

**KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 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, Cliff King and Michael Weatherman.

**STAFF**

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

Guests - Josh Judd, Larry Kulesza, Jody Emra, Shana and Josh Jensen, Nick Gourlie, Laurie Stoddard and Joe and Jody Owens.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARING - KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6.08 - THE KEEPING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS**

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the purpose of the public hearing is for information gathering purposes only.

There was no Council Committee member or staff report presented.

City Attorney Logan Worley opened the Public Hearing to Public Comment at 7:03 p.m.

Planning Commissioner Nick Gourlie (625 Larch) presented his comments to City Council:

*"During our last planning commission meeting, we discussed the topic of the keeping of goats or other livestock animals within the city limits and came across quite a few issues that led the planning commission to unanimously vote to recommend to council to not allow the keeping of goats within city limits and I'd like to touch on some of these issues here since only one council member was present at our meeting.*

*I'd first just like to start by addressing a lot of the talk and rhetoric I've heard on this subject as it relates to an individual property. There is a property currently in town which*

has goats and seems to be the genesis of this discussion. While allegedly some neighbors have said they've had no issues with the goats on that property, this discussion isn't about a variance for a single property but rather an ordinance which impacts all properties in the city.

One of the core issues this city faces is we don't have a reasonable method to enforce the codes of this city. This has led to numerous complaints of various properties creating nuisances which ultimately don't get resolved.

We have ordinances for junk cars which incur penalties of \$250/day, ordinances with rules about raising a maximum of 5 chickens and keeping them enclosed with penalties incurring \$100/day. Ordinances for pet licensing and keeping dogs from running astray but the same dogs are constantly seen running around town. I have a whole posse of over a dozen cats that hangout in my back yard and I don't own or feed cats.

None of this is to say that we should start slapping fines on all of these properties and rounding up animals, though the city should have some level of code enforcement. It's more to say that when you give people an inch, they take a mile and we shouldn't open up another can of worms by allowing large animals to be kept in the city. Even with limits and rules that go along with these ordinances, we know they will be stretched beyond their limits or totally ignored.

One of the unique elements that comes with the keeping of animals which is what causes the most alarm for me is that with mismanagement to the care and cleanliness of these animals, it can create a massive noise and odor disturbance for neighbors and even potential for the animal to suffer if it's overcrowded.

I understand the libertarian argument on the subject that it's your property, you should be able to do what you want. However if the decisions of what you do on your property are negatively affecting your neighbors, then there needs to be some form of intervention regarding said activity. It's the reason we have noise ordinances and zoning laws.

Anecdotaly, a few years ago there was a property on Juniper that had small goats and a few times when walking by, the whole block had a goaty smell. How is it fair to the neighbors of that property if they can't open their windows in warm weather or if

the wind is blowing a certain direction because their neighbors have stinky farm animals?

It's worth noting that we have side yard setbacks of 5 feet and we have a lot of houses which have sideyards butting up to the backyards of other homes. If a house is 5 feet from a property line which on the other side of that line has a small farm of animals which are not picked up after or cleaned regularly, they are creating a massive nuisance for their neighbor and you can guarantee these people will come to the city to look for resolution.

With a lack of current animal enforcement the city has already had to deal with, the neighbor being impeded on really doesn't have a way to resolve these types of issues. If someone doesn't want to go outside in their own yard because it smells like dung or farm animals, that's a rather large intrusion on that person's liberties.

The issue would also just be further compounded by the precedence set of allowing goats. If Bob wants goats, who's to say that Susan can't have pigs. If Susan can have pigs, who's to say that Johnny can't have a horse. If Johnny can have a horse who's to say that Mary can't have a cow.

It opens up a can of worms that we won't reasonably be able to put back in the can for a while because these animals live for a long time.

Personally I like goats, they're one of the most utilitarian animals. And there are examples of large cities which do allow the keeping of larger animals in city limits. However these cities have strong code enforcement and they stick to their guns on enforcing the rules set forth by the keeping of animals to reduce nuisance properties. This is a luxury not currently afforded to our city.

Until the city has a way to enforce the rules already on the books, I'd strongly recommend that the city put a pause on considering this type of ordinance to keep down one of the major complaints we get in the city which is nuisance properties.

Mr. Larry Kulesza (530 Juniper) stated he was doing this as a finding of fact. He contacted the City of Chewelah, Colville and Republic. The City of Chewelah municipal code states any lot of a ½ acre or less may not keep an animal unit or fraction thereof. Three goats are considered one animal unit.

Mr. Larry Kulesza further stated the City of Colville only allows livestock in a R1S zone with a minimum of 5,000 square feet of fenced area per sheep or goat. The City of Republic states no animals allowed on a tract within the town limits which contain less than one acre in area.

Mr. Larry Kulesza explained, knowing these cities in 1997 were part of the small city consortium and looked at all of this as part of the comprehensive plan update. He believes all the zones are similar in nature, but he believes Kettle Falls banned large animals because there are no city lots that are a ½ acre or larger.

Mr. Larry Kulesza presented a petition to the City Council of signatures opposing the keeping of goats within the city limits of Kettle Falls. (copy on file) He explained there are 33 signatures from a mixture of all areas of town.

City Attorney Logan Worley closed the public hearing for public comment at 7:12 p.m.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2025, AND JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH EFT PAYMENTS**

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam explained the State Auditors suggested all EFT payments should be reviewed and approved. She stated to comply, she will provide a list of EFT payments each month to city council for approval.

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

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Brandon Hoover reviewed the department call log with city council. Calls included felony arrests and luring of children. He stated it has been a very busy week.

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated the department is participating in body camera training this coming Monday.

Council Member Chris Shurrum stated they are downsizing the homeless camp in Colville, will that be a concern for Kettle Falls? Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated they are building several apartments on the north end of Colville which will help. So far there has not been a recent influx in transient activity in Kettle Falls.

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated he intends to have two police officers on day shift and two on night shift during Town & Country Days.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey reported the crack sealing on Meyers Street has been completed. He is pursuing a grant to chip seal Meyers Street in the next year or two.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the bathrooms have been turned on at the parks for the summer.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the High School Sidewalk Connector project turned out awesome.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he met with Stevens County Public Works about the possibility of opening up a rock pit on City property on the north side of the City.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated he has received a lot of nice comments about the High School Sidewalk Project.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commissioner Nick Gurlie stated the Planning Commission meeting has been moved to April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Cliff King stated there have been about a dozen calls, mostly false alarms or burn piles. Doing a lot of training for wildland fires.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

As there were no Committee Reports, City Council moved on to New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1841 - AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 15 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND ADOPTING EXCAVATION REGULATIONS**

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked City Council to consider adopting Ordinance No. 1841 without introduction. (City Council Members picked up a draft copy of Ordinance No. 1841 prior to the meeting)

Council Member John Ridlington clarified if the ordinance would apply to everyone. He expressed concern about citizens who had water or sewer issues but could not afford to repair the street.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he understood his concern, but it is a taxpayer street. The city has a responsibility to make sure the streets are kept in good shape. Without this ordinance the city has no recourse for street repair.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the ordinance also lets the city know when and where excavation would be taking place in the city.

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1841. Council Member Cliff King seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1841. Council Member Michael Weatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**REVIEW OF KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.24 - FIREWORKS**

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated a letter was received regarding fireworks:

Saturday, April 5, 2025

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

RE: Consideration of fireworks ban in severe dry weather.

To the Town Council of Kettle Falls,

I appreciate the invitation you extended to me to speak at this council meeting. Regretfully, I will not be able to attend due to scheduling. Again, I thank you for your invitation.

I do, however, hope you will consider a fireworks ban. With government and state funding in doubt or significantly slowed, we must do everything possible to mitigate a fire risk to the area. Also, insurance companies look at all the causes of fires. We are already in a high-risk fire area. I am now dealing with my third insurance company due to cancellation. I have taken extensive measures to our home to try and satisfy the requirements of these companies. If we had a large fire in Kettle Falls, our homeowner's insurance might be canceled yet again. What the Council determines would play a large part on decisions insurance companies make, both in insurance premium increases and cancellations and in future coverage. Also, protecting the citizens from a high-risk event should be one of the core values of the Council.

Respectfully,

Ivan Garman

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated he has received numerous complaints regarding after-hour fireworks and illegal fireworks during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.

Council Member John Ridlington stated the problem is the illegal fireworks purchased from the Colville Reservation and are set off in town. They are extremely loud and fly high in the air.

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated he understands people's concerns, but last year no complaints were made to the police department. Fireworks are not the priority and calls such as domestic violence will have a higher priority. That doesn't mean the police department won't respond to a fireworks complaint, but it will not be a high priority.

Mayor Jesse Garrett read to KFMC 8.24.030 *"The mayor, after consulting with the fire chief or his designee as may be deemed appropriate, may prohibit the sale and discharge of all fireworks during periods of extreme fire danger. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "extreme fire danger" shall*

*mean a period of hot, dry weather, accompanied by low fuel moistures. It is during this period that wildland fires can be expected, and fire growth will be accelerated."*

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked the City Council to review and consider if KFMC 8.24.030 is utilized what would be considered a timely notification to the public.

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated he didn't call the 911 emergency for a fireworks complaint. He stated none of the fireworks he would complain about would be considered a "safe and sane" firework. Not only is it an issue during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but also during New Years. Mr. Kulesza explained he must tranquilize his dog during this period and even take him out of town. He stated there has been a steady movement of the public to not follow the fireworks guidelines and set them off well outside of the hours and days allowed. He suggested limiting the ability to set off fireworks to one specific day, which would probably result in fewer complaints.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked the City Council to review the KFMC and there would be further discussion at the next City Council meeting.

#### **HOUSEHOLD WASTE DAY**

Mayor Jesse Garrett reminded City Council of the Household Waste Day coming up on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member John Ridlington suggested also doing something for old car bodies. He inquired how difficult it is to declare an old car junk. Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated it is not difficult.

Mayor Jesse Garrett reviewed the Household Waste Day flyer with City Council.





# Household Waste Day

Kettle Falls Middle School

Saturday, May 10, 2025

7:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Household Waste Day is for **residents** within Kettle Falls City Limits.

It is **mandatory** to bring Driver's License or State Issued ID with coordinating City of Kettle Falls Utility Bill

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## Acceptable Items:

- Appliances (doors removed)
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Scrap Metal
- Lawn Equipment (fluid-free)
- Miscellaneous Items (junk)
- Tires (no more than 2)



## Prohibited Items:

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • Antifreeze       | • Hazardous wastes        |
| • Commercial Waste | • Paint                   |
| • Electronics      | • Solvents                |
| • Oils             | • Car Bodies              |
| • Propane Tanks    | • Construction Debris     |
| • Batteries        | • Items Exceeding 6' Long |
| • Concrete         | • Piles of Dirt/Rocks     |
| • Yard Waste       |                           |

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Residents are limited to 1 fully loaded (approximately 2 cubic yard), properly secured, pick-up truck per residence.

Please note, all loads are subject to inspection with City of Kettle Falls and Sunshine Disposal approval prior to unloading.

Please call City of Kettle Falls Public Works at 509-738-6821 if you have any questions or concerns. Senior & disabled residents may call to schedule a pick-up.

Coordinated effort between Boise Cascade, Kettle Falls School District, Sunshine Disposal and the City of Kettle Falls

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1840 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MATRIX IN  
KFMC 17.02.020 AND ADDING A DEFINITION IF KFMC 17.01.042**

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1840 by title only. Council Member Shellee Haynes seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

**PLANNING PROCESS**

Council Member Chris Shurrum asked if there was any way to speed up the process for planning applications.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated part of the issue is having to advertise required public hearings using a once per week newspaper. There are also required comment periods.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CROSSROADS STAGE**

Mr. Larry Kulesza commended the Public Works Department for fixing the hand railing on the handicap ramp at the Crossroads Stage.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Approved:

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

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