

City of Kittitas
Special Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2017

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Camarata called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. July 6, 2017.

Councilmembers present: Pat Cort, Jerry Gilmour, Ben Whitehurst and Liz Smith. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Kittitas Volunteer Merger with Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue

- Discussion was had that there were two choices: to approve Ordinance 17-012 and put on the ballot in November or wait until next year.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated that he had heard that Ellensburg did not have to pay any more money/taxes to merge. Councilmember Camarata stated that this was because the City of Ellensburg was already paying \$1.50 per 1,000 of assessed value and currently the City of Kittitas is using \$1.20 per 1,000 of assessed value for fire services.
- Councilmember Cort felt that Council should just approve the Ordinance and put it on the ballot one time and not twice. This would still allow the citizens of Kittitas to make the decision.
- Councilmember Smith wanted to know what the purpose of putting on the ballot twice would be for and that as long as the citizens were informed of the pros and cons it could be done in one election.
- Councilmember Cort said that the City could get the word out in the newsletter, Town Hall Meeting and information left at the front counter in City Hall.
- Councilmember Gilmour was concerned about getting agreements on assets and utilities in place.
- Councilmember Whitehurst stated that to replace and update the turn out gear would be very expensive.
- Councilmember Smith said that the fire services are important and can't be compared to the current service. The response time would be faster.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired as to when the current volunteers train. Councilmember Whitehurst stated every other Thursday.

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- Councilmember Cort asked if the Council room was part of the Fire Department. Councilmember Whitehurst said that they use it for training on occasion this was per the loan/grant agreement with USDA.
- Councilmember Cort thought maybe in the future the space could be used for a Senior Center as currently the City of Kittitas does not have one.
- Councilmember Smith inquired if there were transportation services in Kittitas. Hope Source does offer transportation services.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 17-012; second by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 3 yes 2 no (Councilmember Gilmour and Camarata).

MOTION: Councilmember Cort made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

ADJOURN: 6:27 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pro Tem Camarata

Debbie L. Lee Clerk/Treasurer