

City of Kittitas
Work/Study Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2017

Work/Study Meeting Attendance

Pat Cort - Councilmember
John Camarata – Councilmember
Ben Whitehurst – Councilmember
Jerry Gilmour – Councilmember

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer
Chris Taylor - Police Chief
Michelle Geiger – Safe Built

Points of Discussion

- Chief Taylor presented the 2018 police budget and 3/10's fund budget.
- Corrections will not have an increase in rates for 2018.
- Kittcom dispatch will have a 5% increase for 2018.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated that was taxation without representation. Chief Taylor explained that he uses his computer to find information when he can but that the officers do use Kittcom.
- If the annexation with KVFR happens the fire dispatch will no longer need to be budgeted.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked why the code benefits had such an increase. It was explained that for 2018 100% of the 3rd officers wages and benefits will come out of the 3/10's fund as in years past it was 75% of wages and benefits.
- Chief Taylor said that for a majority of 2017 there were only 2 officers on duty so it is important to get a third officer hired as soon as possible. Chief Taylor's goal is to have the new Code Officer spend the first four hours of the shift working code issues and the remaining 6 hours take calls and traffic stops.
- Councilmember Camarata asked about vests. Chief Taylor explained that vests are usually custom made for each officer so they fit and protect according to size. The vests are usually about \$1100 each and Chief Taylor is not familiar with the Law & Justice grant but will see if he can apply for a grant.

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- Chief Taylor stated that in 2016 Chief Nierman applied for a radar sign with the Law & Justice Grant and was denied and in 2017 applied for bullying speaker's at the high school and this grant application was denied due to Chief Nierman leaving office.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked about Officer Anderson's vest. It was explained that Officer Anderson was still a reserve officer and has the vest along with the car in case he needs to come on duty.
- Officer Whetstine brought his vest from his previous employer and is utilizing it until he gets a new one. Currently each officer has 2 pair of pants and 3 shirts.
- Councilmember Cort informed Council that she attended the County Commissioners meeting with the library and the City of Kittitas will need to show that they are committed to helping themselves before the County will help.
- Chief Taylor stated that this is the first full year of lease payments for the two new police cars.
- Officer Whetstine will be attending the Washington State Equivalency Academy for two weeks in January. The academy will be covering the cost of room and board.
- The training dollars in the budget will be used for Chief training.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired if the City has received a bill for the insurance yet this year. No.
- Chief Taylor informed Council that the state changed the level of bullet proof vests officers are required to wear.
- Discussion was had about the radar sign that Chief Nierman had applied for in the Law & Justice Grant, this was a permanent solar sign in the school zone.
- Councilmember Cort felt vests were a better use of grant money.
- Council discussed several Ordinances that might need updating.
- It was explained that the recent code update regarding the manufactured homes that are allowed in the City stating they are Good Sense or Energy Star need to be submitted to the Department of Commerce. This is because anything updated in the zoning code needs to go to the Department of Commerce. Michelle explained that she will submit all zoning changes at one time when the Planning Commission has made all of their recommendations to Council.

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- Two of the issues the Planning Commission will be looking at are the zoning in the Central Business District and signage in Gateway Commercial.
- Health and Safety was looked at regarding weeds and rubbish.
- Cars' parking was a concern at the end of Peirce by the PSE substation. Officer Taylor said he will look into this and as long as the registration was current there was not a lot that can be done. If PSE didn't want cars to park there for safety reasons then they can place a tow sign.
- Chief Taylor also explained that a citizen was mailed a certified letter regarding their garbage that is accumulating. City code stated garbage needs to be emptied 1 x per week and the fine is a criminal fine of \$1,025. Chief Taylor felt maybe this was too high and should possibly be a step increase fine. He will look at the code further and look into the bail schedule set by the County and why the discrepancy.
- Burning weeds was discussed. It was explained that this is not allowed in the City of Kittitas under the Urban Growth Area. Citizens are allowed to have a recreational burn.
- Councilmember Smith inquired about having chickens, pigs and goats.
- Michelle explained that this ordinance was redone recently and one of the things added was that certain animals were allowed as long as a permit was applied for, this takes into consideration the clean up of the pet and containment. This Ordinance was changed to allow for 4-H type animals as long as an application for a permit was submitted. Michelle also stated she thought this ordinance was modeled after one in Seattle.
- Councilmember Smith wondered if there were actually health issues from goats.

ADJOURN: 6:51 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pro-Tem Camarata

Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer