

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2011**

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., March 8, 2011. Councilmembers present: Gilmour, Hink, Helland, Gay and Huber.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Huber moved to approve the minutes from the February 22/24, 2011 regular meeting. Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour – Unfinished Business – Union Contract

Councilmember Hink moved to approve the amended agenda and Councilmember Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

None

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Library Board – Chairperson Becky Bosch reported the new library manager has started and is doing well. They are doing a drawing each month and will issue prizes. Their attendance is maintaining for library usage. They had 170 children for the Cup of Cocoa and Book to Go.

Gray & Osborne – Nancy Morter reported that the WWTP Fine Screen Project has been completed and came in about \$30,000 under budget. The 35% grant/65% loan is around \$230,000. After the final paperwork is complete, the retainage will be released. Councilmember Gay moved to accept this project as complete and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

City Well – Jeff Stevens discussed the City Well. Gray & Osborne hasn't been asked to do any work yet by the City, but he did discuss the Well Rehab Project listed in the Water Comprehensive Plan with WWTP Foreman Howard. The well is about 220 feet deep but they aren't sure exactly how deep because of sediment in the bottom. There also could be perforations in the well lining. He explained Warm Springs is a good supply of water and has a water right of 650 gallons per minute. The Warm Springs Contract states we are allowed 750 gallons per minute. Councilmember Gilmour asked when we will know something on the offer the City made to Warm Springs for a new contract. He stated it has been 6 months or a year and believes we will run out of time. Jeff Stevens explained we did receive the appraisal that we paid for but are waiting on Warm Springs to reply to our offer. Also, the City does not have a backup. The City Well was listed as a backup in the Water Comprehensive Plan as a 6 year project. An option the City has is to purchase water rights and use the well as a backup instead of continuing the water lease with Warm Springs. When we had

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the power outage a few years ago, WWTP Foreman Howard brought in a generator and kept the water flowing to the City. He was able to do this because of the gravity flow.

We could put in a submersible pump for around \$15,000 or a turbine pump for around \$25,000. He explained he doesn't know how a pump supplier would know the size of the pump. If Gray & Osborne would do this project they would probably have to update the electrical. Chlorination is an issue. Currently there is gas chlorination which we could stay with but there are more upgrades needed if we do this. These items would be needed to bring up to Municipal standards (building and electrical code). Councilmember Gilmour believes we could replace the pump with the same horsepower pump as we had before. He would just like to see the pump replaced to keep the water right and so we are able to use it in an emergency situation. Councilmember Gay explained his three items of concern are to not lose the water right, to have a backup, and have it for the future. Technically we don't have a water right but a claim or vested right that hasn't been denied yet. We would need to go through a process with Department of Ecology and the Conservancy Board to look at the use of the claim by applying for a change in application. This well was drilled around 1932 and this is when the City filed a claim. We are also protected by the Municipal Water Law and they can't take this water claim away if it is in good standing. Putting a pump in would help to make this argument. Councilmember Huber would like Jeff Steven's to advise us on the pump size. She suggested hiring a geologist and a pumping company and do some pump testing. This would be around \$15,000 to \$25,000. Jeff Stevens does believe cleaning the well and removing calcification should be done. Councilmember Gilmour suggested just putting the pump in for now. He said when Chuck Lowe was Mayor he ran a hose from the well to the park and ran it out on the lawn.

Councilmember Hink asked about the old railroad well. He also asked if running the city well pump once a month would help to clean some of this out. Jeff explained this may or may not help. Hydro geologist and pump contractors will need to be hired. Jeff Stevens explained the water goes into the tower and into the system and needs to be chlorinated. WWTP Foreman Howard would have work to do on the gas chlorination in the city well. Councilmember Huber explained Municipal water supply is completely different and also stated that things that took place 15 years ago would probably have a different process today. Councilmember Gay asked if there is any grant money available for this.

Councilmember Huber would like to review the water claim and update of application with Larry Martin the next time they meet.

Police Department – Officer Shuart explained with the surplus of the current police cars, they have the Ford F150 pickup sold to Gary Gleason and he will strip it down. Chief Nierman is working with Sheriff Dana on getting the two new cars but doesn't have a firm price yet.

Resolution 11-003R – Surplus of Police Vehicles – Councilmember moved to approve the surplus of 2004 Ford Crown Vic, VIN#2FAFP71W34X180735, FMV \$1,850; 2005 Ford Crown Vic VIN#2FAFP71W15X170352, FMV \$1,850; and 2005 Ford F150 4x4, VIN#1FTPW14595KE56440, FMV \$5,000. Councilmember seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Hink moved to approve this resolution and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Union Contract – Councilmember Gilmour asked why the part time office person is being paid union wages and how this came about. He explained he didn't see it in the contract until it was too late. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained she forwarded the email the union representative sent to Council on this issue. Councilmember Gilmour stated before when we hired part time help, we could pay them whatever we felt like it and now we have to pay them what is in the union contract. Councilmember Huber explained it is because we have a union contract in place. The Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained the union representative told her that anybody hired in a unionized department will be paid under the union scale.

Councilmember Gilmour also asked why the Chief of Police gets a step raise that shows in the budget. Mayor Camarata explained Council authorized a raise at 6 months and a year for him. Other than that, non union employees do not have any scheduled raises unless Council authorizes them.

Councilmember Gilmour also asked why the union contract states employees will punch in and out on a time clock but some employees don't do this. He also stated the union contract states the employees have ½ hour lunch and this doesn't happen. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb explained salaried employees have never punched a time clock. They use a timesheet. Councilmember Helland stated that the union contract says all employees will punch a time clock. Councilmember Gay explained this is handled by the Mayor. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb asked Councilmember Gilmour why he tracking the employee's lunch times. A Point of Order was called by Councilmember Gay. Mayor Camarata explained this is an administrative issue and Councilmember Gilmour needs to come into his office to discuss this.

NEW BUSINESS

MRM Construction -- Pay Request #10 -- \$4,236.38 -- Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Tri Ply Construction -- Pay Request #5 -- \$22,228.57 -- Councilmember Huber moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Five K Electric -- Pay Request #7 -- \$8,125.67 -- Councilmember Huber moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Wray Plumbing -- Pay Request #8 -- \$2,723.63 -- Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Huber seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Vance Heating -- Pay Request #7 -- \$11,649.92 -- Councilmember Hink moved to approve this pay request and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Ordinance 11-002 – Amending KMC Title 15 Building and Construction – The public hearing was opened at 7:45 p.m. Mayor Camarata explained this is changing the code from 2006 to 2009 International Building Code. After some discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m. Councilmember Gilmour asked if trailer courts are included in this. Councilmember Huber moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

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APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of February 2011 Payroll and March 2011 Draws – Checks #7683 to #7692, #E882111 to #E882125 and #E993011 to #E993014 for \$37,152.58 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Helland. Councilmember Gilmour asked why everyone just spends as they want and wants to know how we control spending. He was told this is approving payroll and not bills. The motion passed 5 yes and 0 no.

Approval of March 2011 Bills – Checks #14436 to #14468 and #E772111 for \$80,852.04 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Gay and seconded by Councilmember Helland. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no. Councilmember Gilmour explained again he wants to know why employees just get to spend as they want to. Councilmember Gay explained he doesn't believe the employees just spend as they want to and thinks this is very disrespectful to the employees. Councilmember Gilmour explained he didn't care what he thinks. Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb thanked Councilmember Gay for his comment. Councilmember Helland asked the Mayor to have Clerk/Treasurer Newcomb to refrain from making comments. After a heated discussion, Councilmember Huber explained the council does its work by adopting the budget and the maintenance of the budget is handled by the Mayor. Until that department overspends Council doesn't have a say in the spending.

MAYORS REPORT

Driving Simulator – The police department used a driving simulator this past week.

Personnel Policy – Mayor Camarata asked if there is any discussion on this. Councilmember Huber suggested we do one section each week. Councilmember Gilmour asked if every employee is given a copy of the personnel policy when they are hired. Councilmember Huber would like to start with section one at the next meeting.

Shrubs – Bev Allphin asked if the shrubs at Patrick and Main can be trimmed by the City. Mayor Camarata explained nothing is in the budget this year. Council suggested that they go to the Parks Committee Meeting and discuss this with them.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gilmour – He asked if there is a resolution book and Mayor Camarata explained there is.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Camarata _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____