

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
AUDITORIUM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**

**2:00 P.M.**

**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright and Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kate Jimenez, Administrative Assistant; Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Mark Cook, Public Works/CDS Director; Stephanie Hartung; Civil Chief Deputy, Jesse Eldred, Deputy Prosecutor II, and 2 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-017**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider Rescinding Item 22-25 in Ordinance 2022-017.

**MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS/CDS DIRECTOR**, reviewed the Mardee Lake non-project rezone (RZ 22-00005 and CP 22-00005) Item 22-25 within Ordinance 2022-017. Director Cook stated that the recent Invalidity Order from the Growth Hearings Management Board requires the County to rescind the non-project rezone prior to removing the Invalidity Order.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**ORDINACNE 2023-007**

**AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-017**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-007, to rescind Item 22-25 in Ordinance 2022-017. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**CREATING A PUBLIC SERVICES DEPT**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:05 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WRIGHT** opened a Public Hearing to consider amending Kittitas County Code to reflect the formation of a Public Services Department.

**MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS/CDS DIRECTOR**, reviewed a Staff Report recommending the consolidation of Public Works and Community Development Services, as an opportunity to improve operational efficiencies. Director Cook stated with the recent dissolution of the Airport Department and the management being moved back to Public Works, there is a need to improve operational efficiencies and streamline processes such as Agenda and Study Sessions.

**10/17/2023 MINUTES**

**1**

**APPROVED**

**11-7-2023**

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING:** **PAT DENEEN** said he's in support of putting the two departments together. He stated there has been a 100% turnaround in the departments with the new Staff in the County and that the combining of the departments has been simpler and easier to navigate. He stated with less than 38 weeks left of Director Mark Cook being here, the County should not wait to put this into action. **ANDY SCHMIDT** said he is a fan of consolidating the 2 departments. He feels the supervision of one Director helps to avoid discrepancies.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** moved to continue the Public Hearing to consider amending Kittitas County Code to reflect the formation of a Public Services Department to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Auditorium, noting the record is open. **COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was concluded at 2:21 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

  
KATE JIMENEZ

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Chairman Cory Wright