

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

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. January 8, 2019. Councilmembers present: John Camarata, Rich Coleman, Jerry Gilmour, Lou Whitford and Councilmember Liz Smith. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer and Michelle Geiger – Safe Built.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED DECEMBER
11th, 2018**

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the regular Council Meeting minutes dated December 11th, 2018; second by Councilmember Coleman.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cort stated that there needs to be an Executive Session added under New Business B to Evaluate the Performance of an Employee. RCW 42.30.110 (1)

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

- None

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

Michelle Geiger – Safe Built

- Michelle reported that Bill Gordon is still gathering information to move forward with the building permit to construct a warehouse.
- There are a few small permits that Michelle has been working on.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

- Michelle has received a few calls regarding Coles Crossing II. This is a project that would take up additional water connections.
- Mayor Cort asked Michelle if she got the email regarding the trailer parks, Michelle stated yes and she agrees with the recommendations stated in the email.
- It was also noted that the Housing Authority is working on a short plat, Jimmy Waterson is finalizing his CUP and Miguel Rios is working on a short plat as well.

Special Guest – Amy McGuffin CEO Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

- Amy gave a brief update on the Chamber of Commerce. Amy has been in this position for 120 days and has been evaluating the function of the Chamber. Amy stated that economic development is their priority and this is Countywide.
- The County receives economic development funds based on population. The population of Kittitas County is 40,000 so they have received \$40,000 to help with development for business expansion and the development of new businesses.
- The Kittitas County Chamber has partnered with the City of Kittitas in the past on projects. These projects were Main Street Lighting Project, park planning and the new play equipment at the park and a sidewalk project.
- The Chamber is working on finding help to provide the opportunity for extra funding for the sewer line expansion to Exit 115.
- A couple different businesses have inquired about relocating to the Kittitas area. The Chamber is the main contact for new businesses that are interested in relocating or starting new. The Chamber does a lot of behind the scenes involvement; they lobby for smaller cities with the State Legislature.
- There has been some positive movement with Senator Warnick she understands the importance of expanding the sewer and the UGA area.
- Another important issue is connecting Exit 115 with the Main Street businesses in Kittitas because this is the core of the City.
- The Chamber also works with CWHBA (Central Washington Home Builders Association).
- The City of Kittitas has a little bit of tourism with Thrall & Dodge Winery and some Air B and B's. Amy encouraged the City to become a member of the Lodging Tax Committee.
- The Chamber of Commerce puts out a monthly bulletin Countywide that the City of Kittitas can submit articles of interest since we are members of the Chamber.
- The Chamber produces Kruisin in Kittitas and Advantage Dirt is a large supporter of this event.
- Amy announced that they are having the Disney Institute that is accredited in training businesses will be hosting an event in April at CWU. The City can receive a \$100 discount due to the membership if they want to attend.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

- Amy's goal is to have the City of Kittitas stay involved with the Chamber's activities.
- Mayor Cort stated she appreciates the help from County Commissioner Laura Osiadacz regarding contacts at the state level.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that there is water out to the Exit 115 area and like Advantage Dirt the businesses could put in a septic system until the City had sewer extended to that area. Councilmember Whitford also thanked the Chamber for their help in the rebranding work and that it could be implemented in phases for example painting of the mural at Johnny's.
- Amy stated that there is a business that is still interested in the area of Exit 115. It would be a port distribution landing site. They would be able to bring containers from Grant County and then have someone distribute them to the Westside. This dropping point enables them to possibly make 3 trips over the pass in a day instead of one trip. This company would require 7-10 acres.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that going across the creek with the sewer would be less expensive.

B. Budget Report

- Councilmember Camarata stated that he was closer in the projection of the beginning balances for 2019. Camarata stated that Council needs to be more diligent in the budget for 2020 and consider more of the numbers and not be political.
- Mayor Cort asked what he meant by political and why is this being brought up now and not during the budget meetings. Councilmember Camarata stated he did not want to fight with Council during the budget process.
- Councilmember Smith thought the Council was diligent in the 2019 budget and wondered what Councilmember Camarata's solution was. Councilmember Smith also stated that everyone had ample opportunity to speak up and address the issues at the moment and not after the fact.
- Councilmember Whitford stated that the biggest issue is the fund balance in the water/sewer department.
- Councilmember Camarata thought that the water tower lease revenue should go towards the water/sewer fund.
- Councilmember Smith stated that amendments could be made if needed.

C. Treasurer's Report

- No Comment

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 19-001 “Rates & Charges (2%)

- Councilmember Gilmour stated that he voted no on this at the last meeting and why is this issue on the agenda again. Mayor Cort said she could place items on the agenda as many times as she would like. Councilmember Gilmour stated leave the people alone.
- Mayor Cort stated the City of Kittitas has a unique water system so it cannot be compared to other cities.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that developers are not coming out to the City due to the cost of the utilities.
- Councilmember Smith stated that the numbers have to work in order for a department to support themselves.
- Mayor Cort stated she felt the City does not have enough set aside for reserves.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-001; second by Councilmember Whitford.

Motion Carried: 2 yes (Councilmember’s Whitford and Smith) 2 no (Councilmember’s Gilmour and Camarata) 1 abstention (Councilmember Coleman) breaking the tie Mayor Cort voted yes.

B. Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1) to Evaluate the Performance of an Employee

- Council went into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- No decisions were made in Executive Session.

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. December 26th, 2018 Payables via EFT \$9,609.02

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve December 26th, 2018 Payables; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no

B. December 2018 Payroll \$42,099.01

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve December 2018 Payroll; second by Councilmember Smith.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

C. January 2019 Mid-Month Draws \$2,300.00

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve January 2019 Mid-Month Draws; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

D. December 2018 Bank EFT's \$11,422.87

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve December 2018 Bank EFT's; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

E. January 8th, 2019 Payables via EFT \$23,360.44

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve January 8th, 2019 Payables; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Cort reported that she and some City staff along with the City attorney, Gray & Osborne and Fish and Wildlife met at Caribou Creek to go over the plans to put the creek back to the state it was before the violation of the permit. This meeting was helpful.
- Mayor Cort is updating the job descriptions and staff evaluations.
- Martin Thacker the new WWTP operator is doing well.
- Mayor Cort has not been able to submit the RD Loan Application due to the government being shut down.

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019**

- Mayor Cort and Debbie Lee will be attending the annual BIAS conference in February.
- Mayor Cort has been continuing the staff meetings with department heads going over work place safety, department goals and daily work logs.
- Chief Taylor and Mayor Cort will attend new police hire Ben Chavez's graduation ceremony from the academy in Burien on the 29th.
- Mayor Cort informed Council that the actuator was going out at the WWTP.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Gilmour stated that the stop signs near his house still are not fixed.
- Councilmember Camarata stated that he submitted to Council the COG and Law & Justice minutes for the meetings that he attended.
- Councilmember Smith had some concerns regarding the distribution center Amy McGuffin from the Chamber had discussed, she was concerned about the trucks coming thru town and their Jake brakes. It was noted that they would only be out near the interchange.
- Councilmember Smith also had concerns about the trailer park and people living in the shed and code enforcement.
- Council agreed that they would meet at 6:00 p.m. on January 29th for the Study Session.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Whitford.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADJOURN: 8:15 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Pat Cort

Debbie Lee Clerk/Treasurer