

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
November 28, 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. November 28, 2017. Councilmembers present: Pat Cort, Jerry Gilmour, Ben Whitehurst, John Camarata and Liz Smith. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Tim Schmidt – Fire Chief, Chris Taylor – Police Chief, Brenda Bach – WWTP, Scott Moore – PW, Cathy Doyle – Utility Billing Clerk, Michelle Geiger – Safebuilt, and Ryan Whetstine – Police.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to excuse Councilmember Whitehurst in being a few minutes late; second by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried: 3 yes 1 no (Councilmember Camarata)

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated November 14, 2017; second by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WORK/STUDY MEETING DATED
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the Work Study Minutes dated November 14, 2017; second by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember Smith.
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

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PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Jeanette Bryant stated that the Mayor and Council needed to work together for the people of Kittitas to make a better town. The Fire Department annexation gave the citizens a voice. Jeanette also wanted to thank Councilmember Cort and Mayor Whitford for a job well done.

REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

Brenda Bach – WWTP

Water Department-

- With Drinking water regulations changing in 2017, our “Small Water System Management Program” has changed along with the “Coliform monitoring schedule”. These changes are pretty significant because they change our operating procedures, and our Emergency response procedures with added testing with one goal in mind. It's to assure the public through regulations and testing that when they turn on their water taps in their homes that they are getting the very best in clean, quality drinking water they can receive for their families.

Cross Connection Control Department-

- No new news

Wastewater Department-

- We are wrapping up our annual testing and sludge depth reporting for the wastewater treatment plant this week. We will be out in the lagoons taking our Sludge Depth measurements and heavy metals testing. This is standard procedures on the sludge we are storing in our lagoons by the Department of ecology, and our Discharge permit. As of last year, our average sludge depth in all 4 lagoons (2 large aerated lagoons, 2 small rock filters) was less than a foot of sludge distributed on the bottom. Which tells you how well our plant runs which is currently 87-90% treatment of the sludge and 99% removal from the clean water we discharge back into the environment.

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Chris Taylor – Police Chief

- Chief Taylor informed Council that in November they posted the open lateral position and it was closed on November 30th. One application was received and Chief Taylor will proceed forward with the applicant.
- Code enforcement issues have been good, several cars have been towed.
- Officer Whetstine and Chief Taylor will both work Saturday for Christmas in Kittitas parade.

Scott Moore – Public Works

- Public Works has been busy repairing the equipment for the snow season. This is always a challenge to keep up with the weather.
- There was a sink hole on Pacific Loop that developed due to the new sewer lines that were put in recently, this was repaired.
- New tires were purchased for the backhoe and should be working tomorrow.
- Public Works is renting a boom truck on Thursday to finish installing the lights around town. Mayor Whitford inquired as to how long the boom truck was being rented for, Scott stated one day.
- Michelle with Safebuilt stated that the lights on Pacific Loop are going in on Friday.

Tim Schmidt – Fire Chief

- With the annexation approved for the Fire Department things will start to move along, the SCBA's are out of date and the computers will probably be left to the City. KVFR will be taking the vehicles and using them until they have used their life expectancy. They are inspecting them this week.

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- The transferring of volunteer records will happen. KVFR will also allow volunteers to still man the football and wrestling etc. events at the schools.
- Council will have to look at the process of fire inspections within the City; this will probably involve the municipal code language. KVFR stated that they will make this as gentle as a transition as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Swearing in Mayor Cort

- Councilmember Cort and Mayor Whitford will be switching responsibilities due to the recent election. January both Cort and Whitford will take the oath of office again.
- Councilmember Cort resigned from her current Council position.

MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to accept Councilmember Cort's resignation; second by Councilmember Smith.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

- Mayor Cort was sworn in by Lou Whitford.

B. Swearing in Councilmember Whitford

- Mayor Whitford resigned as Mayor.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to accept the resignation of Mayor Whitford; second by Councilmember Gilmour.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Whitford was sworn in by Mayor Cort.

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C. Public Hearing Preliminary Budget

- The Public Hearing was opened at 7:23 p.m.
- Councilmember Gilmour cannot support the budget as he can't face the citizens with a raise in taxes.
- Jeanette Bryant stated that fixing the creek should not have happened; they should have looked at the budget prior to starting that project.
- Mayor Cort informed the public that she is working on the 5 year plan which may help with the public understanding the budget. Mayor Cort stated that she knew nothing of the budget when she started.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated that the Council needs to chop where needed and that there is never enough money.
- Dave Doyle stated that a lot needs to be changed and it is up to Council to come up with ideas.
- Mayor Cort stated that they need to look at each department and prioritize their needs a prime example is the state of the fire department.
- Councilmember Smith said that she agrees with what is being said but does not believe the City is wasting money. Council should be implementing repairs and updates over time and not all at one time.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated that Mayor Arington laid people off to fix this problem.
- Citizen Dave Doyle asked where the money is being thrown away. Some of the increases you can't control such as the cost of electricity and gas.
- Citizen Dennis Cort stated that increases have not been done consistent over the years and this is why an increase to the water/sewer base rates needs to be increased.
- Mayor Cort stated that she will be having a Town Hall meeting on December 9th this will give the citizens a time to voice their opinions and solutions.
- Citizen Bruce Kenoyer said ask the citizens what services they could do without if they do not want their water/sewer rates increased for example police, fire, library etc.
- Councilmember Whitford said when she took office of Mayor her background is not

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accounting, Mayor Cort has the vision to plan ahead, it may hurt now but the boat will get steadied. Currently the City only has about 60 water hook ups and if the City wants more they will need to construct another water tower, also sewer down to the Exit 115 is another large expense. Council needs forward thinking and not reactionary which is how things have been done in the past.

- Councilmember Whitehurst stated that Council should prepare for the worst and hope for the best. The impact financially is horrendous. Councilmember Whitehurst stated that providing water and sewer services to the citizens costs money and understands the dilemma.
- Citizen Brenda McPherson understands the plight of some citizens being on a fixed income, but does not feel it is the burden of the City to cover this cost. Some cities have a check box in case some citizens want to help pay other people's services.
- The Public Hearing was closed at 8:07 p.m.

D. Public Hearing Property Tax Levy 2018 Ordinance #17-015

- The Public Hearing was opened at 8:07 and closed at 8:08 p.m. with no public comment.

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve Ordinance 17-015 2018 Property Tax Levy; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

E. Brenda McPherson – Christmas In Kittitas

- Brenda McPherson had on display the traveling trophy that is presented to the winner of the lighted parade.
- Brian Stickney with Advantage Dirt has been a huge help with this parade.
- The Kittitas Police Department and the Public Works department will help with the parade route and make sure it is a safe parade.
- Parking will be blocked on Main Street at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- Mayor Cort stated that the newsletter had the start time for Christmas in Kittitas in it.

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- New Life Church will be feeding the public and they have fire pits and smore stations.
- Friends of the Library will hand out goodie bags to the kids that visit Santa.
- The coffee stand will be passing out free hot cocoa.
- This year there is also a bake off contest people can turn in their deserts at the hardware store on Friday and then people will bid on the entrants that are received.
- The VFW will also have a bazaar inside for citizens.
- Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be at the library no later than 5:15 p.m.
- Councilmember Smith asked if someone was to enter the parade what time do they need to be present, no later than 5:30 p.m.

F. Livestock Variance – Gloria Kenoyer

- Bruce Kenoyer said that they acquired the pigs from a mini pig farm in Alabama. They usually only get to about 12 – 16 inches in height. They are 6 months and 8 months and spayed and neutered. Bruce stated that if this is not an allowed animal they will re-home them.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked if it was legal to have them.
- Chief Taylor stated no that Kittitas Municipal Code says no swine are allowed.
- Discussion was had regarding the definition of swine, and to give more thought due to the size. This is a broad code that was adopted and what is good for the community.
- Councilmember Smith said that previous Council had put a lot of thought into this code and she thought it was due to the health and safety of the citizens, possibly the diseases that some of these animal that are not allowed in city can bring.
- Chief Taylor also stated that previous Council had gone thru this code to revise for 4-H chickens and rabbits and to maintain health and cleanliness.
- Bruce Kenoyer stated that possibly Dr. McDonald at Valley Vet would be a good contact to educate Council.
- Councilmember Smith asked how the Kenoyer's proceeded in keeping the pigs could; Chief Taylor said that they cannot at this time due to the code.

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- Council tabled at the time wand will try to consider the code and what is good for the community.

G. Council Vacancy

- Council position 2 is open in January,
- There is currently one letter of interest, Council will leave the position open the month of December and make their decision at the first meeting in January.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. November 28, 2017 Payables via EFT \$46,924.54

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve November 28, 2017 Payables via EFT; second by Councilmember Gilmour.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Cort presented outgoing Mayor Whitford a certificate of appreciation.
- Mayor Cort has set up her office and been working on getting organized the last few days.
- The next 6 months Mayor Cort will be working on reviewing all aspects of the City and is looking forward to being Mayor. Mayor Cort stated that she will do her best to make good decisions for the City and feels confident in the staff.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Whitehurst felt that changing or looking at the livestock ordinance for one citizen does not make economic sense. Councilmember Whitehurst stated that previously Council had looked over that ordinance and took careful consideration when changing to allow

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chickens and rabbits with permit only.

- Councilmember Whitford stated that she would continue with the yard of the month and feels that this is a positive thing. The recipients so far have been August – Sorenson, September – Carlson, October – Harmon, November – Ahola and December – Helgeson.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that he attended the COG meeting and they approved the 2018 EMS rates. COG is also working revising the COG grant process on the voting and scoring aspects of the applications. The next COG meeting has been canceled so the next regular meeting is the third week in January.
- Councilmember Camarata also would like to see the police department look at the stop sign at Clark and Railroad; he sees no reason to have this sign placed there.
- Councilmember Smith said that it has been an honor serving on Council and has learned a lot in the last few months since being on Council. Councilmember Smith will run again in January to hopefully retain her seat.
- Mayor Cort stated that the five year plan is a draft and wanted Council to look at it and see if anything needed to be added or deleted

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

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADJOURN: 9:00 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Cort

Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer