

City of Kittitas
Work/Study Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2017

Work/Study Meeting Attendance

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

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer
Chris Taylor – Interim Police Chief

Points of Discussion

- Council wanted verification on how many years the contract with Warm Springs has been in effect, Clerk Debbie Lee will check and verify and fix the minutes to reflect the current years. Council did not have any other concerns regarding the minutes.
- Discussion was had regarding the proposed contract from Aspect Consulting. Aspect Consulting will work on confirming the City of Kittitas water rights with the well on Railroad and the city well.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that the City does not have any water rights. This is what Aspect Consulting will confirm and how to prepare the City of Kittitas for future water right needs.
- Mayor Whitford informed Council that the Department of Ecology had explained to Brenda that they will not be changing the current amount of water hook ups for the City of Kittitas. Which means eventually the City of Kittitas will have to acquire more water rights and possibly add another water tower.
- Councilmember Cort stated that it is important to keep in mind the development out at Exit 115 to make sure there is enough water for future development.
- Mayor Whitford explained that the City could for example say 10% of current water rights are reserved for future development.
- Councilmember Cort also stated the City needs to plan for future projected population growth.

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- Councilmember Camarata stated if a new development came in a new water tower would need to be built.
- Councilmember Cort stated that with all of the hurricanes, earthquakes etc. the City of Kittitas needs an emergency plan in place. Mayor Whitford stated the City was working on one and Higi from the County was to come and speak with Council. Officer Taylor said he would get ahold of Higi. Mayor Whitford also stated that the emergency plan can work in reverse via the influx of people if for instance an earthquake hit Seattle.
- Mayor Whitford explained that her schedule has been packed with work etc. and she will work on the Manufactured Home Ordinance this weekend.
- Councilmember Cort stated the ballots come out on the 24th of October so they should have one more Town Hall Meeting on Saturday October 21st at 10:00 a.m.
- Councilmember Smith is working on the list of written questions to present to Chief Sinclair prior to the Town Hall Meeting. For example use of the Council Room, Christmas in Kittitas with Santa riding on the Fire Truck, local football games and EMS.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired if the merge does not work out how long is the City in contract for? It was explained that there will be no contract once the ballot is voted on it is done.
- Councilmember Cort explained to Council that a 5 year calendar was made and Council can decide where to place purchase of computers, server, asset program etc. this will show prioritization to the public and when Council plans on getting things accomplished.
- Mayor Whitford said this will allow the City of Kittitas to take one bite at a time at tasks.
- Councilmember Smith asked who Tim McCready was. It was explained that he volunteered his time to set up the new webpage and Mayor Whitford did pay him \$500 to get a lot of the project going.
- Council was informed that Go Daddy currently manages the City emails, but possibly Tim could do this at a lower cost to the City. Councilmember Cort will talk with Tim about this option.
- Councilmember Smith and Councilmember Cort met regarding the purchase of new computers and the server. Councilmember Smith thought breaking it into smaller pieces the City might make more headway, for example purchasing computers and screens for the front office and maybe a smaller type server so Debbie and Cathy could share files. Mayor Whitford thought this was a good idea this way backup on the files could be done as well.

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- Councilmember Camarata suggested putting this in the five year plan. Councilmember Cort also mentioned that they need to make sure the computers have enough RAM.
- Discussion was had regarding the 2017 Budget and where the money was for the server, Councilmember Camarata thought it was spread evenly out between departments.
- Officer Taylor explained the process of ticketing and code enforcement.
- A resident was having problem with his weed control. For 2 years a friendly letter or phone call happened and then they would take care of the issue. Two years ago a citation was issued for \$250 this is a non-criminal ticket. It was placed on the court docket; the following year another ticket was issued for \$500 this also went thru the court process. Once police issue a ticket and it is with the courts there is not much more the City can do. This year a \$1,000 ticket was issued and now this is a criminal ticket. This citizen was now in arrears with the courts so a warrant was issue based on the charges and not paying the fines. In the meantime the property was sold.
- Officer Taylor put in a call to the court administrator to see how the fines are disbursed once they are received.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked if tickets were issued for speeding. Officer Taylor informed him yes.
- Mayor Whitford and Officer Taylor discussed how a DUI is handled. Officer Taylor said that they usually contact the State Patrol or the County to process as it could take hours to process a DUI which would take the officer away from the City.
- Discussion was had about the double yellow line on Main Street. The police don't want to hamper business on Main Street and try to warn the businesses and people before actually issuing a fine.
- Councilmember Smith thanked Officer Taylor for the explanation; Councilmember Smith felt the concern was enforcing the tickets. Officer Taylor stated that lower district court or superior court handles that.
- Councilmember Cort stated that the City needs to consider raising the lodging tax to the maximum amount of 4%. Clerk Debbie Lee informed Council that there is work that goes into changing this type of code, as there has to be a public hearing.
- Councilmember Cort inquired if the RV's fell under the lodging tax. Mayor Whitford felt they did.

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- Mayor Whitford told Council that she has applied for another job and accepted. This new job will allow her to work from home and only travel to Bellevue two times per week. She will be working for a company that does third party inspections and plan reviews. Mayor Whitford's last day at the County will be October 13th and she will start her new job on the 16th.

ADJOURN: 6:55 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Lou Whitford

Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer