

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2017**

**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. January 10, 2017. Councilmembers present: Jerry Gilmour, Pat Cort, John Camarata and Ben Whitehurst. Jasen Carlson was absent. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Brenda Bach – Waste Water Treatment Plant WWTP, Brent Nierman – Chief of Police and Dave Anderson – Police.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED DECEMBER  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cort made a motion to excuse Councilmember Carlson's absence; second by Councilmember Camarata.  
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

Councilmember Cort would like to see the acronyms spelled out and found a couple of typos; an extra Councilmember, Council wanted more clarity on the verbiage of the kenneling of the K9.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; second by Councilmember Cort.  
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions to the agenda will be: B. under New Business Wage Opener 2017 Union Contract and C. 17-001R Surplus City Property.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitehurst made a motion to add under New Business Wage Opener 2017 Union Contract and C. 17-001R Surplus City Property and accept the agenda as amended; second by Councilmember Cort  
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

Donna Carman

- Donna Carman stated she has been a resident of the City of Kittitas for 5 years and wanted to put faces to the names of the Councilmembers who voted in the \$5.00 surcharge.
- She thanked the Council for doing their job and appreciates what Council does. Donna stated that she does not mind paying taxes and is not neither for nor against the increase in the water/sewer bill. What she is not ok with is money that has been earmarked for the painting of the water tower or other projects and then it not being used for what it was stated to be used for.

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- Donna Carman stated that in 2013 there was a 6.65% increase and Mayor Helland said the money would be used for the painting of the water tower. Also in 2014 there was a 4% increase that was to go towards the Community Hall/Library project, and Council voted that down the following year.
- Donna Carman felt that the Daily Record was mistaken about the cost to paint the water tower as it will be closer to \$100,000 or more. The paint could cost as much as \$400.00 per gallon and she feels the painting of the tower needs to be done.
- Donna Carman said she absolutely loves the City and feels it is a wonderful place to live but the City taxes too much; Social Security only gave a .3% increase. In twelve years Donna stated that the utility bills have increased 65%. No one wants to see the City fail.
- In twelve years Donna has counted 29 Mayors and City Councilmembers who have served on City Council.
- Donna Carman volunteered to do research for the City. She is home due to a disability and has time to offer in that way. She said that the City should utilize the digital tools to communicate with the citizens. She also suggested getting a list of Boy Scouts or people who would volunteer to help clear snow for the elderly residents.
- Councilmember Gilmour thought it would have been best to send a flier out before the increase took effect to explain the increase to the citizens.
- Councilmember Cort stated that some people do not like to give out phone numbers or email addresses.
- Citizen Bev Allphin informed Donna Carman that she could be on the list to receive minutes and agendas via email.

**REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

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

**Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer**

- Debbie informed Council that the State Auditors are wrapping up the audit and will have an exit conference on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Council will receive official notice regarding this meeting.

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**Brenda Bach – Waste Water Treatment Plant WWTP**

- Brenda informed Council that she is moving ahead on the Emergency Response Plan and stated that the Wastewater Plan will take longer.
- She is working on the Standard Operating Procedures for the plant and the Accredited Lab Manual needs updated. Mike Varnum is doing well which enables Brenda time to work on these projects. She is also working on the Process Control Manual.
- Benton Lift has been having some problems, When the pump overheats it stresses the insulation in the pump and makes the breakers go bad. They probably will have to replace the current pump with the spare pump. Brenda and Mike are working on making a plastic basket that will be lighter and will catch about 85% of the garbage which is an ongoing problem.
- Brenda informed Council that Public Works has been working on frozen and broken meters as well as snow removal.
- Mayor Whitford stated that Benton Lift Station serves 27 homes and it was suggested that maybe the City distribute a door hanger regarding what is acceptable and not acceptable to flush.

**Brent Nierman – Chief of Police**

- Chief Nierman told Council that there has been a normal seasonal increase in vehicle prowls and that amounts to between 2-4 prowls. Chief Nierman suggested to not keep valuables in the car and to make sure the car is locked.
- The statistics for 2016 for call volume showed a low volume of 857 for the entire year. These calls are 911 calls to service, officer initiated calls, citizen assist and traffic stops. The crime rate is very low for the City of Kittitas. In the past years there has been a higher crime rate, Chief Nierman feels that the reason that crime is down is due to the longevity of the officers. Their presence reduces crime, if the County was to come in there would probably be more crime.
- Chief Nierman explained to Council the reason for the surplus of Lucy the K9 dog. Officer Taylor has some personal issues that have required him to board Lucy at a kennel a few days a week. Lucy has been with the City for 4 years and was a rescue dog when the State Patrol found her. The veterinarian thinks Lucy is probably 7-8 years old and for a police dog that is about the time the dogs need to be retired. The Police Department tried different avenues of retiring Lucy, they checked into the local police departments and there is not a lot of need for a new dog, Washington State Patrol does their dog recruiting differently. Since Lucy is older it is not in the best interest to re certify her and it is not worth the training. The veterinarian had a

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referral for someone who recently lost their own pet and was looking for an older dog, Myron Linder met Officer Taylor at Palmerio Park and Lucy warmed right up to her new owner. Myron Linder signed a K9 release. Chief Nierman also stated that the new patrol car that Officer Taylor is driving does not have a K9 cage. Chief Nierman stated that Lucy got a lot of work from other agencies and it was good networking with them.

- Councilmember Camarata stated that he felt that was a perfect place for Lucy.
- Chief Nierman explained to Council the 3/10's money and using it for a replacement vehicle for police. Council approved the surplus of the Tahoe and Officer Taylor and Anderson were sharing a vehicle for a couple of months which is difficult to do. The County made a special surplus of a vehicle that was an administrative car with low miles 33,000. This vehicle will be purchased by the City of Kittitas for \$8,000 when the County does the surplus, currently it is on loan. This vehicle is fully equipped. Officer Taylor reached out to ARDOR Design who used to have a business in the City of Kittitas and is now on the West side, they will be doing the complete graphics on the car at no cost.
- When the 3 /10's were originally started the money was not to supplant a budgeted item. By the second round of 3/ 10's money the County loosened the guidelines for the use of the money. The Code Enforcement Position was created so the City was able to fund this position with the 3 /10's revenue. Chief Nierman will talk with the County to verify what the best way to use the 3 /10's revenue either all wages for the Code Enforcement Officer instead of ¾ of his wage. Or use some of the money to purchase a patrol car.
- Chief Nierman applied for a traffic safety grant for one handheld radar gun and a radar speed sign that records data. The requirements of this grant are that the sign needs to be removable. Chief Nierman thought it would be good to place in the School Zone, this sign is solar powered and a great tool in the absence of the police. Chief Nierman should know if the City received the grant later this month.

**B. Budget Report**

None

**C. Treasurer's Report**

None

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Executive Session Union Negotiations RCW 42.30.140(4)**

- The Executive Session was started at 7:41 p.m. for 10 minutes.
- Council came out at 7:51 p.m. with no decisions made.

**B. Wage Opener 2017 Union Contract**

**Motion:** Councilmember Whitehurst made a motion to approve a Cost of Living Allowance of 2.25%; second by Councilmember Camarata.

Motion Carried: 3 yes 2 no. (Councilmember Cort and Councilmember Gilmour) Mayor Whitford broke the tie vote.

**C. 17-001R Surplus of City Property (Lucy)**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to accept Resolution 17-001 Surplus of City Property; second by Councilmember Cort.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**PAYMENT APPROVALS**

**A. December 31, 2016 Payables \$3,769.09**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to pay December 31, 2016 Payables; second by Councilmember Cort.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**B. December 2016 EFT's \$12,442.65**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve December 2016 EFT's; second by Councilmember Cort.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

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**C. December Payroll/January Mid-Month Draw \$49,287.29**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve December Payroll/January Mid-Month Draws; second by Councilmember Cort.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Whitford wanted to thank Councilmember Cort for spearheading the study sessions, that this is forward thinking, and creative ideas will come of these meetings.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- Councilmember Gilmour inquired if the 4 – H uses the Community Hall and if they could volunteer to help the elderly shovel their driveways with all the snow.
- It was discussed making a list of elderly citizens, first responders etc. and have a list of volunteers who will help shovel snow if the City has inquires.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that since the budget is passed for 2017 and there is an excess of \$17,000 in the general fund he would like the Library to do a budget amendment and be open Tuesday thru Saturday from 12:00 – 5:00. The Librarian will also get a wage increase due to the minimum wage increase.
- Councilmember Cort has been talking with a person who helped with the South Cle Elum Train Depot and John Wayne Trail to get ideas on planning for the Depot Park.
- Mayor Whitford would like to get a list of clubs that use the John Wayne Trail so tap those resources.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cort made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Camarata.

Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**ADJOURN: 8:02 p.m.**

**Attest:**

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Mayor Whitford

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Debbie L. Lee Clerk/Treasurer