

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 19, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dorothy Slagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ray Smith, Dorothy Slagle, Jesse Garrett, Krist Matthews and Debbie Gaskin.

Council Member Debbie Gaskin moved to excuse Council Member Les Callas from the meeting. Council Member Jesse Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Ray Smith - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes, Council Member Krist Matthews - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

STAFF/GUESTS

Staff - Raena Hallam, Dave Keeley, Scott Sterland and Joel Gassaway.

Guests - Laurie Stoddard, Lisa Rosen, Larry Kulesza, Marc Setterholm, Loren Guenther, Jennifer Thompson, Matthew Thompson, Travis Thompson, Ashleigh Anderson, Jesse Christopher and John Anderson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

NUISANCE YARDS AND JUNK VEHICLES

Larry Guenther referred to a letter to the editor published in the Statesman Examiner last week reference nuisance properties and/or junk vehicles. Mr. Guenther asked what is happening with these nuisance properties, is there anything the City can do?

Mayor Dorothy Slagle stated she has started the process to address these nuisance properties, but it is a long process. Mayor Slagle stated letters will be mailed with the utility bills this month giving property owners 30 days to clean up.

Mr. Guenther stated the Horizons Group started cleaning up the City about 5 or 6 years ago. However, former Police Chief Kendle Allen contacted property owners to move their junk

vehicles. Mr. Guenther stated that Mr. Allen stated there is a loop hole in the City Ordinance and it is not enforceable. Mr. Guenther stated Kettle Falls is going to be called Junk City USA if it keeps going like it is.

Laurie Stoddard stated she agrees with Mr. Guenther.

Lisa Rosen stated she would like to see the property on 10th cleaned up, but would like the bill sent to someone other than the property owner. (Francis Swan)

Police Chief Scott Sterland stated the property is currently in static mode and the individual responsible for the mess is not allowed back on the property at this time. The property will be cleaned when it is finished going through the court process.

After discussion, Mayor Slagle stated the letters of notification are just about ready to be mailed. Police Chief Scott Sterland stated he needed to do a little more research regarding a new RCW regarding abandoned vehicles.

FERAL CATS

Larry Kulesza reported to City Council that his friend was bitten three times by a feral cat on July 6, 2011. Mr. Kulesza stated she was treated at the medical clinic and then later hospitalized for infection. Mr. Kulesza stated the ordinance states *any dog or other animal* that bites shall be quarantined for 10 days. Mr. Kulesza questioned why the City doesn't feel they have some responsibility to quarantine the cat. Mr. Kulesza further stated the City has the authority to pursue an animal according to KFMC 6.08. Why not enforce the ordinance?

City Attorney Pat Monasmith explained the City acknowledges the City has authority but how can the City identify which cat it was that actually bit her.

Mayor Slagle explained it is impossible to quarantine an animal without a physical description or no knowledge of where it lives. The City doesn't know how to find the exact cat to quarantine.

Mr. Kulesza stated the City of Kettle Falls has an at large cat problem. Maybe the City could license or create a data base so at large cats can be identified in the future. Mr. Kulesza stated his issue is a public safety matter.

Mayor Slagle encouraged Mr. Kulesza and/or neighbors to call the Police Department if the offending cat is seen or captured in the neighborhood.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 5, 2011 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Ray Smith moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Debbie Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Ray Smith - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes, Council Member Krist Matthews - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

As there were no Committee Reports, Council moved on to Staff Reports.

STAFF REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Scott Sterland reported he has completed the Equivalency Academy. Chief Sterland also reported his 2011 budget is on track and he is working on his proposed budget for 2012.

HWY 395 NRTH SIDEWALK PROJECT

City Planner Dave Keeley stated the North Sidewalk Project on Hwy 395 from Juniper to Meyers will go out to bid mid August. Dave stated the North side design mirrors the design of the South side but the WSDOT would not approve the North side design. The City challenged that decision stating the City has the authority to approve the design since it is located inside the City limits.

PUBLIC WORKS

City Superintendent Joel Gassaway stated there is money in the 2011 budget to do some repairs to the Falls pump. Items such as stairs, electrical issues etc. The area needs to be maintained to keep our water right and address safety issues.

2012 BUDGET TIMELINE

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam distributed a 2012 budget workshop schedule to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

As there was no New Business, Council moved on to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1705 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6.08 - KEEPING OF ANIMALS

City Attorney Pat Monasmith discussed with City Council concerns he had with Ordinance No. 1705 as it was introduced. He expressed concerns about enforcement of the ordinance including definitions and penalties of violations.

Mayor Slagle stated the City already had animal ordinances and all that is needed is to add or delete chickens or rabbits.

After discussion, Council Member Krist Matthews moved to refer Ordinance No. 1705 back to the Kettle Falls Planning Commission with the assistance of the Kettle Falls Police Chief. Council Member Jesse Garrett seconded the motion.

Council Member Jesse Garrett explained to the audience that most of the City Council is not against having chickens and rabbits in the City limits. However, the ordinance needs to be fine tuned to address sanitation and violation issues.

Motion carried by all. Council Member Ray Smith - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes, Council Member Krist Matthews - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

City Planner Dave Keeley stated the DOE contracts were amended and signed according to the accepted bid and the project is currently \$600,000 under budget. However, there are anticipated change orders and Dave requested City Council to allow the Mayor to approve change orders as needed.

Council Member Jesse Garret moved to authorize the Mayor to authorize change orders up to \$50,000. Any change orders exceeding \$50,000 must be approved by City Council by telephone poll or emergency City Council meeting. Council Member Krist Matthews seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Ray Smith - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes, Council Member Krist Matthews - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

City Superintendent Joel Gassaway reported the contractor has removed some trees and will be tying in the water main on Old Kettle Road. Three customers will be without water as this process is completed.

City Planner Dave Keeley reminded City Council of the weekly construction meeting at 10:00 a.m. and invited anyone to come and walk through the site if they wished.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHICKENS & RABBITS

Jesse Christopher stated she doesn't want to have to join a 4H club or organization to keep chickens or rabbits.


WHISKEY BARRELS

Lisa Rosen thanked the City for maintaining the Whiskey Barrels on Meyers Street this summer.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Dorothy Slagle adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Approved:



Mayor Dorothy Slagle

Attest: 

Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer

