

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2017**

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Whitford led those assembled in the Flag Salute. Mayor Whitford called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. January 24, 2017. Councilmembers present: Jerry Gilmour, Pat Cort, John Camarata, Ben Whitehurst and Jasen Carlson. Staff present: Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer, Brent Nierman – Chief of Police and Dave Anderson – Police.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATED JANUARY
10th, 2016**

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WORK/STUDY MEETING DATED
JANUARY 10th, 2016**

MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; second by Councilmember Cort
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

None

REPORT OF OFFICES AND SPECIAL GUESTS

A. Staff Reports (informational only)

Debbie Lee – Clerk/Treasurer

- Debbie informed Council that the State Auditors are having the Exit Conference on Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. Councilmember Cort and Councilmember Camarata will be attending.

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Scott Moore – Public Works Lead PW (submitted in writing)

- Scott Moore and Kash Sansaver went to training in Spokane for trenching and shoring.
- Kept busy clearing streets of snow.
- Replaced one stop sign and Railroad and Main.
- Thawed out approximately 12 meters due to the extreme cold.
- Repairs made to the dump truck and chains.
- Repairs made to the brush on the mower.
- Using grader to plow snow and repaired chains.
- Cleaned out City Hall storage room.

Brent Nierman – Chief of Police

- Chief Nierman told Council that there have been some issues with snow removal on sidewalks. Chief Nierman suggested possibly purchasing a snow blower in the future to help with this issue. Councilmember Cort stated that the snow removal policy was discussed at the work study meeting and will be on the next agenda for the regular Council Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Dog Variance – Layne Tyson

- Layne Tyson stated that he had recently purchased a new house at 311 W. Third and was unaware of the Ordinance for having more than two dogs. He licensed all of his dogs and paid the variance fee.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired if he has a fenced yard. Layne Tyson responded yes.

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MOTION: Councilmember Gilmour made a motion to approve the variance; second by Councilmember Camarata.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

B. Police Vehicle

- Chief Nierman informed Council that the 3/10's tax has been a good source of revenue for the Public Safety 3/10's tax fund. When this was originally set up in 2013 the revenues were \$52,735.68 and for 2016 they were \$70,034.55. This fund was used to pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of the wages and benefits for the Code Enforcement Officer's wages. The other $\frac{1}{4}$ came out of the general fund. The beginning balance of this fund started 2017 with \$36,500.00. Chief Nierman proposed to Council that all of the Code Enforcement's wages and benefits come out of fund 102. The $\frac{1}{4}$ of his wages and benefits that come from the general fund could support the lease of two new police vehicles fully equipped.
- A budget amendment will have to be done and the second Tahoe will have to be officially surplus. Chief Nierman did not know if the Tahoe has any value as the rod went thru the engine. The police are down to sharing two police cars again.
- Chief Nierman also stated that if the City Council continues to put \$5,000 in a vehicle reserve fund in 5 years there will be \$25,000 in this fund and approximately \$10,000 will be needed to pay off the lease if the Council decides to keep the two vehicles and that will leave approximately \$15,000 that could go towards the purchase of a new third vehicle and keep the cycle going so the City does not get in the situation again of having non dependable police cars.
- The amount of the lease is for two new Ford Explorer's is approximately \$1370 per month plus tax for five years.
- The Tahoe's were originally purchased at basically no cost to the City since two police cars were surplus and the \$5,000 proceeds from this purchased both Tahoe's. They have served well for three years but they are no longer able to be repaired, the City would be putting more in repairs than the cars are worth.
- Officer Anderson questioned how long is the 3/10's funding for. It was answered that approximately 2021 until another cycle is voted for.
- Councilmember Gilmour inquired about the sales tax; Chief Nierman stated that the sales tax is paid out during the lease not up front.

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- Councilmember Cort asked if the Police could use the 3/10's money for training. Chief Nierman thought so. Councilmember Cort stated that Council will have to educate the public on the 3/10's tax money.
- Councilmember Camarata thought this looked good to him.
- Councilmember Carlson thanked Chief Nierman for the presentation and having all of the information for Council. Councilmember Carlson inquired if this was the same vehicles Yakima County has, Chief Nierman stated this is the go to vehicle currently for law enforcement.

Motion: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve the lease purchase of two new Ford Police Cars; second by Councilmember Whitehurst.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

C. Liquor License Renewal – Gibson Fruit (informational)

PAYMENT APPROVALS

A. December 31, 2016 Payables \$9,744.93

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to pay December 31, 2016 Payables; second by Councilmember Cort.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Carlson had a question regarding inmate care. Officer Anderson explained that this is a quarterly billing, the County used to bill a flat rate yearly. Now it is based on per inmate. So this amount can fluctuate depending on the crime.

B. January 24, 2017 Payables \$41,286.91

MOTION: Councilmember Camarata made a motion to approve January 24, 2017 Payables; second by Councilmember Carlson.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

- Councilmember Gilmour asked why employees drive to town to have a key made. It was explained that the hardware store did not have this particular key and it was done when the employee was already in Ellensburg or had other errands to run and one of the incidents the employee was off work.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Whitford informed Council that she and Councilmember Cort and Brenda McPherson met with Amy at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the \$6,000 branding grant that the City received. They will all be working with the citizens, business owners, groups, nonprofits, organizations etc. to interview them and get an idea regarding the direction they feel the City of Kittitas is moving in. Mayor Whitford contacted Brian Stockdale from Vantage to see if he would like to be a part of this process. The majority of the meetings will be in March.
- Discussion was had regarding the book called Stand by the Side of my Arm which is a book regarding the history of the City of Kittitas.

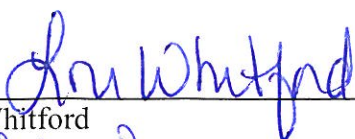
COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Gilmour is concerned about garbage in the back of a truck he stated that there is garbage all over the town. Officer Anderson asked him the address and will follow up on his complaint.
- Councilmember Whitehurst and the Fire Department are looking into grants for SBA's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. One of them is unusable as it is leaking air.
- Councilmember Cort stated that Judy from the Library Board asked for her assistance in applying for the grant from the Toppenish Indian Casino.
- Councilmember Carlson was concerned that he may have interrupted a vehicle prowler in his neighborhood because when he went to leave for work at 3:00 a.m. his back door was open in his car. Councilmember Carlson also informed Council that the 6:00 p.m. meeting will not work for him for approximately the next month and a half but after that he should be available.

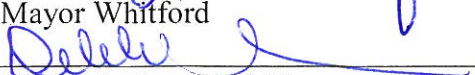
MOTION: Councilmember Cort made a motion to adjourn; second by Councilmember Gilmour.
Motion Carried: 5 yes 0 no.

ADJOURN: 8:15 p.m.

Attest:



Mayor Whitford



Debbie L. Lee Clerk/Treasurer