

**KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Ridlington called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

John Andrew, Michael Weatherman, Dale Drake and Wayne Wardlow.  
Jesse Garrett arrived at 9:30 a.m.

**STAFF**

Staff - Raena Hallam and Logan Worley.

**GUESTS**

Guests - Larry Kulesza.

**MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION**

Mayor John Ridlington reviewed the agenda with City Council.  
John asked if there was anything City Council would like to add to the agenda. He explained he hopes to have active discussion.

**ROLES OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Social Media**

Mayor John Ridlington stated policy comes from the Mayor and he is not in favor of posting everything on facebook.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated all meetings are open to the public, there is no way to schedule meetings so everyone can attend.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated it is okay to post what happened on social media but you shouldn't have dialogue.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he was happy Council Member Wayne Wardlow posted on facebook that water would be turned off. He expected his water to be off when he got up that morning. However, he does agree Council Member Wayne Wardlow should have discussed what he was posting to facebook with the Mayor first.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow explained facebook reached over 3200 people in the area.

Council Member John Andrew stated Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey was nonspecific about if or when the water would be turned off. The facebook posts could have caused panic. John recognized the City has a public participation problem.

Mayor John Ridlington stated Council Member Wayne Wardlow also had discussions about the police officers wages. He explained once it's on facebook it opens the City up.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated he didn't do that and has no intent of giving the City a black eye.

Mayor John Ridlington stated anything on facebook from the City needs to go through him.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated he read a book that included runs on grocery stores, pharmacies etc. and asked if the City is prepared for a situation like that.

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated Stevens County has an emergency plan and the information would be disseminated accordingly. If it's a national emergency then the City would play a supportive role.

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated as City leaders it is important to use discretion when providing information to the public. The City doesn't want to scare everyone.

Council Member Dale Drake stated posting on facebook is a good idea, but Council should talk with the Mayor first.

City Attorney Logan Worley stated all Council Members are welcome to talk with the Mayor anytime.

### **Working Together**

Mayor John Ridlington stated he wants to work together. If City Council has an item they would like on the agenda to please contact himself or Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam.

Mayor John Ridlington explained Council Members are welcome to ask staff questions, but they do work for the Mayor. He cautioned City Council about not stepping into a supervisory role with staff.

City Attorney Logan Worley referred to a handout \*Knowing your Roles: City and Town Government Edition published by MRSC.

Logan further stated if there are any issues with staff they should let the Mayor know.

Mayor John Ridlington stated he appreciates the City Council and they are the eyes and ears for the City.

Council Member Jesse Garrett apologized for being late to the meeting and stated he would like to go on records regarding social media. Jesse stated any information posted to facebook on behalf of the City should be a consensus of the City Council. It needs to be an official statement and not a point of view from a Council Member.

#### **PDA - OUT OF TOWN WATER SERVICES**

Mayor John Ridlington stated Mr. Ben Hendrickson would like to provide electricity to the City from Meyers Falls. John thought this might be possible with the PDA. Another idea is to have the PDA provide water services outside of the City limits.

Council Member John Andrew stated basically the City can't make money for profit, but a Public Development Authority (PDA) can. The revenue would then come to the City.

Mayor John Ridlington asked if the PDA could have a business selling water. Council Member Jesse Garrett stated yes, the PDA would form a corporation, purchase water from the City and then sell to the customer. Profits would then be returned to the City's General Fund.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated Mr. Sublie would like a water hookup for a sprint boat track. He stated the city of Colville is offering him water. Wayne stated the City of Kettle Falls should offer him a free water hookup for the sprint boat track.

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated he should bring the idea to the Planning Commission.

Mayor John Ridlington stated Mr. Sublie should talk with City Engineer Steve Nelson and Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey.

City Attorney Logan Worley left at 10:30 a.m.

#### **CITY PLANNING**

Mayor John Ridlington stated he wants to adopt an ordinance that sewer is not allowed unless the property is annexed into the City. He also likes the idea of adopting an ordinance that states no water outside of the City limits unless certain standards are met.

Mr. Kulesza discussed the wellhead protection area and how development approved by Stevens County might impact our wells. There is no incentive for the county to curb development.

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated the City needs something that clearly states these standards or no water.

Mr. Kulesza discussed the UGA boundaries and how Stevens County doesn't want to change the UGA boundaries.

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated he feels the Comprehensive Plan Update is on track to be submitted to the Dept. of Commerce by February 28, 2020.

#### **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Mayor John Ridlington distributed a draft of Council Committees to be proposed at the next City Council meeting. He stated to pay attention to the numbers. Number one would mean that is the Council Member in lead of the Committee. He didn't think paying two Council Members to attend the same meeting was necessary. However, he would like Council Members John Andrew and Michael Weatherman to continue going to the Planning Commission meetings until the comp plan update is adopted.

#### **BUDGET PROCESS**

Council Member Dale Drake stated he would like to start the budget process much earlier in the year. He stated he doesn't like being rushed to adopt a budget by the holidays.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he had a copy of the 2003 City Budget and it is in a very easy to read format. There is a table of contents, the print is large and it is very easy to follow.

Mayor John Ridlington stated creating a document like that takes a lot of time for staff.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she could draft a budget timeline that would begin in May, 2020. Raena further stated drafting a budget document takes a lot of time, but she could

format the draft budget with larger print, headers and footers to help with finding the information.

### **CITY BROCHURES**

Mayor John Ridlington stated he has asked Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam to draft a brochure providing information about the city to people moving to the City. This would include utility rates, business licenses etc. Part of the brochure would also include contact information for people to receive discounts for utilities through other agencies.

Mr. Larry Kulesza suggested obtaining a list from Stevens County Assessor's office about who receives a discount on their property taxes. The income verification would already be done.

Mayor John Ridlington asked Council Member John Andrew to work with Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam to see if that would be an option.

### **COMMUNITY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION**

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated the Downtown Association is creating a video to submit for a grant through Home and Garden TV. He said it should be completed soon.

### **FIRST RESPONDERS**

Council Member John Andrew stated he would like to research the cost of having a first responder program. Mayor John Ridlington stated Stevens County Fire District #6 would collect the money and it would create a lot of liability with Labor & Industries.

### **2020 GOALS**

Mayor John Ridlington and the City Council identified the following as goals for 2020:

- Fix shop in old Public Works area.
- Begin pathway to stage area in Happy Dell Park.
- Provide ADA access in front of the library.
- Address ADA exposure throughout the City.
- Fix or replace light on the flag at the Information Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor John Ridlington adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Approved:

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John Ridlington, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer