

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jesse Garrett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF

Staff - Dave Willey, Larry Kulesza and Raena Hallam.

Guests - Jody Emra, Nick Gourlie, Joe and Jodi Schrader and Josh Weatherman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

LETTER FOR HOUSING ACTION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated a letter was received to be read into the record in regards to the Housing Action Plan public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC HEARING - HOUSING ACTION PLAN

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam read a letter into the record received from Mrs. Kathy Berrigan, 1220 Josephine Road:

Kettle Falls City Council

June 24, 2023

Regarding logging along Josephine Road, questions linger. With five parties involved (landowner, forester, logger, City, State DNR), it's easier for no single one to take responsibility for the results, yet each had a role. Paperwork was rushed through by new owner Edwards and the DNR, then logging proceeded with great haste handled by forester Ben Rost and Richmond Logging, resulting in excessive loss of vegetation and no regard for aesthetics, leaving the area looking like a tornado came through. It appears this was intentional. For example, an apple tree in full bloom on the edge of the road was run over for no apparent reason.

- When such a large project that affects the whole community is undertaken, should not residents be notified, allowing time for input?

- Were effects on wildlife, wind storm issues, noise levels, etc. considered when the forest was removed? (This is the first time in 51 years that a young marmot has showed up in our back yard searching for its mother.)
- What purpose is served by replacing a beautiful forest with an unsightly wasteland, especially if an attractive setting is desired for future home sites?
- With increased emphasis on the importance of forests and green spaces these days, how odd is it to do the exact opposite?
- What is the plan going forward to mitigate this eyesore?

This established neighborhood is entirely single family homes, and it is our wish that it remain that way. Government housing has a very poor track record, leading to loss of property value. In addition, matters like increased traffic and water availability need to be addressed.

It is important that *local planners* make decisions for our own community, not those dictated by some outside entity. Kettle Falls residents, not outsiders, will have to live with those decisions for years to come.

Sincerely,



Kathy Berrigan
1220 S Josephine Rd
Kettle Falls, WA 99141

Mayor Garrett opened the public hearing for public testimony at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper, stated he intended to obtain clarification from SCJ Alliance on the data used to determine the population estimates in the Housing Action Plan. He explained the Planning Commission meeting was postponed to Thursday, therefore he doesn't have that information for this evening.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated the most up to date Housing Action Plan on the website is dated June 12, 2023. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she thought it was dated June 16th, but the most up to date copy is available on the website.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated Alicia with SCJ Alliance had sent him an update on the strategies.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the updates that were sent to Larry were not posted on the website, since the Planning Commission has not reviewed them yet.

Council Member Dale Drake questioned why he is being asked to pass this Housing Action Plan without all of the information.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained Planning Commission did not have a quorum for their regular meeting on Monday, July 10th. Therefore, they rescheduled their regular meeting for Thursday, July 13, 2023. During that meeting the suggested changes will be reviewed and an updated copy of the Housing Action Plan will be available afterward and will be placed on the next City Council agenda.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated City Council can introduce the ordinance if they wish tonight, but they do not have to.

Planning Commissioner Nick Gourlie, the plan on the website is the most up to date copy since the last Planning Commission meeting.

Mayor Garrett closed the Public Hearing to public comment at 7:12 p.m.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Mr. Josh Weatherman asked about the status of the School Resource Officer process.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she has received one application and is anticipating one other application. Both are entry level applicants.

Mayor Garrett stated if an entry level officer is hired, then one of our officers could fill in until they have received the required training.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if one of the City's officers temporarily filled the SRO position would they need to attend the SRO training. Mr. Josh Weathermen stated he didn't think so, they just must complete a state module.

CONSENT AGENDA

JUNE, 2023 VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL

Council Member Wayne Wardlow made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Wayne Wardlow - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

STAFF REPORTS

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she distributed a copy of the Shoreline Master Program Update to City Council to review as homework. Raena explained the Planning Commission will receive a copy this Thursday and will discuss it during their meeting in August.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey reported the ship seal project has been postponed for two weeks.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the department is very short handed. The parks employee was hurt and will be out of work for a while.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the wells are running about 1.4 to 1.5 million gallons of water per day which they are very capable of running.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated in a week or two they will start painting the streets and install the dry well on Oak Street.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow asked Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey to notify City Council if the well levels become an issue.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the baseball fence arrived, and the scoreboard is up but needs to be wired.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Council Member Dale Drake stated in the legal notices of the Colville paper it states a Mike Manning is making decisions on lot line. Is the Planning Commission not doing Lot Lines anymore?

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained a lot line adjustment is an administrative review and Mike Manning works for SCJ Alliance as Alicia's Assistant.

Council Member Dale Drake asked why SCJ Alliance is making decisions for the City of Kettle Falls. It's disturbing that we have individuals making decisions that are not from here. I don't know who this guy is or if he has even been to the City of Kettle Falls, but he is making decisions that our Planning Commission should be making.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained if new lots are not being created then a lot line adjustment is an administrative review. It is not required to go to the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Chair Jody Emra stated it is her understanding if it is not creating new lots it isn't required to come to the planning commission.

Planning Commissioner Larry Kulesza stated the last time the Planning Commission did one was for Mr. True. In the 5½ years he has been on Planning Commission they have done at least 4. Technically it states in the ordinance it is the mayor's designee. During the Mayor Ridlington Administration it was the Planning Commission. He would like clarification when updating Title 17.

Mayor Garrett stated part of the administrative review is to relieve the Planning Commission of some of the workload. Mayor Garrett asked Larry to allow him to finish speaking.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated this is a Council meeting not a mayor's meeting.

Mayor Garrett stated Larry could speak when he was done speaking. The reason for the administrative review is for a simple lot line adjustment. The mayor's designee is SCJ Alliance at this point.

Planning Commissioner Larry Kulesza stated that is a completely different response than what you gave me. The mayor's designee

is SCJ Alliance and technically has nothing to do with workload. Normally lot line adjustments only requires a finding of fact. It doesn't take 15 minutes to do a lot line adjustment. From a Planning Commissioner who has had major workloads. Right now, the Planning Commission doesn't have much workload.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the point he is making is why are we having outsiders making decisions on things the planning commissioners should be making. They are the smartest, hardest working, devoted individuals on any committee he has seen. It looks like we are slapping them in the face and having outsiders come in and make decisions.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow made a motion to draft an ordinance stating any planning decisions including lot line adjustments are solely the purview of the Kettle Falls Planning Commission. Council Member Dale Drake seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member Wayne Wardlow - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - no, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LABOR RELATIONS

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated the Labor Relations Committee met with the employees and reviewed the cost-of-living increase revision, adding Christmas Eve as a holiday in exchange for Juneteenth and adding vacation time for employees here longer than 20 years.

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated an ordinance is being drafted.

Council Member John Ridlington explained this would be an additional holiday.

WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

Council Member John Ridlington stated he attended a Kettle Falls Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Walleye Tournament had a great tournament but not as many participants. They only had 25 boats.

KETTLE FALLS SWIMMING POOL

Council Member John Ridlington stated they are ready to pour concrete but waiting for approval from the Dept. of Health.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow reported he is setting up lifeguard classes. Jillian Marshall with the City of Colville and the Mayor of Colville has really helped out with the use of their swimming pool, Saturday and Sunday. He has 4 lifeguards attending the class.

NEW BUSINESS

CONTRACT FOR LABOR NEGOTIATION SERVICES

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the Teamsters Union contract will expire December 31, 2023. Normally the City hires a negotiator. Mr. Kevin Wesley is not available this year. He referred us to Mr. Lance King.

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Mr. Lance King for contract negotiations. Council Member Michael Weatherman seconded the motion.

Council Member Dale Drake asked where Mr. King was located. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she thought he was on the coast.

Council Member Dale Drake asked why we could not find someone closer, due to travel costs.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated it is a very specialized field. Mayor agreed that union negotiations are very specialized.

Council Member John Ridlington stated having a negotiator actually save a lot and keeps the City out of trouble. He likes the fact that Kevin Wesley recommended this person. He further stated some of it can be done remotely.

Motion carried by all. Council Member Wayne Wardlow - yes, Council Member Chris Shurram - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-02 IN THE MATTER OF DELEGATING TO
CLERK/TREASURER RAENA HALLAM AUTHORITY TO LEGALLY BIND THE CITY
OF KETTLE FALLS OF STEVENS COUNTY THE SOLE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING
FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT (HIGH SCHOOL SIDEWALK CONNECTOR PROJECT)**

Council Member Wayne Wardlow made a motion to Adopt Resolution No. 23-02. Council Member Michael Weatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Wayne Wardlow - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

OLD BUSINESS

PERSONNEL POLICY SECTION 7-12-COST OF LIVING INCREASE

Council Member Michael Weatherman explained the purpose of the revision is so City Council can give a partial raise if needed instead of not giving a cost-of-living increase at all.

WMS AQUATICS AGREEMENT

Mayor Garrett proposed a draft agreement between the City and WMS Aquatics for the purpose of building inspections and who the responsible parties are for what.

Council Member John Ridlington stated it has been strange working with the Department of Health. If we had waited for the Department of Health, there would not have been a donation at all. They are very slow with getting back to answer questions etc. This puts a lot of the responsibility on WMS.

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated he had a lot of warnings about the Department of Health regarding the new lifeguarding regulations.

LETTER TO THE NEW OWNERS ON KALMIA STREET

Council Member Dale Drake asked about sending a letter asking them to clean up their property.

SPEEDING

Council Member Wayne Wardlow stated a pickup truck was burning rubber, almost into the neighbor's yard. He called the incident to the police and he never heard anything back about it. He seen the pickup truck several times throughout the day.

FIREWORKS

Council Member Dale Drake stated in the newsletter citizens were reminded of only safe and sane fireworks. The fireworks being set off are knocking pictures off the wall and are not safe and sane. If the City is going put something out there, it should be prepared to enforce it.

Mayor Garrett stated he finally asked his neighbors to stop setting fireworks off at 1:00 a.m. in the morning. The City has the option to ban fireworks, it may be something to think about for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:

Jesse Garrett, Mayor

Attest: _____
Raena L. Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer