

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Jesse Garrett, Chris Shurrum, John Ridlington, Shellee Haynes and Michael Weatherman. Cliff King was absent.

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to excuse Council Member Cliff King. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes and Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes.

STAFF

Staff - Dave Willey, Logan Worley, Brandon Hoover, LeAnne Sanders, Shailynn Elvin and Raena Hallam.

Guests - Jody Emra, Nick Gourlie, James and Markey Sandhop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

LETTERS RECEIVED - WATER RATES - FIRE DANGER

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated two emails were distributed to City Council from Mr. Garman:

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Stevens County Washington Board of Commissioners
230 E. Birch St
Colville, WA 99114

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you as I hope many of my Facebook group members (NE Washington Fire Page, Local News, Information Without The Gestapo), Facebook members, and members of Stevens County, Washington, are as well. I am addressing you all weather in my area or not as a whole due to this extreme fire emergency! We are in extraordinary times concerning the recent explosion of fire activity in NE Washington. As a person who owns property in Kettle Falls, I have had the displeasure of being cancelled for homeowner's insurance twice in one year. This was due to being in a high-fire area. Currently, I am sure there are several people in this area concerned as to whether their homeowners insurance will continue. Especially after the recent

fires of 2025. I am therefore asking that you please convene an emergency meeting and declare Stevens County to be in a state of emergency due to fire activity. As well, to use any and all powers at your disposal to authorize law enforcement to pursue suspect fires, starters, arrests, prosecutions, convictions, jailing, and payments for restitution up to and including bankruptcy. We can no longer look the other way concerning these extreme fires in our area. Homeowner insurance companies aren't, I can assure you from experience! It would do incalculable harm to the area and economy to have a major homeowners insurance company start issuing thousands of cancellations in NE Washington. This has previously been done in California. Do not think it cannot happen here. Please bring this to a meeting at your earliest possible time.

Sincerely,

Charles Ivan Garman

Kettle Falls Town Council
580 Meyers Street
PO BOX 457
Kettle Falls, WA 99141

To Whom It May Concern,

In reading the June edition of the Town Council of Kettle Falls newsletter, I took note of the "tiered" water rate scheduled proposal. I would propose that this action is based on consultation with legal counsel as the town's attorney. However, I am deeply concerned by the town's proposal to plan and create a tiered water rate system! Any action of this nature opens up a "Pandora's box" of rate increases to the community. May I be the first to warn you that any further creative ideas on rate increases in the people of Kettle Falls are unsustainable? We have seen a recent and increased schedule of water and sewer rates with little to show for the results other than a higher fee. Yes, we are a small town; however, the option of passing it along to the taxpayer cannot be sustained. Your doing so would be both detrimental to your position as a Council member and to the town of Kettle Falls. As a society, we are at our maximum increase. Yes, other utilities are using the tier rate system, and those are also, in my opinion, unsustainable. There is a mix of both young and old "retired" people in Kettle Falls, any rate increase on fixed-income individuals will be highly opposed. I am therefore recommending that you, as you continue your membership in your role as a town council member, remember who placed you in this position, the citizens of Kettle Falls. All one has to do is look at the demographics of Kettle Falls. Yes, there are a lot of younger people here. However, there are a lot of seniors. As a member of the senior community, remember, we simply cannot sustain increases in rates!

Respectfully,

Charles Ivan Garman

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there was no Public Comment, City Council moved on to the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 1, 2025 AND JUNE VOUCHERS AND PAYROL

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

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the fire camp moved to Northport to be closer to the fire. They will still be getting fresh water and dumping gray water.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey reported the City has purchased a used McDonalds playground from a private party. It is in good shape with no cracks and cost \$2,500.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated Mr. Brian Jennen would like to sell the property where the KF is located on the hill. Mr. Jennen is asking \$5,000 per acre.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Brandon Hoover briefly reviewed the call out report. (copy on file).

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated the department never received any fireworks complaints. The department also assisted with evacuations for the Hope Fire.

PLANNING

Planning Commission Chair Jody Emra stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing and approved a short plat on Josephine.

Planning Commission Chair Jody Emra stated they also discussed proposed changes to conditional use permits, the climate grant and GMA Periodic Update Grant.

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated he had a copy of the award letter if anyone would like to read it.

CITY HALL

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated a second round of interviews was held July 14th. Raena stated Emily Lyons has been selected and will start tomorrow. Raena also introduced Mrs. Shailynn Elvin as the new Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Raena stated she is looking forward to moving forward with a new team.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Council Member John Ridlington reported the chamber will be hosting music at Happy Dell Park on Saturday evenings in the month of August.

KETTLE FALLS SWIMMING POOL

Council Member John Ridlington stated the pool is now offering evening aerobic classes.

FIRE CAMP

Council Member John Ridlington stated the City fully supports the fire camp and they moved for the ease of fire access.

NEW BUSINESS

KETTLE FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the Planning Commission has adopted new bylaws which include new term limits, 2 meetings per month and members are appointed by the Mayor with confirmation of the City Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 1844 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.12 REGARDING PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Garrett stated Ordinance No. 1844 will update the Kettle Falls Municipal Code Chapter 2.12 to reflect the changes in the planning commission bylaws.

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to introduce ordinance no. 1844 by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes and Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes.

OLD BUSINESS

As there was no Old Business, City Council moved on to Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

GOOD JOB

Mr. James Sandhop stated the City is doing a good job.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Approved:

Jesse Garrett, Mayor

Attest: _____
Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer

