

KETTLE FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION

MAY 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Planning Commission Chairperson Valerie Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance included Louanne Atherley, Larmie Edwards, Valerie Hall, Doll Linton, Candy Slagle, and Jeff Slagle. Nathan Durbin and Laura Wilson were absent.

Staff in attendance included David Keeley, Sherry Chambers, and Council Member Ray Smith.

Guests - Jessie Christopher, Bev Edwards, John Anderson, Jennifer Thompson, Matthew Thompson, Robyn Westergard and Sara Brown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

City Planner David Keeley stated two letters were received requesting a change to the animal keeping ordinance. Both letters will be addressed later in the agenda.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 regular Planning Commission Meeting. Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Planning Commission Member Louanne Atherley - yes, Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards - yes, Planning Commission Member Doll Linton -yes, Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle - yes and Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle - yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT

City Planner David Keeley read his staff report into the record:

Staff Report: City Planner, David Keeley
Description: Amendment of the Comprehensive Plan

May 9, 2011

Description: This is an amendment of the 1997 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This amendment entails an update of population figures, projected growth and the vision of Kettle Falls for the next 20 years. The goals and policies are still consistent with the 1997 vision. However, the plan includes several updates that are required by the Growth Management Act. The individual elements of the plan include:
Land Use Element
Capital Facilities Element
Housing Element
Transportation Element
Annexation and Incorporation Element
Economic Development
Parks & Recreation Element

The State requires us to have a Storm Water Management Plan. I was unable to find an example from any small town under 2000 people. In fact, I found the small towns submitted the Comprehensive Plans without addressing storm water, and I recommend we do the same for now.

I would also like to copy of the "Best Available Science" language from the Critical Areas Ordinance into the Land Use Element.

After the Planning Commission review, I would like to start the 60 day public review process with the State.

There were no questions or comments from the Planning Commission Members.

Chairperson Valerie Hall opened the Public Comment Portion of the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

No letters were received. There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson Valerie Hall closed the Public Comment Portion of the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESIDENTIAL URBAN CHICKEN KEEPING

Per City Planner David Keeley, a letter was received on April 12, 2011 from Jennifer Thompson requesting a change to the ordinance allowing them to keep chickens in town.

Jennifer Thompson
935 S Josephine Rd
Kettle Falls, WA

Kettle Falls Planning Board
City of Kettle Falls

Kettle Falls Planning Board Members,

I would like to request a change to Kettle Falls Municipal Code Chapter 6.08, Keeping of Animals, which prohibits keeping chickens within City Limits.

It is a growing trend within many municipalities throughout Washington and the United States to allow families to raise a limited number of hens within city limits. Chickens are a manageable animal that provide local, healthy food for families.

I would like to be able to raise chickens on my property within the city limits of Kettle Falls, so please consider a change to this code.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Thompson

Resident of Kettle Falls, WA

935 S Josephine

A letter was also received on May 6, 2011, from Jessie Christopher, requesting the ordinance be changed allowing them to keep rabbits in town.

I would like to request that the City of Kettle Falls change the law so that people can keep rabbits.

- They are quiet, clean pets when kept in the appropriate cages.
- They don't roam, (like cats) and make no noise, (like dogs).
- Many kids keep them for 4-H.
- Rabbit droppings make an excellent garden fertilizer.

Jessie Christopher

210 W Evergreen Dr

Kettle Falls, WA 99141

City Planner David Keeley read the current Municipal Code 6.08

Chapter 6.08

KEEPING OF ANIMALS

6.08.010 Keeping of certain animals.

6.08.20 Penalty.

6.08.010 Keeping of certain animals. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, stable, feed, pasture, suffer, permit or run at large, or otherwise maintain any cow, horse, burro, mule, jackass, goat, sheep, swine, rabbit, chicken, duck, goose, fowl, or any and all other animals under any conditions within the City of Kettle Falls with the following exceptions:

A. Any of said animals or fowl may be transported through the said City in one continuous trip.

B. Any horse, mule, burro, or jackass may be worked or used temporarily in said city.

C. Said animals and fowl shall not include animals and fowl killed, processed and prepared for consumption and not constituting a nuisance under provisions of Ordinance 1163.

D. Domesticated dogs, cats and pot bellied pigs, which are not of the general classification of Ferae Naturae, which shall be subject to other applicable ordinances. (Ord. 1432, 1986: Ord. 1502, 1993)

6.08.020 Penalty. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall upon conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day's continued violation of this Ordinance shall be considered a separate offense. (Ord. 1162, 1969: Ord. 1432, 1986).

Jennifer Thompson stated several Washington State cities currently allow citizens to have 3 or 4 chickens for laying eggs.

Jessie Christopher stated she would like to get rabbits for her children to have as pets.

Bev Edwards stated in theory amending the ordinance sounds like a good idea, but the current Dog and Cat ordinances are not being enforced. She feels that it will generate multiple complaints for the police department.

Planning Commission Chairperson Valerie Hall stated the Planning Commission has the option to research the issue further or turn it over to City Council.

Planning Commission Member Laramie Edwards stated the Planning Commission should at least make a recommendation to the City Council.

Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle stated, at first, he was in favor of keeping chickens in town, but after giving it some thought, realized there were many concerns that would need to be addressed. He was concerned with the proximity of chickens to the neighbors, the types of pens used, the number of chickens allowed, and whether roosters should be allowed.

Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle stated there might be a problem containing the chickens.

Bev Edwards stated that we do not have animal control and there are dogs running loose all over town.

Jennifer Thompson stated that would be a dog issue and not a chicken issue.

Bev Edwards asked where the money goes for animal licenses.

City Planner Dave Keeley stated he believes it goes to the General Fund.

Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards asked if chickens would require a license.

Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle recommended there be no fees.

Planning Commission Member Valerie Hall stated there are probably only a handful of people that want chickens.

Sara Brown asked if other small towns were contacted.

City Planner David Keeley stated other cities have not been contacted yet. Planning Commission has to first decide if they wish to take the issue into consideration.

Planning Commission Member Louanne Atherley stated the Planning Commission owes it to the community to consider the issue.

Planning Commission Member Louanne Atherley made a motion for the Planning Commission to research chicken and rabbit keeping within the City limits and make a recommendation to Council on whether or not the animal code should be amended. Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards seconded the motion. Planning Commission Member Louanne Atherley - yes, Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards - yes, Planning Commission Member Doll Linton - Abstain, Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle - yes, Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle - yes.

Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle stated he will contact other Cities to see what they are doing.

Planning Commission Chairperson Valerie Hall stated the Planning Commission members will research chicken and rabbit keeping and present their information at the June meeting.

Sara Brown and Jessie Christopher also volunteered to contact other cities.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

As there was no Historic Preservation Business, Planning Commission moved on to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

As there was no Old Business, Planning Commission moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there was no Public Comment, Planning Commission moved on to Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Planning Commission Member Louanne Atherley - yes, Planning Commission Member Larmie Edwards - yes, Planning Commission Member Doll Linton - yes, Planning Commission Member Candy Slagle - yes, Planning Commission Member Jeff Slagle - yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Next meeting to be held on June 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved:

Valerie Hall, Chairperson

Attest:

Sherry Chambers, Secretary/Clerk