

**KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**STAFF**

Staff - Larry Kulesza, Brandon Hoover, Dave Willey, Logan Worley, Raena Hallam and Mary Schultz.

Guests - Shellee Haynes, Chris Haynes and Matt DeRyan.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED**

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated there will be an Executive Session - RCW 42.30.110(h) To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. However, any interview of such a candidate and final action appointing a candidate to elective office shall be in a meeting open to the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARING - SET AD VALOREM AND PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing to discuss and set Ad Valorem and property tax levies for fiscal year 2024.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the ordinance is further on the agenda and ready to be adopted or denied for the 1% increase before November 30, 2023.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:05 p.m. No Public Comment was presented. The Public Hearing was closed for Public Comment at 7:06 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING - 2024 BUDGET AND 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing to discuss the 2024 budget and the 2023 budget amendment.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there have been no changes to the draft budget. One budget amendment has been identified

for the 106 fund in the amount of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) for the evidence room upgrade.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:08 p.m. No Public Comment was presented. The Public Hearing was closed for Public Comment at 7:09 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 stated the crew has been putting up Christmas decorations. He explained they are also getting ready to start plowing the roads.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated calls have been quieting down. He explained he met with a couple of the Council Members to review the ORV Ordinance and were able to draft a proposal. Furthermore, the Police Department has been getting the vehicles ready for the winter.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if Officer Brandon Hoover could explain why there was a traffic stop on Peachcrest Road and Highway 395 North.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated the officers are allowed to make a stop anywhere in the state of Washington. Council Member Dale Drake stated he is aware of that but why was the officer so far out of town.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if Council Member Dale Drake is questioning why the officer was down in that area. Council Member Dale Drake stated, yes.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated the stop was made only two miles out of town. Council Member Dale Drake stated the officers patrol area is within the city limits of Kettle Falls. He asked if he was down in that area who was patrolling Main Street.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated the officer could have been going to the store or something and would have to get back to

him on the answer to that. Council Member Dale Drake stated that is all he was looking for.

### **CLERK**

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the office right now is extremely short handed.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated for those that don't know LeAnne has spent some time in the hospital these last couple of days. He explained Mary and Kathi have been carrying the load of the work and doing a good job at it.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated they are doing an excellent job.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Member Larry Kulesza gave an update on the Planning Commission Meetings.

Planning Commission news:

- Commissioners Emra and Gourlie were unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- The Planning Commission voted to approve the Rod and Marnie Sly Lot Line Adjustment on the condition that all applicable fees be submitted to the city. Finding of Fact 23-02 is attached by reference.
- The Title 17 ordinance patch process is continuing.
- The Planning Commission was disappointed with the formatting/revision of the update to the Parks Plan submitted back to the commission from SCJ. Besides taking longer than expected, a lot of material was added to the plan that might more appropriately be in an appendix. The commission decided to send the plan back to the park plan's lead, Commissioner Gourlie, for an update.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE**

Council Member Michael Weatherman stated the Police Committee is working on re-drafting the ORV Ordinance. He explained there are some recommendations, but they are still reviewing some other possible changes, so it is not ready for presentation.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated everyone should have a copy of the possible changes to take home to review.

**UTILITY COMMITTEE**

Council Member Dale Drake stated the utility committee has been working hard on the sewer increase rate and he would like Mr. Larry Kulesza to give a report.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza reported:

- The UC had a discussion on the proposed sewer rate increase. Based on the currently available information, the Utilities Committee is tentatively recommending a 5.1% inflation adjustment to the sewer rate.
- The scheduled Planning Commission meeting with the EPA regarding the proposed lead cleanup along the Columbia River from Northport to Marcus has been postponed. No new date has been scheduled.

Council Member John Ridlington asked when the last sewer rate increase was. Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated last year.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated Fire Chief Phil Adams couldn't make it this evening but reported there were two fires, both at Boise.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Jesse Garrett announced the City Council would now enter into Executive Session under the guidelines RCW 42.30.110 (h) To Evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. However, any interview of such a candidate and final action appointing a candidate to elective office shall be in a meeting open to the public.

The Executive Session will be approximately 10 minutes.

City Council entered into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

Executive Session needed one more minute.

City Council returned to the regular session at 7:31 p.m.

**POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL POSITION NO. 1**

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to nominate Ms. Shellee Haynes for City Council Position No. 1. Council Member Chris Shurrum seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

City Attorney Logan Worley administrated the Oath of Office for City Council Position No. 1 to Ms. Shellee Haynes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1821 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF KETTLE FALLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.**

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1821 - An ordinance adopting by reference the budget for the City of Kettle Falls for fiscal year 2024 by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1815B - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BUDGET ORDINANCE NO 1815**

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1815B - An ordinance amending budget Ordinance No. 1815 by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT FITNESS BENEFIT**

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated there has been a discussion about providing the Police Department with a Fitness Center Membership as part of their benefits. He asked if there needs to be a motion made for this or is there more to discuss. He explained this benefit would be for the union members and must be part of union negotiations contract. Furthermore, would the City Council also like to offer this benefit to the city crew. He stated at this time the city crew is offered a gym membership in exchange for sick leave.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the Police Department also has that same opportunity as the crew. Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the discussion has been the Police Department would get an automatic membership as a benefit.

Council Member Dale Drake made a motion to authorize the introduction into the union negotiations of the additional benefit providing an automatic membership to the fitness center. Council Member Michael Weatherman second the motion.

Discussion:

Council Member John Ridlington stated he is confused. He explained the employees already have this option. He asked if the city was offering it again through the union contract.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated how it works at this time is the city will pay for the membership in exchange for three hours of sick leave depending on the membership fee amount. She explained if this benefit is going to be offered to all employees, then it will take an ordinance.

Council Member John Ridlington stated it should be changed for all employees. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated that would be up to the City Council.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the City Council should discuss that during the budget process.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the City Crew gets a lot of exercises during their shift; however, the Police Officers are stuck in their vehicles.

Motion carried by all. Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1819 - AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2024

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1819 - An ordinance fixing the amount to be raised by Ad Valorem Taxes for the year 2024 by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council

Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1820 - AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES TO RAISE REVENUE NECESSARY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF KETTLE FALLS, WASHINGTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1820 - An ordinance levying taxes to raise revenue necessary to defray expenses and expenditures of the City of Kettle Falls, Washington for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, by title only. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Dale Drake - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**WATER RATE STUDY UPDATE**

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza gave a report on the water rate study.

- The Water Rate Study is ongoing. The Utilities Committee has requested clarification from the city on the proposed tier structures as well as some other matters. This information should be provided after the Thanksgiving break in time for the next UC meeting scheduled on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the UC has been able to review the information, a request will be made for RCAC to construct a rate model using the new parameters.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he understands the 5.1% but asked if the model is the tier structure. Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated no not the tier structure just the total numbers.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey asked how much longer the city will need RCAC working on this project because it has been almost a year.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated probably until the end of February 2024.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated RCAC was given a grant to work on this project and is wondering what is left of the grant at this time.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated there has not been any discussion on the grant funds, but he can talk with Rita's supervisor to see where the fund is at.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Matt DeRyan, Kettle Falls, WA, stated he preps for the worst but hopes for the best and is in support of budgeting for maintenance supplies to have in stock. Secondly, he explained he heard on the radio that the Federal Government is declaring this whole area as a cleanup site. He asked if this would hurt the local businesses like Covid-19 did. He feels it is important to support the local businesses as much as possible.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated the EPA was scheduled to attend last month's Planning Commission Meeting, however the attendees got sick and had to cancel. He explained they are to reschedule but do not have a date yet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Garrett, Mayor

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