

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jesse Garrett called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Council Member John Ridlington moved to excuse Council Member Cliff King. Council Member Michael Weatherman Seconded the Motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrun - yes, Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes and Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes.

STAFF

Staff - Phil Adams, Shailynn Elvin, Dave Willey, Melinda Keeley, Brandon Hoover and Raena Hallam.

Guests - Larry Kulesza, Jody Emra, Joe and Jody Owens and Shuck Johnson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

AWC RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES AWARD

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC HEARING - 2026 BUDGET AND 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing to discuss the 2026 Budget and 2025 Budget Amendment.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the 2026 budget ordinance is ready to be introduced. The ordinance is written as discussed during the budget workshop. It does not include any utility rate increases.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper, stated he would like to see an accessible pathway to the stage in Happy Dell Park. To obtain

Vincent Funds the board would like to see a pathway to the stage.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated our City Engineer Matt Morkert is looking for grants to build a pathway to the stage.

The Public Hearing was closed for Public Comment at 7:07 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – UTILITY RATES

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing to discuss 2026 Utility Rates.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the garbage rates will increase by inflation according to the contract with Sunshine. The city will receive this amount in February and it will be effective in May, 2026.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the budget is balanced without a water rate increase. The water rate study discusses increasing the rate each year with the rate of inflation which is approximately 3%.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the city has completed the inventory portion of the Sewer Rate Study. If the financial portion is started after the first of the year the earliest it will probably be completed is May 2026.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:13 p.m.

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated the 5-year goal of the water rate study is \$5.2 million. Based on revenues to date and assuming the surplus revenues will continue at the end of 5 years the city should have a surplus of \$832,000 over 5.2 million. He also pointed out the 5-year plan has a built in inflation rate. He further stated that an increase this year is not necessary nor justifiable.

Mr. Larry Kulesza also pointed out the fees for delinquent accounts has increased from \$5,000 to \$16,000.

The Public Hearing was closed for Public Comment at 7:20 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

As there was no Consent Agenda, City Council moved on to Staff Reports.

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey reported the Leaf Drop was very productive. There are things to improve to work better with the public.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated we should hear from TIB next week regarding our grant application.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated there is still no communication at the wells. The department is operating the blue tank manually. He stated it is extremely important we get the new radios installed, the sooner the better.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he is obtaining quotes for HVAC maintenance for all of the City buildings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Phil Adams stated the department responded to four calls including a structure fire and a traffic accident at Old Kettle Rd. and Hwy 25.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Brandon Hoover reviewed the police call log with City Council.

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated Officer McDanel, and friends have completed the repair and cleanup at the gun range. He is extremely thankful.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Chair Jody Emra reported had a kickoff meeting for the Climate Resiliency Plan. The Commission reviewed the proposed changes for conditional use permits.

Planning Chair Jody Emra stated the meeting scheduled for November 24 is cancelled, the next meeting will be December 8, 2025.

KETTLE FALLS LIBRARY

Library Manager Melinda Keeley reviewed her library report with City Council.

Kettle Falls Library
Libraries of Stevens County
615 Meyers St / Box 500
Kettle Falls, WA 99141



KETTLE FALLS LIBRARY

FOR OCTOBER 2025

STATISTIC	MONTHLY TOTAL	NOTES
Volunteer hours	120	Volunteers and community service workers.
Visitor count	3524	Number of visitors to the library / 153 per day
Public computer usage	569	Number of PC sessions for a total of 394 hours
Wi-Fi usage	403	Average number of unique users accessing our Wi-Fi service
Tech & printing help	209	207 drop-ins and 2 appointments for tech support
Notary Public	4	Number of notary transactions
New library cards issued	24	Number of new KF library users
Afterschool snacks served	438	Funded by the FOL to provide snacks for afterschool kids

SUMMARY AND UPDATES

The Kettle Falls Branch will launch **Baby Storytime** starting November 13. Each session is designed to support babies' physical and cognitive development through early bonding, language, and sensory experiences. Meghan leads our storytime sessions which requires specialized training for youth librarians.

Come explore our **Library of Things!** Borrow everything from board games to InstaPots to home radon detectors. Most items in the collection were purchased with funding from a Providence Health & Wellness grant, while musical instruments were made possible by a Vinson Fund grant.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

November programs:

It's DiNovember! This month's STEM kit lets participants excavate their own dinosaur skeletons and explore the world of paleontology. Designed for middle-schoolers, over 300 STEM kits are created by KF staff and distributed bi-monthly across LOSC branches. Kits are available for pick-up in November while supplies last.

Take-N-Try: This month's Take-n-Try is an informational pamphlet about preparing the home for Winter power outages, with safety tips and checklists for the house and car. For adults of all ages.

Dinosaur Movie (Nov 17, 3:30PM) Drop by the library after school for dinosaur crafts and a movie. We will start crafts at 3:30 and start the movie at 4:00. Popcorn provided!

Brewing Coffee at Home (Nov 18, 12:30 PM): Learn the secrets of making great coffee at home. Designed for people with little to no experience with specialty coffee, but anyone is welcome.

Fossil Finders (Nov 24, 4:00 PM): Take a journey to the Mesozoic Era, when dinosaurs walked the Earth! Join us for a special program featuring the "Age of Dinosaurs" Burke Box on loan from the Seattle Burke Museum. Explore fossils and casts to learn about dinosaurs and their ecosystems.

Regular programs:

- **Storytime** (Pre-K) Tuesdays 10:30am
- **Baby Storytime** (0-2) Thursdays 10:30am
- **Afterschool Art** (ages 5-12) Tuesdays 3pm
- **Music Program** (all ages) Wednesdays 3pm
- **Take-Home Kits** Age-tailored projects to enjoy at home for Pre-K to adults.
- **Writing Group** (adults) Second Thursdays 6pm
- **Grief Support Group** (all ages) Second Fridays 1pm
- **Tech Help** (all ages) Thursdays 11am-12pm Bring your phones, tablets, and devices for basic support
- **Online Author Talks** Live and recorded talks with bestselling and award-winning authors. thelosc.org

October highlights:

At our **Geckos!** program, 58 attendees interacted with live geckos and learned about their behaviors, habitats, and care. We had 20 join us for Monster Movie Night: we ate popcorn, watched **Monsters, Inc.**, and made monster-themed crafts. The last week of October was a busy one: 74 people attended **Afterschool Art** to carve pumpkins to take home (see photo). Thanks to the FOL and our program volunteers, we were able to grow more than 75 pumpkins for the program. Later that week, I handed out goodie-bags and glow bracelets to over 225 visitors during **Trunk-or-Treat**.

FRIENDS OF THE KETTLE FALLS LIBRARY

The Friends obtained a \$1500 grant from STCU to continue providing nutritious **snacks** for our after-school visitors for another year.

Apple Month: T.J.'s Restaurant partnered with the Friends for a Fall-themed drinks and desserts fundraiser. The Friends' raffle basket raised \$175, and special menu items brought in \$825. Angie and the T.J.'s team made a very generous end-of-month donation, and Angie is already excited to do it again next year!

MANAGEMENT

LOSC's semi-annual All Staff Training Day will be held in Loon Lake on Friday, November 14. We will learn about our new payroll and timekeeping system, plan for a Winter Reading program, and discuss upcoming projects. The KF library's carpets are scheduled to be professionally cleaned the same day.

LIBRARY MATERIALS CHECKED OUT

MATERIAL TYPE	MONTHLY TOTAL	NOTES
Physical items checked out at KF Library	1554	1620 items were checked in
Downloadable eBooks and audio books	5,958	Digital items checked out district-wide

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Mayor Jesse Garrett announced a Christmas Movie will be presented at the Kettle Falls Library on December 13, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1847 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF KETTLE FALLS FISCAL YEAR 2026.

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1847 by title only. Council Member Michael Weatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes and Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 1833b - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 1833

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1833B by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes and Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes.

OLD BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

UTILITY RATES

Council Member John Ridlington stated the city needs plenty of funds in the water fund, but when is enough enough?

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated it is difficult to predict. When do we say we have enough.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Approved:

Jesse Garrett, Mayor

Attest: _____
Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer