**KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 5, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Ridlington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Michael Weatherman, Dale Drake, John Ridlington, Jesse Garrett, John Andrew and Wayne Wardlow.

**STAFF**

Staff – Raena Hallam and Mary Schultz

**GUESTS**

Susan Fleischman and Larry Kulesza

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED**

As there were no Announcements and Mail Received, City Council moved on to Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OPEN UP KETTLE FALLS – SUSAN FLEISCHMAN**

Ms. Susan Fleischman, 1259 S. Peachcrest Rd Kettle Falls, stated she recognizes businesses are struggling due to Governor Jay Inslee’s mandates from the Covid-19 virus. Ms. Fleischman presented a packet to City Council regarding actions that another City has taken to support their community. (Packet on file) She stated Stevens County Sheriff Brad Manke will not be enforcing the Governor’s mandates. She would like to see Kettle Falls reopen and allow the businesses to make money.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he too would like to see businesses making money, so they are not forced to close. He asked Ms. Fleischman what her proposal is to help the businesses.

Ms. Fleischman stated to support the local businesses.

Mayor John Ridlington stated the City has been supporting the local businesses as much as possible. He explained the City provided a Covid-19 grant application to businesses and the Chamber of Commerce has also been supporting the community by trying to continue yearly events with modifications.

Ms. Fleischman stated there is a group of people coming from Spokane on January 9, 2021 to come to Kettle Falls and spend money to help the local businesses.

Mr. Larry Kulesza 530 Juniper Kettle Falls, stated he is a resident of Kettle Falls and seen a posting on Facebook regarding a group of people from Spokane are coming to Kettle Falls on January 9th. Mr. Kulesza asked Ms. Fleischman if she was the contact person in Kettle Falls the Facebook posting is referring to. (Facebook posting on file)

Ms. Fleischman stated she did not post the information but is the contact person.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the Facebook posting is a sign to Governor Jay Inslee that the community of Kettle Falls is not going to adhere to the mandates. He asked to Ms. Fleischman to cancel the event.

Ms. Fleischman stated she would not.

Mr. Kulesza asked Ms. Fleischman if the local businesses have been contacted to see if this is what they want happening.

Ms. Fleischman stated she spoke with all the businesses but two.

Council Member Dale Drake stated this gathering will draw attention to Kettle Falls and could potentially cause fines.

Council Member Michael Weatherman asked what the purpose of the gathering is.

Ms. Fleischman stated to spend money.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow referred to the hand-out from Ms. Fleischman and thinks the town of Mossyrock, Washington can still be held liable for their actions.

Ms. Fleischman stated it is a work in progress.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow asked Ms. Fleischman if she had reached out to the Chamber of Commerce for any information about how she can help local businesses in a safe manner.

Ms. Fleischman stated she has been politically active.

Mayor John Ridlington stated if the businesses participate in this gathering, be respectful of other’s and do not cause trouble or draw negative attention.

Council Member Jesse Garrett thanked Ms. Fleischman for coming to the City Council meeting with her concerns.

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated during this gathering it is important to continue to follow Governor Jay Inslee’s mandates.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow suggested Ms. Fleischman reach out to the Chamber of Commerce.

**COVID-19 VACCINATION**

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated Northeast Tri-County Health District should be monitoring the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines so people that are at a high risk can receive it first. He stated he heard the facilities which are administering the vaccine calls their acquaintances at the end of the day to have them come in and receive the vaccine. Furthermore, if they need help prioritizing or creating a spreadsheet of people who should be receiving a vaccine first, he will volunteer.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he agrees and has already sent a letter to Northeast Tri-County Health District Administrator Matt Schanz regarding the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated he too agrees with Mr. Kulesza.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he would send another letter to Administratior Matt Schanz with Northeast Tri-County Health District.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 15, 2020 AND PORTION OF DECEMBER, 2020 VOUCHERS & PAYROLL**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

As there were no Committee Reports, City Council moved on to New Business.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PLANNING**

Mr. Kulesza in expectation of receiving an annexation application he presented a brief outline of the annexation process.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor John Ridlington stated Police Chief Chris Courchene has been dealing with breaking & entering, burglary offenses.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Mayor John Ridlington stated the City Council Committees will remain the same for 2021.



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**CITY MAYOR PRO TEM**

Council Member Dale Drake made a motion to elect Council Member Jesse Garrett as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member John Andrew second the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Michael Weatherman – yes, Council Member Dale Drake – yes, Council Member John Andrew – yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett – yes and Council Member Wayne Wardlow – yes.

**MAYORS SALARY**

Council Member Dale Drake proposed the City Council to increase the Mayors salary as it has been a while since its happened.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow asked City Council Member Dale Drake if he had a dollar amount in mind.

Council Member Dale Drake stated eight hundred dollars per month.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated City Council should keep in mind other expenses for this position.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated being Mayor is not a full-time position, so it is important to do some research before deciding.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow asked Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam how much time is involved with the Mayor’s position.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the Mayor’s position is paid for thirty hours per month, which is a gross amount of six hundred dollars. However, the hours are flexible, some Mayors are active with attending meetings and some are not.

Mayor John Ridlington asked Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam to do some research to see what a reasonable salary increase would be for the Mayor’s position.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow asked if City Council were to vote for City Council to receive an increase in salary would the current City Council receive the increase.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated no, a Council Member would receive the salary increase after being re-elected.

Mayor John Ridlington stated it will be put on the agenda for the next City Council Meeting.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST**

Council Member Dale Drake asked who won the Christmas House Decorating contest.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam gave the names and placement of the contest:

1st Place - Rick & Dawn Tallman
2nd Place - Leona Pemberton
3rd Place - Christopher & Rochelle Shurrum
Honorable Mention - Phil & Shelly Adams

**STATESMAN EXAMINER**

Mayor John Ridlington stated the Lady Lions asked the Statesman Examiner to publish an article for the upcoming Christmas House Decorating contest, but it was never published.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the City also had some advertising issues with the Statesman Examiner. However, for the City to start advertising in a different newspaper it must be done by ordinance or resolution.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated the majority of the City’s advertise in the Chewelah paper.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there will be pro and cons if the City decides to go with a different newspaper to advertise with.

Council Member John Andrew stated the Chewelah Independent does not reach our community.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated newsprints will reach people. Furthermore, there is the City’s website and Facebook for people to rely on.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated legal advertisements required by RCW must be advertised in a newspaper unless stated differently.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he would reach out to the Statesman Examiner and talk with them about these issues.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APOLLO SOLUTIONS**

Council Member Dale Drake asked if the City has received the Avista rebate.

Mayor John Ridlington stated the Solar Array Project has been signed.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the close out invoice for the Solar Array Project came today.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he would ask Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey to give an update.

Council Member Jesse Garrett asked if Council Members could get a list of projects and summary update from Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor John Ridlington adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Approved:

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Attest:­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Mary Schultz, Secretary/Clerk