

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2016**

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Whitford led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Whitford called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. July 26, 2016. Councilmembers present: Jerry Gilmour, Ben Whitehurst, Jasen Carlson, John Camarata, and Dan Sherman. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Cathy Doyle – Utility Billing Clerk, Kash Sansaver – Utility Worker II, Scott Moore – Utility Worker Lead, Buddy Shuart – Fire Department, Michelle Geiger – Safe Built, Brenda Bach – WWTP, and Nancy – Gray & Osborne.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED
JULY 12th, 2016**

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

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Whitford would like to add under new business D. Interim Fire Chief

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- None

REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

Mayor Whitford

- Introduced two new staff members to the City of Kittitas. Scott Moore Utility Worker Lead and Kash Sansaver Utility Worker II.

Safe Built

- Michelle informed council that the attorney is reviewing the proposed contract with Verizon and

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they are working on the easement issue.

KVFR

- Chief John Sinclair and Rich Elliott discussed the options of merging the City of Kittitas Volunteer Fire Department. It was discussed that in 2005/2006 Kittitas County Fire District 2 put the idea to the City of Kittitas, Thorp and Ellensburg. Kittitas and Thorp at the time decided not to merge.
- See attached information sheet as to what was covered in the discussion. The option of null which is keep the department the way it is, a contract option, an annexation option, or have a fire authority.
- The cost to have a contract with KVFR would be \$1.50 per 1,000 of assessed value this would come directly out of the city budget. The fire authority would decide the level of service. The annexation would be a vote to the citizens to merge with the district. Unincorporated would be a petition method.
- If a contract option was chosen they would utilize the current fire quarters to house apparatus and possibly house interns and reserve. The Fire Department is perfect for residency.
- Currently when a fire is in the city limits a tone is made and if no volunteers are in the city at the time it will tone again after 10 minutes and then KVFR responds and if they put a fire out KVFR will send the city a bill for services provided. Current response time from KVFR is 20 minutes, if a contract/merge happened that could be cut to approximately 10 minutes.
- Currently the city has a contract for EMS services.
- The contract option could reduce the fire rating for insurance and possibly lower the costs of insurance to the homeowners. Another advantage would be faster response time.
- For a small city the size of Kittitas it is hard to recruit volunteers and most of the volunteers work outside of the city which makes it difficult to respond. KVFR currently has approximately 70 volunteers.
- Councilmember Gilmour had questions as to what would happen with the equipment, the transfer of assets would be negotiated and resources would stay with the City. They would not vacate the building.
- Any current capital expense would stay with the city and future capital would be with KVFR.

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- Both Sinclair and Elliott encouraged council to look at the bottom line and talk with the community to see what is in the best interest of the city.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Gray & Osborne Wastewater Discharge Permit Renewal

- Brenda Bach explained that the discharge permit expires every 5 years and the city has to go through the process to get the permit renewed.
- Nancy with Gray & Osborne stated that you apply one year in advance. This permit takes a lot of information and data that must be accurate and reviewed. The permit is specific to the facility that is applying. The city also must have a public hearing to receive public comment.
- Councilmember Sherman wanted to know the cost associated with this application. Councilmember Sherman stated that he had limited information and could not vote on this matter. Councilmember Gilmour asked if staff could complete this application.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that Gray & Osborne has done this permit before and to let them do the work.

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve Gray & Osborne to complete the discharge permit; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.

Motion Carried: 3 yes 1 no (Councilmember Gilmour) 1 silent (Councilmember Sherman).

B. 16-013 Resolution City Council Members Serving as Volunteers

- Mayor Whitford explained to Council that our current code does not allow volunteers to serve on council and the city needs all types of volunteers in many different capacities.
- Councilmember Carlson agreed with the Resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve 16-013R; second by Councilmember Carlson.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 1 abstain (Councilmember Whitehurst).

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C. Liquor License Renewal – Johnny’s Mart

- Mayor Whitford explained that this is for information only and there are no complaints from the Police or public.

D. Interim Fire Chief – Buddy Shuart

- Mayor Whitford would like a consensus approval from Council since she is in charge of hiring. Mayor Whitford would like Buddy Shuart to serve as interim fire chief. Council agreed with the Mayor’s decision.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. July 26th, 2016 Payables \$56,016.66

MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve July 26th payables; second by Councilmember Camarata.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Whitford presented a new city logo that a friend helped design. The Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce thought it was a good idea to rebrand the City of Kittitas. Mayor Whitford would like feedback on this new logo.
- The burnouts are on August 13th and staff will meet with the Chamber on Wednesday.
- The sewer application was submitted to COG.
- A retreat is being planned for Council sometime in the fall with Canfield.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Gilmour stated that Dan Sherman had helped with the water leak using his own equipment and fuel. He believes Dan should be reimbursed for his time and expenses. Mayor Whitford asked if they could turn in an invoice to the city.
- Councilmember Gilmour was concerned about the weeds in the roses and stated he would be happy to spray them. Councilmember Gilmour is also concerned about the amount of garbage that is around town and wondered if the Code Enforcement Officer could look into this. Mayor Whitford

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asked Jerry Gilmour to fill out a complaint form.

- Councilmember Sherman suggested to Mayor Whitford that she consider using a lawn service for the remainder of the year so the new Public Works employees could focus on more important issues.

ADJOURN: 8:20 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Whitford

Debbie L. Lee Clerk/Treasurer