

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Ridlington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Michael Weathermen, Dale Drake, John Ridlington, Jesse Garrett and John Andrew.

STAFF

Staff - Logan Worley, Dave Willey, Raena Hallam, Katy Pike and Mary Schultz.

GUESTS

Guests - Larry Kulesza, Wayne Wardlow, Anthony Errigo, Maria Errigo, Marcy Eschen and Charles Jones.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL POSITION #1

Mayor John Ridlington announced there are two people who have submitted a letter of interest for the City Council Position. The letters were written by Ms. Brandi Simpson and Mr. Chuck Jones. He stated Ms. Simpson was not able to attend tonight's meeting. He explained Mr. Chuck Jones met with him on Monday, August 5th regarding his interest in the City Council Position and after their conversation he asked Mr. Jones to write a letter of interest.

Mayor John Ridlington asked Mr. Jones to give a brief narrative about himself.

Mr. Charles Jones, 920 Narcissus, Kettle Falls, stated he has lived in Kettle Falls off and on for several years and his parents lived in this area for over seventeen years. He stated he is not married but has three kids and three grandkids. He explained he worked for the Forest Service as a biologist, a planner for Douglas County and is currently working at Kettle True Value. (Letter on file)

Mr. Wayne Wardlow, 955 S. Oak St., Kettle Falls, stated he would like to submit a letter of interest for City Council Position #1.

Mayor John Ridlington asked Mr. Wardlow to give a brief narrative about himself.

Mr. Wardlow, 955 S. Oak St., Kettle Falls, stated he has lived in the Kettle Falls area for over five years. He stated he is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He explained he is very involved with several local groups and feels that he is the best candidate for this position. (Letter on file)

Council Member Dale Drake and Michael Weathermen stated they would like time to review the letters.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated he would like to give Ms. Simpson an opportunity to come and introduce herself.

Council Member John Andrew stated the candidates that don't get chosen for the City Council Position should be offered the vacant Kettle Falls Planning Commission Position.

Mayor John Ridlington stated City Council will discuss appointing the City Council Postilion #1 at the next meeting.

LETTER FROM MS. ESCHEN REGARDING UTILITY RATES

Ms. Marcy Eschen, 120 W. 10th St., Kettle Falls, stated this is the third time in ten years she has requested a break on utility rates for multi-unit housing. She is not asking for a discount on the water charges but would like City Council to consider one for the sewer charge. She stated with her multi-unit housing there is four units on a meter and nine units on another meter. She explained for the nine units the City is only having to maintain one meter and read one meter per month. Although, if you had nine single residential houses the City would have to maintain nine meters and read nine meters per month. She is asking City Council to lower the sewer rate for multi-unit housing for the reason that she gave. (Diagram on file)

City Council Member Dale Drake asked Ms. Eschen which apartments she owns.

Ms. Eschen stated Pacific Pines. She explained the City of Colville's base rate is different for different types of housing.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated if a unit is tagged vacant they would not be charged for that unit until it is rented.

Ms. Eschen stated except there is a reactivation fee.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated there is a charge because an employee has to spend time resetting everything back up.

Ms. Eschen stated for 14 studios the utility bill is between one thousand one hundred to one thousand two hundred dollars a month. She stated that is a mortgage payment. She explained if she would have known it was going to cost as much as it does she would have considered putting in a meter for each unit years ago.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the City isn't making money by charging a fee per unit.

Ms. Eschen stated multiunit housing shouldn't pay the same amount for utilities as individual housing. She explained there are usually more people living in individual housing than a studio apartment.

Council Member Dale Drake stated there are individual homes with only one person living in it. He asked if they should get a lower sewer rate as well.

Ms. Eschen stated there are only two meters in the complex to maintain.

Council Member John Andrew stated it cost money to run the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms. Eschen stated the difference in the time and effort of labor between multipurpose housing and housing is not the same.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC HEARING - SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

City Attorney Logan Worley read the Public Hearing checklist to discuss the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated a resolution is required for the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for grant application purposes. The updates include are on page 5 adding Kettle Crest and Meyers and on page 8 the 10th Avenue project can be removed as it has been completed.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated to get the grant application approved for the Kettle Crest and Meyer Street chip seal project the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan needs revised.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing 7:28 p.m. for Public Comment. As there was no Public Comment. City Attorney Logan Worley closed the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Mr. Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper, Kettle Falls, stated the Announcements and Mail Received possible appointment to Council Position #1 is not on the City Council Meeting Agenda posted at the Kettle Falls Post Office or outside of City Hall. He stated to his understanding people cannot be interviewed without properly being posted on the agenda.

City Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the agenda that is in front of City Council and the ones for the public placed on the front counter has been revised, as stated on the agenda. The letter of interest from Ms. Simpson was received this afternoon.

Mayor John Ridlington stated it will be on next month's agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 18TH AND JULY 16, 2019 AND JUNE AND JULY VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL

Council Member Jesse Garrett made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member John Andrew seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes, Council Member Jesse Garratt - yes, and Council Member John Andrew - yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Council Member John Andrew stated there is a meeting set up on Tuesday, August 13th at 1:00 p.m. here at City Hall with the

Friends of the Library to get their thoughts and views on possibly annexing into Stevens County Libraries.

Council Member Dale Drake stated Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained there was money in the budget to hire a part-time Police officer but instead of doing that he would like to recommend giving the Police Officers a two dollar and fifty cent raise increase.

Council Member John Andrew agrees with Council Member Dale Drake with giving the Police Officers a two dollar and fifty cent raise increase. He explained they need an incentive to stay with the City of Kettle Falls. He stated the City cannot compete with the county's wage but we can show them that we appreciate them by giving them this wage increase.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated that is not what she said. She stated before the budget was adopted for 2019 she explained to City Council if the City could find a Police Officer that had already been through the Police Academy and is retired just looking for a few hours a week there might be money in the budget. She stated since then Mr. Gabriel Cruden was hired and money has been spent from the general fund.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated he agrees the Police Officers deserve a wage increase but will not promise it until the next budget is reviewed.

Mr. Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper, Kettle Falls, stated when this was discussed at the financial subcommittee it was a split discussion. He stated the funding needs to be addressed first. He stated maybe the Police Officers can receive a bonus for going above and beyond the job of duties.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he doesn't disagree with what has been discussed although the budget will need to be reviewed for funding. He explained the City is a great place of employment and appreciates the work the Officers do. He stated the financial subcommittee was created to review all financial needs, not just the Police Department, and not make financial decisions.

Ms. Marcy Eschen, 120 W. 10th St., Kettle Falls, stated a long time ago people used to make donations to the Police Department and even volunteered to mend uniforms as needed. She stated maybe the community would come together again and help out.

Council Member John Andrew suggested having a bake sale for the Police Department.

Mr. Wardlow, 955 S. Oak St., Kettle Falls, suggested having a donation option on utility bills.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council Member John Andrew stated at the last Planning Commission Meeting the owners of the Apple Warehouse attended and is requesting to add a Bed and Breakfast upstairs. He stated according to Mr. Wayne Wardlow a fire marshal needs to inspect the building for proper fire codes and escape routes. He stated there is no sprinkler system inside the building in case of a fire.

STAFF REPORTS

CITY HALL

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the Washington State Auditors will be at City Hall beginning August 19th.

LIBRARY

Library Manager Katy Pike stated Long Irrigation and Curbing donated labor and Wynne Street Nursery sold the plants to the library at cost. She stated there is going to be an upgrade done on the routers and the Friends of the Library will be having a yard sale if anyone has items to donate.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 19-04 - A RESOLUTION ADOPTING SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR 2019-2024

Council Member Jesse Garrett made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 19-04 - A Resolution Adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for 2019-2024 by title only. Council Member Dale Drake seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes, Council Member Jesse Garratt - yes, and Council Member John Andrew - yes.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNEXATION UPDATE

City Attorney Logan Worley stated he is waiting for Mr. Gabriel Cruden on the annexation.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated to her knowledge the City has only received one signature.

Mayor John Ridlington asked about the process of getting people annexed into the City.

City Attorney Logan Worley explained there needs to be two petitions signed and then have a Public Hearing. Mr. Worley asked if Mr. Singer has signed the second petition.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated no, he has not.

NUISANCE PROPERTY UPDATE

City Attorney Logan Worley stated an Order of Hearing has been drafted for 550 Kalmia for Notice/Complaint regarding dangerous buildings. He explained the owner needs to be served with the documents.

Mayor John Ridlington asked if the vehicles were going to be the City's responsibility.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated the vehicles can be added to the court orders as part of the complaint.

Council Member John Andrew asked how long it will be before the City can start getting the property cleaned up.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated he will be filing the documents by the end of the week.

Council Member John Andrew asked if the City will have to pay for the vehicles to be removed.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated the removal of the vehicle can be included to the court filing to try to recover cost of removal.

Council Member Dale Drake asked for assurance from City Attorney Logan Worley that the documents will be filed by Friday.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated it will be filed by Friday but the process after filing will take longer.

HOMELESS SHELTER CONCERN

Mr. Anthony Errigo, 923 W. Old Kettle Road, Kettle Falls, asked when it was decided to allow a homeless shelter at 925 Honeybee Lane. He explained as far as he understands that area is in the urban growth area and it would not be allowed. He stated he is not in agreement with having one near him.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the City has not heard about a homeless shelter in the City of Kettle Falls. She stated the City will look into this concern.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there was no Public Comment, City Council moved on to Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor John Ridlington adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:

John Ridlington, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mary Schultz, Secretary/Clerk