

**City of Kittitas**  
**Work/Study Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2017**

**Work/Study Meeting Attendance**

Lou Whitford – Mayor  
Jerry Gilmour – Councilmember  
Pat Cort - Councilmember  
Ben Whitehurst – Councilmember  
John Camarata – Councilmember  
Liz Smith – Councilmember

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer

**Points of Discussion**

- There were no concerns about the minutes.
- Dan Heller is an engineer with Aspect Consulting he spoke to Council about the City of Kittitas Water Rights Purchases. His company puts people in touch with people who have water rights for sale or sellers who have more water rights than buyers. Dan has worked for the City before when he was employed by Gray & Osborne he then went to work for Department of Ecology and then started his own company Aspect Consulting.
- Water rights are a big factor with growth. The older the water rights the better. Senior water rights have to be older than May 10, 1905 this makes them drought proof.
- Kittitas has two groundwater rights for the city the city well and railroad wells, both with a priority date of 1932.
- Kittitas leases water from Warm Springs with an estimated priority date of pre 1917 according the water system plan.
- Since the City of Kittitas leases their water they are not immune to drought years, the City could be shut off from flushing and drinking water.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked why it is called Yakima Basin. It was explained that it is because the 3 water sheds all flow into the Yakima Basin and the Bureau of Reclamation manages the five reservoirs so it is a single stream range.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired as to how Roslyn came up with money to purchase water rights. Dan explained that the legislature took money from the general fund to help Roslyn.

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- Dan explained that now is a good time to plan and for Council to look at the budget for the possible purchase of water rights that are currently available. Dan stated that the City of Kittitas would need to file change applications and seek definitive quantification of the claims the City owns to provide certainty of their water rights portfolio begin planning to purchase water rights older than May 10, 1905 to ensure a minimum amount of firm water rights to prevent total curtailment of City use during a future drought and determine financial impact of opportunistic water right acquisitions on City finances.
- The combined water rights portfolio is sufficient today to meet the City's needs, but some additional capacity is likely needed in the next 20 years.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated this should have been done 10 years ago.
- Mayor Whitford said that Weed California was cut off from its water source at one time.
- Mayor Whitford stated that at budget time Council should look at the checking account balance and possibly place some money into a bond. One of the bonds with TVI has been called and since it was originally funded it has gotten about \$2,000 in interest.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that maybe the City should start budgeting for more help in the front office.
- Mike from Gray & Osborne explained to Council that he is presenting a grant application to TIB and needs Councils approval. This grant application will be for paving Spokane Street. Operating Engineers will help with the labor portion of the 100% grant.
- Mayor Whitford asked about the utility locations on Spokane Street. Mike had not heard back from Brenda yet but thought it did not appear this would be a problem.
- Councilmember Camarata was concerned about the base and if it would hold the blacktop. Mike explained that he could add some additional funding to the grant that would bring in a machine that basically rototiller the current road and prep for asphalt.
- Mayor Whitford asked about the storm water. Mike explained that the City does not have much of a storm water system and that allowing the water to flow as it has been should not be an issue.
- Council discussed Road 81 and how they have started the work on making a pathway for pedestrians from Alpine Estates into town.
- Councilmember Smith was not concerned about how many dogs a household have just the number of barks.
- Councilmember Cort informed Council that at budget time they need to look at the computer and

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server issues. This morning it took the clerk 30 minutes to log into a class.

- Councilmember Cort would like to see the Parks & Garden Committee started back up they will have signup sheets at the Town Hall Meeting and hopefully get some volunteers.
- 5 year goals need to be set by department heads. Prime example of the state of the Fire Department and the equipment needed to operate safely.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that last year the Fire Department had money set aside for turnout gear and had not made any purchases last year nor this year.
- Code issues need to be looked at and possibly go thru the Kittitas Municipal Code section by section so everyone is on the same page as to what to enforce for example RV Parks.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked about the attorney bill it was explained that the majority of this bill was for the Ordinance regarding the Fire Department merger.

**ADJOURN: 6:50 p.m.**

**Attest:**

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Mayor Lou Whitford

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Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer