

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 24, 2015**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro-Tem John Camarata called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00PM on November 24, 2015. Then led those assembled in the flag salute.

Councilmembers present: Ben Whitehurst, and Mayor Pro-Tem John Camarata. Staff present: Brenda Houston -Clerk, Michelle Geiger – Building Official; Bryan Nash – Public Works; Judy Johnson – Library Board.

**OATH OF OFFICE / MAYOR**

- Mayor Whitford was sworn in at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem, John Camarata

**OATH OF OFFICE / COUNCIL**

- Mayor Whitford swears in newly elected Councilmembers, Dan Sherman, David Doyle, and Jerry Gilmour at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015 Council Meeting as presented; second by Councilmember Gilmour.

Motion carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Councilmember Whitehurst wants to strike TBD contract from agenda for further study to see if it benefits the City. Second by Councilmember Sherman. Councilmember Camarata votes No, Councilmember Gilmour votes No, motion carries.

Motion carried: 3 yes 2 no.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

- Peter Shuetz – on new business in reference to bid for computer work – server contract from Rufus Tech of \$5,035.00 – when was it discussed? Councilmember Camarata said it is up to Council if it is discussed.
- Melody Lopeman – Citizens on these things? Would like to be on committee as a business owner.
- There was no one else wanting to speak.

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**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**A. Staff Reports (informational only)**

**Michelle Geiger – Building Official**

- Nothing on agenda – comp time updates – wants direction from Council – Planning has given recommendation needs to address by year end.

**Bryan Nash – Public Works**

- Finished slab south end of shop – all done with cement work – the snow equipment is ready to go.

**Brent Nierman – Police Chief**

- Today was 1<sup>st</sup> slick day – lots of accidents. Bryan and his crew did a good job – welcomes the new Council.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Christmas in Kittitas**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December – Starts at 5:00. Parade line up at Kern at 5:30. Route stays the same. Gas card prize is \$50. Wants “blurb” on next water bill. Plan to have Kittitas Chamber of Commerce to provide event insurance. Advertise in the Daily Record. Wants community hall on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Lou asked if volunteers are needed – could use more – contact Teresa or Brenda M. at the hardware store. Bryan asked about judges – Mr. and Mrs. David Douglas will be Santa – food drive going on too – drop off at business or library – for local residents – firemen delivers with help of police department.

**B. Budget #5**

- Councilmember Camarata said we need to go over line by line – need work study sessions on Nov 30, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – is suggested – need 2 public hearings – 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec during Council meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – approve on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Building Department Service Contract #2
- This was tabled for more research

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- Rufus Tech Service Contract #3  
Councilmember Gilmour wants to postpone until next Council meeting – Councilmember Camarata agreed, Councilmember Whitehurst would like to have a representative to be here.
- Acceptance of the resignation letter from current legal counsel– Lopeman asked for a reason, Councilmember Camarata read the letter (partial)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Gilmour second, no discussion – motion carries.

- Liquor Licenses #4  
Councilmember Camarata spoke – if no action necessary, Police comment – one issue this summer but was resolved.
- Authorize Mayor to contract new legal counsel – Councilmember Camarata spoke to the need for new attorney – moves to authorize

**PAYMENTS APPROVALS**

**A. November 24th, 2015, Payables Including EFT**

- November 24th, 2015 Payables including EFT \$25,056.30 #6

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Whitehurst  
Motion carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Have departments furnish budget items.
- RE: Debbie Lee – grievance submitted – Union – She is reinstated if she accepts – no longer pursuing a suit against her – discipline mishandled by the City – Starting fresh as of Wednesday, November 25, 2015.
- Certificate for Linda Huber – will deliver to her personally
- Mayor Whitford is overwhelmed by support – new to this type of thing, wants City to grow – communicate – talk – not fully up to speed but by next Council meeting will be more polished – there was a wall – wants healing through that wall.

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**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- Councilmember Gilmour – wants to thank those who spearheaded the campaign and all the voters.
- Councilmember Whitehurst is against bringing Debbie Lee back – would like to see the union decision. Mayor Whitford said she would provide for his review.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

**Attest:**

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Mayor, Lou Whitford

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Debbie Lee, Clerk