it affects the budget. Councilmember Cort thinks it is a great idea; yes, we could get sponsorship, grants, etc.; the budget issues are very important also. Councilmember Gilmour asked what happened to the motion to return the vehicle. Mayor Helland said the motion was to “not accept at this time.” Table decision.

- D. **Ordinance No. 12-009 Accepting Donations/Gifts #8:** Councilmember Huber brought up questions about **what if** the donated items were vehicles worth under \$1,000, and the City Clerk authorized, how this affects the budget. Mayor Helland suggested that this Ordinance go back to the Attorney for a rewrite regarding donation of vehicles needing Council approval.
- E. **Kittitas Valley Soccer Sponsorship #9:** Councilmember Veness has been trying to contact the Kittitas Valley Soccer Association. Councilmember Veness would like to pay for a Soccer Team and have the City of Kittitas be the Sponsor. Question was asked if there was a liability. Councilmember Huber discussed the fact that you can not gift to public funds.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. August 14, 2012, payables \$32,255.64 #10

MOTION: Move to pay August 14, 2012, Payables in the amount of \$32,255.64.
Motion made by Councilmember Huber; seconded by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 5 yes; 0 no.

B. July Payroll/August mid-month draws \$39,601.50 #11

MOTION: Motion to pay July Payroll/August mid-month draws in the amount of \$39,601.50...
Motion made by Councilmember Huber; seconded by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 5 yes, 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Helland said the landscaping looks good; however, it is not completed yet. We will schedule another work party in the near future. We purchased with the grant money: two nice benches out front, a picnic table out back, stove and refrigerator for the kitchen, lawn mower, bike rack and fencing for around the generator.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Gilmour asked about the tables in the storage room and Mayor Helland said they can be taken back to the Community Hall.
- Discussion about the Washington State Patrol training class was held in the meeting room and they loved the location and they will be back for future trainings in September.
- The Burn Outs were uneventful for incidents but successful event.
- Good to get the word out that other training events could be held here.

Adjourn at 8:25pm

Attest:

Mayor Helland

Debbie Lee, Clerk/Treasurer