

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 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 City Council for an additional 6 weeks. Council Member Ray Smith 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 and Scott Sterland.

Guests - Larry Kulesza, Dick Leshner, Loren Guenther, Jesse Christopher and Sara Brown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC HEARING - CHICKENS AND RABBITS

City Planner Dave Keeley gave his Staff Report:

Staff Report

August 8, 2011

At the last meeting, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to City Council to amend the Animal Control Ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens and rabbits in the City of Kettle Falls.

On July 5th, the council held a public hearing and the amended ordinance was introduced. In the meantime, the city attorney felt that the proposed ordinance was unenforceable and did not offer any further advice.

At the July 19 city council meeting, two concerned citizens came to complain about a feral cat that had bitten someone and to complain about the city not enforcing their own Animal Control ordinance. In light of that discussion, the City Council requested that the proposed ordinance for the keeping of chickens and rabbits go back to the Planning Commission for additional work.

Since other cities have regulations allowing chickens and rabbits, I knew there had to be a way to draft an ordinance that was enforceable. My research found that the larger city's like Spokane and Seattle handle this matter by amending their Zoning Code which makes it a Land Use issue and not an Animal Control issue.

I have taken an example of a zoning code from another large city and changed it to suit the recommendations made by the Planning Commission, City Council and our City Attorney. Please consider this ordinance to amend the City of Kettle Falls Zoning Code to allow the keeping of chickens and rabbits.

Mayor Slagle opened the Public Hearing for public comment at 7:08 p.m.

Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper, stated the proposed ordinance does not address the issue of an animal biting someone. Police Chief Scott Sterland explained if an animal bites someone the issue becomes a police department matter.

Larry Kulesza stated if a family has 5 doe rabbits and each has a litter, in 90 days they could have up to 35 rabbits. Mr. Kulesza stated this would still be legal but may be beyond City Council's intentions.

Jesse Christopher, 210 W. Evergreen, appreciates Mr. Kulesza's research and would like to have the opportunity to try the ordinance for a year.

Mayor Slagle closed the public hearing to public comment at 7:13 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2011 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AND JULY VOUCHERS & PAYROLL

Council Member Debbie Gaskin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Council Member Jesse Garrett stated the Kettle Falls Fire Department is discussing changing their appointment to the Assistant Fire Chief position.

STAFF REPORTS

HWY 395 NORTH SIDEWALK PROJECT

City Planner Dave Keeley stated the North Sidewalk Project on Hwy 395 from Juniper to Meyers bid opening will be August 31, 2011. The project is a 30 day project and should be done before winter.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

City Planner Dave Keeley stated the wastewater treatment plant project is moving along. IMCO hired seven new employees, 6 from out of town and one local individual was hired.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

City Planner Dave Keeley stated he is currently working on three grants for the following projects:

1. Resurface Meyers Street
2. Remaining portion of North side Hwy 395 sidewalks
3. Resurface 10th Avenue

PUBLIC WORKS

Council Member Jesse Garrett commended the Public Works Department for their supervision of chip sealing 8th Avenue.

Dick Leshner asked how long chip sealing lasts. City Planner Dave Keeley stated probably 15 years or more.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - NUISANCE ISSUE

Police Chief Scott Sterland reported he is currently addressing properties that have vehicles in the City Right of Way. Once that process is completed, he will begin to work on nuisance properties.

Police Chief Scott Sterland stated if the properties are not cleaned up by August 19, 2011 a letter will be mailed giving the property owner 10 days to clear the property.

Mayor Slagle commended the Police Department and stated she is receiving a lot of good comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1706 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BASIC FLAT RATE FOR EQUIVALENT SEWER USERS

Clerk Treasurer Raena Hallam explained Ordinance No. 1706 increases the sewer rate by \$12 and creates a business rate for smaller businesses with one to five employees.

Council Member Jesse Garrett moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1706 by title only. Council Member Ray Smith 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.

Ordinance No. 1706 - An Ordinance Amending the Basic Flat Rate for Equivalent Sewer Users.

ORDINANCE NO 1705 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE KETTLE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE ALLOWING THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS AND RABBITS

Council Member Debbie Gaskin moved to introduce Ordinance No. 1705 by title only. 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.
Council Member

Ordinance No. 1705 - An Ordinance Amending the Kettle Falls Municipal Code Allowing the Keeping of Chickens and Rabbits.

OLD BUSINESS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

City Planner Dave Keeley reminded City Council of the Construction meetings held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kulesza asked if there have been any significant change orders? Mayor Slagle stated no, and the one discussed at a previous City Council meeting was expected.

Dick Leshner asked why there isn't more stipulation that IMCO hire local people. Mayor Slagle stated the City has been very vocal about wanting local people hired, but not many have applied. Mayor Slagle suggested telling anyone looking for work to log onto IMCO's website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHICKENS & RABBITS

Larry Kulesza asked if there was a way that the ladies who really wanted chickens/rabbits could go ahead and get some. Mayor Slagle stated no, not until the Ordinance is officially adopted.

Mr. Kulesza further stated in his research he learned that rabbits and chickens should not be kept in close proximity due to the spreading of disease.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Dorothy Slagle adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Approved:



Mayor Dorothy Slagle

Attest: 

Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer

