

**KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 7, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dorothy Slagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Dorothy Slagle, Jeanie Thompson, Bonnie Bradley(arrived at 7:16 p.m.), Jesse Garrett and Debbie Gaskin. Cris Haynes was absent.

**STAFF/GUESTS**

Staff - Joel Gassaway, Teah Chadderdon, Dave Keeley, John Ridlington, Raena Hallam and Charlie Schuerman.

Guests - Lu Haynes, Ernie Hoch, Carla Hoch, Lorna Mackowich, Steve Parker, Robert ?, Travis Bolt, Isaiah Breck, Bill Reese, Roland Horner, Honor, Scott Simmons and Robert Mackow?. (Some names on the sign in sheet were not legible, sign in sheet is attached to meeting notes on file)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED**

**MR. AND MRS. KELLER - POSSIBLE LITIGATION**

Mayor Slagle invited Mr. Hoch to read his letter into the record.

Ernie Hoch, Chewelah

Mayor and honorable City Council Members:

*"In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. Our Government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. ... Against that pernicious doctrine this Court should resolutely set its face."* quoting Justice Brandeis, Olmstead v. United States 277 U.S. 438, 485. (1928)

One could easily insert "Kettle Falls City Council" in place of "court" in the above United States Supreme Court case and it would just as applicable.

*"If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. ... Against that pernicious doctrine this [Kettle Falls City Council] should resolutely set its face."*

We have before us a case where the Kettle Falls Police Chief has abruptly resigned, possibly in light of being imminently fired by the Mayor. Unfounded charges against the Keller's by Chief Sterland were subsequently dismissed, apparently smacking of retaliatory animous.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court held that *"Disqualification is required if an objective observer would entertain reasonable questions about the judge's impartiality. If a judge's attitude or state of mind leads a detached observer to conclude that a fair and impartial hearing is unlikely, the judge must be disqualified."* Liteky v. U.S., 114 S.Ct. 1147, 1162 (1994).

This Objective Observer has reason to believe that the Keller family still remains today, the victim of abuse of process, abuse of discretion and unfounded criminal accusations and charges. They have been denied full disclosure of the cover-up of criminal activity by Chief Sterland, denied equal protection of the law and due process among other crimes and abuses nearly to numerous to mention.

So much so, the people of this county and city are here tonight, for the second time, to observe the actions of this Council and its Mayor. The people are objectively observing how the Mayor and Council handle this matter. To the objective observers in attendance here this evening, this elected body is earning a well deserved failing grade.

We ask, what is so difficult about dealing with reasonable people and accepting or counter-offering well deserving and justifiable restitution to the Keller family who has suffered at the hands of this city's Police Chief Sterland? Or does this council find satisfaction in continuing this family's suffering?

After the last meeting concerning the Kellers, one council member was overheard telling this Mayor how great she was at handling the public, something to the effect that she was a natural. Seriously? That type of pompous comment should not be allowed to occupy the people's city government. You should recall that the people who attended the December council meeting were very civil and polite and ALL credit goes to the people. In light of that pompous comment, how long do you think you can reasonable expect such deference to continue in the face of your stonewalling? Let's be clear! Your actions are nothing short of a convenient device of avoidance.

Thank you

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### MR. AND MRS. KELLER - POSSIBLE LITIGATION

Mayor Slagle thanked everyone for coming and stated she would allow public comment. Mayor Slagle asked everyone to keep their comments to the subject and not to repeat something that has already been stated. Mayor Slagle asked everyone who speaks to please state their name and address for the record.

Mrs. Dina Keller, Evans, WA, stated she has sent a couple letters to the City and wondered where those letters are. Mayor Slagle stated herself and the City Council have been given instructions that they are not to discuss a pending litigation. Mayor Slagle explained it is not a matter of open discussion, if there is new information she would appreciate hearing it.

Mrs. Keller asked if she can even get an answer if anyone has even read her claims. Mayor Slagle stated she can certainly tell her that her claim has been read by her.

Mrs. Keller asked if the City Council has not read it, can they read it, and then take a vote if they agree with the claims being denied. There is nothing requiring that I only speak to the City's attorney. Although Mr. McMahon has tried several times to intimidate me, I have every right to talk with each and every one of you.

Mrs. Keller, stated her letters have not even been answered.

Mr. Roland Horner, Colville, WA, stated he is an objective observer and recognizes that all government from the federal level to the local level has a problem with openness and transparency for the benefit of the public. There is nothing that can be done at the Federal level, but there is a possibility of something that might be done at the local level.

Mr. Horner inquired if everyone had received the Oath of Office.

Mayor Slagle stated they have all sworn to uphold the Constitution, in fact February 13, 2013 the City of Kettle Falls claimed Presidents Day to be the official day of recognition to support the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Mr. Horner stated many people in public office don't take it seriously. The Oath of Office is a contract and you have agreed to that contract between yourself and the people. Elected officials are under obligation to carry out the contract in agreement with the people. The people pay for salaries, roads etc. everything. You serve us, the people, the people don't serve you. We feel that you have an obligation to see to it that there is transparency and honor in the government. A lot of government employees at various levels, seem to cover up when they have knowledge of malfeasance. By keeping quiet or covering up the contract is broken.

Mr. Horner stated he is here hoping the Mayor and City Council will have enough backbone to correct this situation honorably and fairly and honor the contract to the people.

Mrs. Dina Keller, Evans, WA, stated in 2011 the Mayor identified a series of severe deficiencies in Chief Sterland's abilities to read and interpret laws, gather evidence, etc. His deficiencies clearly pointed in the direction that he could violate the constitutional rights of the people he was supposedly enforcing laws upon. That is exactly what he did to them, months after the Mayor had already figured out he could do that. When the Mayor, failed to directly supervise or send him for any kind of training.

Mrs. Keller stated anyone supervising Mr. Sterland, would have seen Mr. Sterland was charging Mr. and Mrs. Keller with four counts of criminal violations that required them to have a will full intent. Three of the four counts were accidental, and one was completely imaginary. Mr. Sterland flat out lied in order to bring charges against them. When the Mayor had a policy of inaction, when she recognized those deficiencies it created a liability for the City and she herself violated the Constitution, when Mr. Sterland violated the Constitution.

Mrs. Keller, stated she was a volunteer firefighter for many years before being married. She served her community. Her husband served the military in two wars, he now serves our country with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Her husband has held top security clearances and has personally protected the President and Vice President during the Bush/Quayle years. Now thanks to all that the Mayors inaction and Mr. Sterlands incompetency has put criminal charges against her and her husband's name that they cannot expunge. They cannot be removed from the county records, even though the charges were dismissed by the judge.

Mrs. Keller explained the effect this would have on her looking for employment. She explained when a company does a background check, they are not going to ask her if the case was dismissed, they are going to hire someone who doesn't have a record.

Mrs. Keller, stated everyone sits there pushing her family to litigation which will cost additional money, cause additional stress, prolonging the issue for however long. Have some moral fiber, have a conscious and some guts to understand her claims should have not been denied. What happened to her family should have never happened and somebody other than Tim dollar ought to apologize and understand what her family has been put through. They are law abiding citizens who have never done anything wrong and then have four criminal charges against them and the Mayor and City Council sit there with little zipped lips and closed mouths with absolutely no care or thought in the world.

Mayor Slagle, pointed out she allowed Mrs. Keller to repeat information and reminded the audience not to repeat something that has already been stated.

There was no additional comment presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING - THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO REVIEW  
FINAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE ON COMPLETION OF THE WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT FACILITY FUNDED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT (CDBG)**

City Planner Dave Keeley stated the project is completed and this Public Hearing is part of the completion process.

Mayor Slagle opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:27 p.m. No Public Comment was presented. Mayor Slagle closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Council Member Bonnie Bradley moved to accept the completion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Council Member Jesse Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Motion carried by all. Council Member Jeanie Thompson - yes, Council Member Bonnie Bradley - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**DECEMBER, 2013 VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL**

Council Member Debbie Gaskin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Jesse Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Jeanie Thompson - abstained, Council Member Bonnie Bradley - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE SHOP**

City Superintendent Joel Gassaway reported the Public Works Maintenance Shop is complete.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief John Ridlington stated they will be buying 600 feet of 5" fire hose. Which is an upgrade from 2 ½". The money will come from the joint reserve account.

**LIBRARY**

Library Manager Teah Chadderdon reported the library volunteer luncheon was held today and was a great success.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam reminded City Council the next City Council meeting will be January 14, 2014 and not the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TO KETTLE FALLS LIBRARY BOARD**

Library Manager Teah Chadderdon reported she received two letter of interest. Of those two letters the Library Board is recommending Gayle Moore be appointed.

Council Member Jeanie Thompson moved to appoint Gayle Moore to the Kettle Falls Library Board. Council Member Debbie Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Jeanie Thompson - yes, Council Member Bonnie Bradley - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

**MEYERS STREET RESURFACING PROJECT**

City Planner Dave Keeley stated he needs a formal motion accepting completion of the Meyers Street Resurfacing Project.

Council Member Jesse Garrett moved to accept the completion of the Meyers Street Resurfacing Project. Council Member Bonnie Bradley seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Jeanie Thompson - yes, Council Member Bonnie Bradley - yes, Council Member Jesse Garrett - yes and Council Member Debbie Gaskin - yes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

As there was no Public Comment, City Council moved on to Adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Dorothy Slagle adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Slagle, Mayor

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