

**City of Kittitas  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2018**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Cort led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Cort called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. February 27, 2018. Councilmembers present: Ben Whitehurst, John Camarata, Jerry Gilmour, Lou Whitford and Liz Smith. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Michelle Geiger – Safe Built and Chris Taylor – Chief of Police.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitehurst made a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Whitford; second by Councilmember Smith.  
Motion Carried: 4 yes 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated February 13, 2018; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WORK/STUDY MEETING DATED  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitehurst made a motion to approve the Work Study Minutes dated February 13, 2018; second by Councilmember Gilmour.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Gray & Osborne are not able to attend the meeting tonight so they will be at the March 13, 2018 Council Meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to remove Gray & Osborne from the agenda and approve as amended; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

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**PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS**

- None

**REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS**

**A. Staff Reports (informational only)**

**Chris Taylor – Chief of Police**

- Chief Taylor informed Council that the person who had shown interest in the vacant police position has withdrawn his application. Chief Taylor re-opened the position as a lateral until March 30<sup>th</sup>. He has sent out 2 applications so far and hoping to receive them back by the closing date.
- Chief Taylor will be attending some training in March for mid-level management and some training in April for first level supervisor.
- The police have been proactive with the schools due to the recent school shooting in Florida. Chief Taylor missed the Law & Justice meeting as he was attending meeting with the school.
- Officer Whetstine has been doing well; he has tagged and towed some vehicles that are not licensed or not running.
- Officer Whetstine will be attending a domestic violence class in Chicago that is fully grant funded from Aspen.
- Councilmember Whitford thought it might be beneficial to have the hiring this time of year and not the winter this may help with the number of applications that are submitted.
- Councilmember Smith inquired about active shooters and the elementary school. Chief Taylor stated that the elementary school falls under the same umbrella as the high school.

**Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer**

- Clerk Debbie Lee reported that she attended the Annual Bias Conference and Mayor Cort attended it as well.



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Summer Reading			0												
Story Hour	29	5	34												
Halloween/Child			0												
Halloween/Adult			0												
Christmas in Kittitas/Child			0												
Christmas in Kittitas/Adult			0												

**Brenda Bach – WWTP**

**1. Water Department-**

a. The new “Pressure Sustaining Valve” at the water tower is working perfectly, now the butterfly valve is no longer being used to slow the water down coming into the water tower. It is an amazing marvel that the water tower fills completely by pressure alone....no pumps needed to fill the tower. Which in an emergency like an extended no power situation we could still fill the tower by manually opening and closing the valve to be able to deliver water to our residents during an extended power outage emergency. The 2.2 mile long 10” main line coming down the hill from the well head creates enough pressure to fill the water tower, even to the point of overflowing with no pumping needed.

**2. Cross Connection Control Department-**

a. No new news, but the lawn irrigating season is right around the corner. Continuing updating records and pictures.

**3. Wastewater Department-**

a. No new news on our discharge permit from Department of Ecology.

b. Every year, to keep our accredited lab certification at the wastewater treatment plant we have to pass a performance evaluation tests for all the tests we are accredited for. Currently we are accredited for the 6 tests that are required by the Department of Ecology. Not including the process control testing we do for plant performance and compliance as per our discharge permit. How this is done is an outside lab sends us unknown samples that we have to test using the current standard Method procedures for each test. When we've completed all the required testing, we send in our results back to the lab the sent us the unknown tests. Our results have to be correct within minimal limits allowed for each testing parameter. This is an annual requirement through the Department of Ecology for all accredited labs. Why this is **VERY** important to the

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city council is that by having an accredited lab we save “Thousands” of dollars.....”14,482.00”a year testing cost only, with possible extra cost for shipping to the lab depending on drop off arrangements/time/fuel. The City of Kittitas has had an accredited lab at the wastewater treatment plant for over 12 years and saving over 150,000.00 dollars.

We had the grounds in the compound at the water tower and around the lagoons at the wastewater treatment plant sprayed for weed control. We do this annually every year as part of our general maintenance

**B. Mandy Graham – Livestock Ordinance (Miniature Pigs)**

- No Show
- Councilmember Gilmour thought that this was just opening up a can of worms.
- Chief Taylor agrees and that this section of the code was eliminated for a reason.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Update Webpage Service**

- Mayor Cort informed Council that Tim McCready had requested \$150 per month to keep the web page updated. This is an important tool the City can use to keep citizens updated and if this page is not kept up to date then there is a possibility that people will not look at it. This is a tool to also educate the citizens for example the Consumer Confidence Report can be placed here and information to Benton Street residents concerning the lift station. Mayor Cort suggested offering Tim a flat fee of \$700 for the first year and then re consider the next year.
- Councilmember Whitford also thought this would be a good tool for the Down Town Association; this would show that the City is participating.
- Council gives there approval to offer a flat fee of \$700 to Tim McCready for his services.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**A. Public Hearing Zoning Changes Planning Commission**

- The public hearing was opened at 7:20 p.m.
- Citizen Chris Marchel was attending the meeting as he was curious to see what the City is doing with the zoning as he would like to construct more storage units.
- Councilmember Gilmour wondered why the City had changed the zoning codes when there were already storage units in this area.
- The public hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

**B. 18-002 Update District Use Chart**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitford made a motion to approve Ordinance 18-002; second by Councilmember Gilmour.  
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**C. Union Contract 2018-2020 (Executive Session) RCW 42.30.140.(4)a)**

- Council entered into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. until 7:32 p.m.
- No decisions were made in executive session.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Whitehurst made a motion to approve the 2018-2020 Union Contracts; second by Councilmember Smith.  
Motion Carried: 4 yes 1 no (Councilmember Gilmour).

**PAYMENT APPROVALS**

**A. February 27, 2018 EFT payable's \$15,792.50**

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**MOTION:** Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve February 27, EFT payables; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Cort reported that she received a bid for a server for the front office only which was approximately \$8,000.00 with less connections, the next step will be to purchase a server.
- Chief Taylor mentioned that he had a request to remove the solid yellow line on Main Street.
- Councilmember Smith questioned why it went to a solid yellow line and would like more clarification. Councilmember Smith asked if it was legal to do U-Turns at intersections. Yes it is.
- There was also discussion if this was approved by Council previously and yes it was.
- Mayor Cort reported that a person from Elmview has been vacuuming and emptying garbage once a week at City Hall. This person is supervised by a staff member from Elmview.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- Councilmember Camarata attended the Law & Justice meeting and informed Council that there is terrorism prevention classes that are available locally to take.
- There was not a COG meeting as there was not a quorum.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked why the engineers need to get involved with the creek project. Mayor Cort stated that the Fish and Game is requesting this.
- Councilmember Smith will follow up with Becky and the FFA group as to where they are with the plants and planters on Main Street. She thinks that they have already started planting some of the plants in the green house. They need to look at a way to generate money for the plants, fertilizer, etc. Possibly getting the list of people who have taken care of the planters in the past could just donate a flat rate for example \$25.00.

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- Michelle Geiger with Safe Built stated that people are showing up to the Planning Commission Meetings since they are having them 1x per month. They are currently looking at the sign ordinance and fencing. The Planning Commission has two vacant seats.

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

Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**ADJOURN: 7:49 p.m.**

**Attest:**

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Mayor Pat Cort

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Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer