

City of Kittitas
Work/Study Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

Work/Study Meeting Attendance

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

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer

Points of Discussion

- Mayor Cort spoke with Joe Seemiller regarding a recent inspection on a commercial building with fire code issues. It was decided that Michelle Geiger with Safe Built will be making the contact with the owner of the property about the violation and issuing a warning.
- Discussion was had that if it is building related Michelle would be the best one to handle those issues? Councilmember Whitford stated that if it is an apartment that has the violation they are considered commercial.
- Mayor Cort stated that she will be putting a policy together for fire code issues and how they will be handled.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that the City would be negligent if they did not follow up on violations that came from Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue.
- Mayor Cort informed Council that she had received a call from Cal Jordan regarding the bill that he had submitted to the City a year or so ago regarding work that was done on the Community Hall/Library Project that was turned down by the City after all of the funding was secured. Cal stated that he would not like to incur attorney fees or turn the amount over to a collection agency. Mayor Cort wondered if Council was open to offering a payment plan.
- Councilmember Gilmour stated that Cal Jordan did all of the work and is due money for his time that he spent on the project. Former Mayor Whitford stated that this issue came up when she was in her first month of office. Council is in agreement that Cal is due some money for his time that he spent on the project. Mayor Cort will work on a plan and run it by the City attorney and get their thoughts.

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- Mayor Cort was wondering if Council would be willing to work with Cal in the future. He is aware of some grants that are available for energy upgrades to the Community Hall/Library and also some grants that might work for the restoration of the train depot.
- Mayor Cort talked about the planters and FFA's involvement. She would like for Councilmember Smith to gather information regarding this project since the planting season is fast approaching. Councilmember Whitford would like to help with the financial part of the planters and maybe getting people to adopt a planter at a set rate.
- Mayor Cort received information regarding the banners on Main Street. Councilmember Whitford will look at what is proposed.
- Discussion was had regarding the updating of the Ordinances and Councilmember Whitford stated she was ½ way thru her section. Councilmember Smith stated that she wanted to know what the process was for updating ordinances and how to write them. It was explained that you can take the original ordinance and modify it. It then gets submitted to Code Publishing and has to be published in the newspaper.
- Talk regarding the livestock ordinance continued and Councilmember Gilmour stated Ellensburg allows pot belly pigs. Mayor Cort did not know why Kittitas had not allowed swine in City limits.
- Councilmember Smith stated that maybe they could re-word the ordinance to make it more specific. Councilmember Smith thanked Mandy Graham for all of the work that was put into presenting the information to Council.
- Mayor Cort stated that the police were against allowing pigs in City limits.
- Councilmember Smith wanted to bridge the gap of enforcing ordinances she doesn't feel citizens should be penalized because someone else does not follow the code.
- Discussion was had that if Council was to allow pigs maybe set a quantity of how many pigs and dogs combined that you could have? For example the dog variance is applied for will allow you to have more than two pets. Council then talked about having a kennel license vs. a dog variance. It was discussed that the variance is probably better as it pertains to the specific animals listed in the variance and a kennel license is vaguer.
- Chief Taylor is moving forward with doing the background check and hiring the third officer.
- Councilmember Whitford feels that the front office needs a full time person to help the Clerk/Treasurer as the office is busy all the time.

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- Mayor Cort discussed the server and what should be done about getting one instead of putting it off until there is a bigger problem of losing the files.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that the City was so far behind the curve and the City is lucky the files have not crashed and cause the City bigger issues.

ADJOURN: 6:50 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pat Cort

Debbie. Lee Clerk/Treasurer