

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2015**

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Huber led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Huber called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. September 8, 2015. Councilmembers present: Ben Whitehurst, J. Huber, John Camarata, Jerry Lael and Darrell McLean. Staff present: Michelle Geiger – Building Official; Bryan Nash – Public Works; Chris Taylor - Police and Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 25, 2015

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember J. Huber.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember J. Huber.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- Daniel Menth wanted to inform Council that Carl Lowe passed away Saturday night.

REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

John Sinclair – Fire Chief KVFR & John Smith – Fire Commissioner

- Chief Sinclair was recently contacted by Mayor Huber to explain to Council why the City of Kittitas was charged for a recent house fire.
- Chief Sinclair explained that 8 years ago KVFR approached the City of Kittitas about the different options of Fire Protection that they can offer the City.
- Option 1. Continue to do what the City of Kittitas has been doing.
- Option 2. Have a fire protection agreement, KVFR does this with CWU. KVFR receives about \$640,000 per year based on value of approximately \$1.50 per \$1,000.
- Option 3. The City of Ellensburg annexed into the fire district and is now building a new building. The stations are close by and can service the City of Kittitas. Council would have to make the decision and it would go to a vote of the citizens and the fire district, this does not have to be a

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super majority. The citizens would pay the district.

- Option 4. The City of Kittitas would have to decide to unincorporate and form utility districts, KVFR would petition not to go for a vote. This option would be up to the citizens of the community.
- Any decision the Council makes, KVFR is happy to assist.
- Chief Sinclair explained how the call out process works, per state auditor regulations like services have to be used. The recent fire City of Kittitas was paged, if no answer then next closest volunteer station is paged (This is also manned by some of the same volunteers that man the City of Kittitas station). If after 5 minutes no answer then KVFR is paged out and they have to bill the City of Kittitas for its services. If the page comes out as trapped or injured then KVFR responds immediately.
- Automatic aide is an operational contract with fire only. The hospital district already has EMS the City of Kittitas residents pay slightly higher due to the fact they are not in the district.
- Councilmember Lael asked if it would lower our rating. Chief Sinclair said that they are being re-rated currently. They went from a 5 to a 4 due to record keeping and staffing. The City of Kittitas is a 6 they have a good water system and if they start fire inspections this would help lower that number. If the City of Kittitas was to merge with KVFR they would take over fire inspections.
- Mayor Huber talked about the population expectations and at what point does KVFR make considerations as to how far they will respond.
- Chief Sinclair stated when they built the Clemons Road station they made provisions for additions for living quarters to be added.
- Mayor Huber inquired why there is a separate agreement with CWU; Chief Sinclair stated it is state owned property. Chief Sinclair will present something more formal for Council to consider.
- Chief Ciraulo is in full support of merging, he feels this would be in the best interest of the City they would have more resources and training available to the volunteers.
- Commissioner John Smith has discussed with this issue at the board meeting and is willing to work with the City of Kittitas but the direction needs to come from the City.

Michelle Geiger – Building Official

- SCJ Alliance is having a planning commission and Council meeting on September 17th to go over the comp plan. This will come before Council in October for a decision based on the

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recommendation of the Planning Commission.

- Mayor Huber met with Jerry Litt last week and is pleased with what is being presented.
- Councilmember Lael asked how long will the Planning Commission look at this, Michelle explained they have had a couple of meeting and will make their decision by the end of the year. The Department of Commerce should respond in 6 weeks.
- Michelle has gotten several inquiries regarding solar panels.
- The BLA for Allphins will be recorded in two weeks.
- Farmview Plat Amendment has been finalized and they will start soon.
- The BOD for Colockum Craft is complete so the CUP should move forward now.
- Mayor Huber inquired as to how Michelle solicits for these projects, Michelle explained that you post at the site in the lobby and do a mailing of 300 feet of the project and have a public hearing.

Bryan Nash – Public Works

- Bryan and Mike have started on the striping and crosswalks and are about 1/3 of the way done.
- They are prepping the shop for cement pads next week.
- They will start working on the water main projects again since irrigation season is over with.
- Bryan and Mike have the supplies to make a retaining wall for the Wilson Park sign.
- Best Assets have started installing the sidewalks. Bryan took the water sample in to get tested so they can hopefully go live when they get the results back.
- Mayor Huber stated how helpful Best Assets have been with the City and that the end result will look very good.
- Chief Ciraulo inquired about the fire hydrant being in service. Bryan thought it should be active this next week and it is being placed more out front and the Fire Department will have a Knox box.
- The Eagle Scout will be starting his project on the 26th of September.

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Scott Ciraulo – Fire Chief

- Chief Ciraulo explained that due to the current fire conditions there is a mutual aid agreement with all state resources. Any structure or grass fire every available unit responds and then they will assess the situation and triage.
- Mayor Huber explained that due to the dry weather the City has had several trees fall into the streets becoming a public safety problem. They will be looking at the Ordinances, and possibly having our insurance company come and assess the liability.

Chris Taylor – Police Department

- Officer Taylor explained to Council in February 2014 there was a child molestation case and Chris was with the case from beginning to end. It recently went to trial last week which was the first trial for Officer Taylor. The Jury Trial came back with a guilty verdict.
- Mayor Huber explained this was Officer Taylor's first trial and he did a wonderful job.
- Officer Taylor informed Council that Chief Nierman, Officer Anderson and he will be attending training on Thursday in Kirkland regarding investigation techniques.

B. Budget Report

- Councilmember Lael inquired about what the 67% means, it was explained that at this point in the year we should be at or below 67% of the line items. Councilmember Camarata stated we should be more concerned with what line items are at 100%.

C. Treasurer's Report

No comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment Ordinance 15-032

- Councilmember Lael asked if this would be enough to finish the shop. Bryan stated yes.

MOTION: Councilmember Lael made a motion to approve the Ordinance 15-032; second by

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Councilmember J. Huber.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

B. Revision to Building Fee Re: Solar Panels

- Michelle explained that in the last two weeks she has gotten four inquiries about solar panels. If Michelle bases the permit off of the bid price the cost of the permit could be \$391.75 based off of \$30,00 bid price. There would be one plan review and one inspection. Michelle looked at how the County is basing these permits and they do them hourly. Per City code this needs to be a specific fee or the other option is a flat fee. Michelle proposed a fee of \$216 permit if this is adopted with no plan review.
- Mayor Huber stated it is only fair to look at different fees and lower the cost if they are not appropriate for the amount.

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the revision the building fee schedule; second by Councilmember J. Huber
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. September 8, 2015 Payables \$44,207.66

- Councilmember Lael inquired about the City of Kittitas water/sewer bill. It was explained that one fund cannot benefit the other.

MOTION: Councilmember Lael made a motion to approve September 8th payables; second by Councilmember Camarata.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

B. August 2015 EFT \$4,326.72

MOTION: Councilmember Lael made a motion to approve August 2015 EFT payables; second by Councilmember J. Huber.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no

C. August Payroll/September Mid-Month Draws \$48,627.65

MOTION: Councilmember J. Huber made a motion to approve the August Payroll/September Mid-Month Draws: Second by Councilmember Camarata.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Huber explained that Monday morning after the car show she met with City staff and they came up with some possible changes for next year. The staff also met with Jessica Tate from the Chamber later that week.
- No political parties in the vendor space.
- Moving the pin stripe to a different side street.
- Electricity in the church parking lot needs to be addressed they kept blowing fuses.
- They would like to have all the food vendors in line with the businesses so it would be more cohesive.
- They talked about possibly getting the coke stage and trying entertainment again.
- Tables and chairs on the grass in front of City Hall for people to eat and relax.
- Mayor Huber stated she was reasonably surprised it was a nice event.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Lael asked the Mayor if she approached the homeowners of the burnt house regarding fire protection coverage. Mayor Huber stated she asked Shelley Gay to attend, something must have come up.
- Councilmember Lael wanted to know when the stop sign on 2nd and Clark will be coming down he knows the Council approved this awhile back. Bryan stated he would remove it tomorrow.

ADJOURN: 8:14 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Huber

Debbie L. Lee Clerk/Treasurer