

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2011**

Mayor Camarata called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. July 12, 2011. Councilmember's present was Gilmour, Hink, Helland, and Gay. Mayor Camarata explained that Linda Huber would be absent. Councilmember Hink made a motion to approve Councilmember Huber's absence and Councilmember Helland seconded the motion, 4 yes 0 no motion approved.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee.

Mayor Camarata led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Helland moved to approve the minutes from the June 28th, 2011 meeting. Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. The motion carries 3 yes 1 abstention Councilmember Gay was not present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No additions or changes to the agenda. Councilmember Hink would like to be put on the agenda to discuss job applications. Mayor Camarata stated it would be under new business. Councilmember Gay moved to approve the amended agenda, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. 4 yes 0 no. The agenda is approved.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Richard Hink of 206 Railroad Ave. – Richards's uncle, Fred Barnhart, asked him to approach the City Council regarding riding/driving his motorized scooter on #81 Road. He is disabled and this is how he travels to his daughters. Frank was approached by Officer Taylor stating he could not go down #81 Road and possibly use the trail. Councilmember Helland states maybe the Police are being overzealous, and states that there is no way to use the trail since there is a gate and creek. Councilmember Helland would like to see what law is that is being broken. Councilmember Helland believes that the Mayor needs to talk to Chief Nierman regarding this matter. A lot of discussion was made regarding if this was state/county/city jurisdiction. Councilmember Gilmour asked how the city can run it's lawnmower from park to park. Mayor Camarata stated that he did go to Quadco to see if the City could get a grant to put a trail in and they are still working on that. Councilmember Helland thinks that the City has a potential for a liability. Councilmember Gay stated that he is not for or against this subject it but it is not up for council discussion, public appearances are to be stated but can not be discussed because the council is not prepared for it, Councilmember Helland said that the Mayor allowed it. Bev Allphin said she thought they could discuss things, Councilmember Gay said yes the public could make comments but the council is supposed to take the information in and put on the next agenda, with this situation the Mayor would take it to the police department and give them the information.

STAFF REPORTS

Library Report – Becky Bosch stated summer reading started and 42 kids were signed up. Becky Bosch was questioning why the library was charged \$110.64 for Roto Rooter She understands that it was split between the Community Hall and the Library, but stated that the Library did not plug the toilet, Councilmember Gay

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said it just falls under shared repairs/maintenance, and you don't always know where the problems come from. Councilmember Gilmour stated that the library was closed when this happened. Council also discussed maybe having a checklist for someone to check out the Community Hall after events, but who is going to do that and where is the money coming from? Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee stated maybe there could be a part of the deposit that is non-refundable like \$20.00 to cover the cost. Councilmember Gilmour stated that he does not think it is fair and that the library struggles and struggles. Becky Bosch stated that when people use the building we need to check it in and out, that there is a list to follow thru. Council discussed making a checklist, checking with smaller cities to see how they handle this. Councilmember Gay suggested putting it on the next agenda. Councilmember Gilmour talked about having to change an ordinance. Cal Jordan stated that would be up to the City.

Parks Committee – Pat Cort stated the Parks Committee had a meeting last week and they are putting together a package to submit to City Council. They are in the process of sending an e-mail out to everybody so all people involved are aware of what is happening.

COG – Mayor Camarata stated that the COG meeting was cancelled and postponed until July 20th due to lack of quorum. They will be looking at applications for the new grant.

Law & Justice Committee – Mayor Camarata stated the next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 8 a.m.

Street Department – Mayor Camarata stated that all the streets in Kittitas that needed crack sealed were done and the Street Department did an outstanding job.

Sewer & Water Department – Sewer and water flows are all within standards with the Department of Ecology. Benton Street Lift Station had problems that got fixed; they are still waiting to get the blades replaced.

Quadco – They are currently working on six grants to be completed by this year none are for Kittitas. They are working on Transportation enhancement projects to be completed by 2012 none are in Kittitas. Traffic counts for the City of Kittitas will come online in the year 2012.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Landscaping – Cal Jordan provided to council a re cap of expenses to date, approximately \$33,000 that is not allocated. At the end of the sheet is added work, Tri Ply is coming back with a credit of \$7,700.00, Cal believes this is not the final figure. Expenses the City has incurred on the parking lot for the materials that will be purchased to get the parking lot up to speed is about \$36,000 left unallocated in the budget. Also listed is a recap of the change orders that were approved during the course of the project. The two things left to be done are the landscaping and irrigation on the projects. The City was hoping that we could get volunteers; the lines listed are a budgetary line item to buy the material. Cal's obligation is to define a plan for the front and back for landscaping and irrigation. The sign (letter's) for the front of the building he stated are easy to put on. There are two ADA signs one for a post and one for the side of the building. Also money budgeted for green parking, and the handrail. There is money in the budget for landscaping; all the contractors are within a week of being done. Councilmember Gay asked when the timing of the landscape would take place, Cal stated fall.

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He also stated that the paving needed to be done first, since there is some landscaping going down the sides of the building. Cal said a lot of the material will have to be ordered and the most time consuming thing will be the irrigation. Cal suggested maybe bidding out the irrigation. Cal stated he will design the irrigations system, with controllers for the front and back. Cal will get the design done and submit it to council for discussion to implement the plan. Councilmember Gilmour was asking about the cost of the gravel it is about \$2,000.00. Most of the money was coming out of current expense; Cal is working on the bottom line of the budget to see where the City is at budget wise. Cal asked about the letters and if we wanted them delivered Councilmember Gilmour said yes. Councilmember Gay said he would help install the irrigation system and take the lead; his objective is to save the cost so if there is extra money in the budget the City could get an electronic sign out front. Cal said roughly the sign was about \$10,000.00.

Computers – Chris from Symplified technologies was present and explained to the council regarding getting other quotes for computers. Councilmember Gay asked what was the current problem with the computers they are slow, hard drives are ready to fail. Older machines are more expensive to keep running. It is hurting productivity. Chris stated it is a ton of different things that is attributing to the problem. Symplified offers a 3 year warranty. Councilmember Gay wondered where in the budget the money was going to come from, so he asked Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee to show where from the budget we will pay for the computers at the next council meeting. Chris stated that there no markup on the hardware; they can use generic parts on the machines so it drops the costs down dramatically.

Washington Parks – Amendment No. One Iron Horse State Park. They would extend the contract thru June 2013. The council discussed how the financial situation was, if we were making or losing money on this agreement, Mayor Camarata stated that the City is about even. Mayor Camarata stated it costs \$1700 last year so there is a \$300 cushion. Councilmember Helland thinks maybe the City should re negotiate. Councilmember Hink made a motion to only accept the amendment for one year thru June of 2012. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 yes, Councilmember Gay no, the motion carries.

Furniture – Councilmember Gilmour stated that we wait until the building is complete. Councilmember Helland asked about the bid from Shaw's, and Mayor Camarata stated we did not get a bid from them. Councilmember Hink made a motion to table the Furniture, Councilmember Gay seconded the motion.

After School Program – McKenzie Morse would like to rent the Community Hall to have an after school program. She is in the process of purchasing and fixing up the Odd Fellows building, but it will approximately take one year to complete. She was talking about some of the concerns the council had before; she was thinking she could be exempt so she wouldn't be licensed. She would have two cabinets to keep things uncluttered. Councilmember Gay stated that he believed it was not in the best interest of the city to do this but appreciated her enthusiasm. Councilmember Gay suggested we contact the City Attorney on liability issues. Members of the audience suggested some different places that may work for her.

Job Applications – Councilmember Hink asked what basis the Mayor used for his selection process. Mayor Camarata states that the Mayor hires employees not the Council. Councilmember Hink called the City Attorney and said he would pull off the interview board if it meant that his son or brother was not selected for this reason. Councilmember Hink said that neither he nor Councilmember Gilmour gave the Mayor any

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applications for consideration, and Mayor Camarata stated the problem was the City needs to get someone hired, since the car show is coming next month. Mayor Camarata stated that the person we have is not qualified and only temporary. Councilmember Helland said his concern was that the Mayor said that some of the applicants were not qualified, Mayor Camarata said by the law of the State of Washington the Mayor does the hiring not the council. Councilmember Gilmour states there is an ordinance that says the council does have the right to assist in hiring a full time employee. Council stated they did not advertise with a job description, Mayor Camarata said because the council couldn't agree on one. Council thought that all council members could each pick the top 3 and interview those. Mayor Camarata agreed to that.

Payment Approvals

July 2011 Bills – \$25,143.85 Councilmember Gay moved to approve July 2011 bills, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. 4 yes 0 no. The motion carries.

July Payroll/Mid Month Draws – \$37,821.40 Councilmember Gilmour moved to approve July 2011 payroll and mid month draws, Councilmember Hink seconded the motion. 4 yes and 0 no. The motion carries

Voided check – #7729 Chris Taylor. Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Lee stated that the electronic deposit got entered to late and so she issued checks, but since Officer Taylor's account is on the other side of the mountain he needed it done by EFT, so the check had to be voided. Councilmember Gay moved to approve the voided check, Councilmember Helland seconded the motion. 4 yes 0 no. The motion carries.

MAYORS REPORT

Old Time Fiddlers – Will be in Kittitas July 29th and the City needs to ask them to come to the Gazebo.

Parking Lot – Storm drains are being installed this week.

Audit – Mayor Camarata stated that the Federal Audit was going to cost approximately \$15,048.00 it was only budgeted for \$3500.00

Fire Department – Installation is included in the total so far for the first half of the year that is why the electric bill appears to be so high.

Roof Repair – Meyer's roofing is billing Tri-Ply for the last part of the work that they did.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gilmour asked about where we were on the Sidewalk Project, Mayor Camarata stated the contracts are in his office to sign.

Councilmember Gilmour asked about a retreat. Mayor Camarata stated the attorney hadn't responded yet.

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Councilmember Gilmour went and bought a rope and had Ellensburg Telephone come over with their bucket truck and string it. Councilmember Gilmour thought the Mayor should send a letter thanking them for the help.

Councilmember Gilmour stated that Saturday he noticed the church people cleaning up the yard around the Community Hall.

Councilmember Gilmour asked about the UGA, Mayor Camarata stated it will be the last 2 weeks in August

Councilmember Helland wants a list of every vehicle the City has because if we are not going to use them or they are broken we need to get rid of them. Surplus them out and possibly get something the City can actually use.

There was a lot of Council discussion regarding watering the trees on South Main.

Bev Allphin asked about the Fire Department spraying the shrubs for mites.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Attest: Mayor Camarata

Clerk/Treasurer
