

KETTLE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday May 13, 2025, 7:00 PM

Pledge to Allegiance

Call to Order 7:00pm Mayor Lucas called meeting to order

Present: Mayor Dave Lucas, Councilor Miya Kohmetscher, Councilor Patricia Lund, Councilor Elizabeth Mascarenas, Councilor Marcia Sarvela

Absent: None

Staff: Kathy Lake, Carol Grutkoski, Jon Lingle, Isaac Gran

Guest: Laura Simi, Kaitlynn VanGuilder, Kris Miller

Guest Speakers: Eric Senarighi, Dan Reed

Public Comment:

1. Motion to allow Kaitlyn VanGuilder to keep chickens on her property was made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
2. Dan Reed – information about funding cuts in Carlton County
 - a. LGA funds being reduced
 - b. State cutting back on Health and Human Services due to cuts in Federal Medicaid funding
3. Eric Senarighi – Ma & Pa Kettle Days Mud Bog
 - a. Need access to brown garage at ballfields
 - b. Ma & Pa Kettle Days has purchased trashcans
 - c. Anticipating at least the number of spectators of 2024 – double all logistics from 2024
 - d. Looking for local contractors to donate kiosks
 - e. Tim Winters – wood pile near feedstore needs to be burned or repurposed
 - f. Kettle River Bar & Grill will organize bands

Consent Agenda: motion made by Councilor Sarvela and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.

- 1) Minutes of April 8, 2025, meeting,
- 2) Claims (7381-7407 = \$11,838.54)
- 3) Cash control statement, receipts, disbursements

Reports of City Departments and Committees:

1. Administrative Department

- a. Regular daily, weekly, monthly
- b. FY26 grant funding info has been sent to senators
- c. Kettle River Snowmobile Club
 - i. Requested permission to run pull tabs at the Kettle River Bar and Grill
 - ii. City has received their paperwork
 - iii. City has informed the Snowmobile Club that 10% of proceeds go to the City of Kettle River
- d. Resident turned water on to fill swimming pool
 - i. Carlton County deputy called in
 - ii. Tool that was used to turn on water was confiscated per direction of deputy
 - iii. 5000 gallons of water was used and will be billed to resident
- e. Reviewing current city policies and revising based on the League of Minnesota Cities recommendations.
- f. Complaint from resident regarding neighbor's loose dog and toys left in alley
- g. Two disconnect notices going out
- h. AUS (Eric Appelwick) mowed inside ponds, will drop rates if he contracts to do it all summer
- i. Waiting on gravel quotes
 - i. Need to figure out how city streets can be fixed
 - ii. City can't afford to repave streets
 - iii. Options include class 5 gravel, crushed concrete, crush current asphalt and re-lay it (Twin Lakes Township did this)
- j. City Hall parking lot
 - i. Rent mini excavator machine from Imperial Communications to remove first layer blacktop for \$150
 - ii. A&B rents mini excavator for between \$300 and \$400
 - iii. Lay class 5 gravel on top of bottom layer of blacktop
 - iv. Motion to rent equipment from Imperial Communications to remove first layer blacktop for \$150 was made by Councilor Sarvela and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- k. Lake Country Power does not drive on grass or soft spots. They did not leave the ruts
- l. We have \$61.20 left in the cashflow in streetlighting. This is insurance and auditors will adjust as needed. We will know more when we received the completed audit.

2. Utilities Department

- a. Reading meters
- b. Six or seven locates for SCI
- c. Curb stops have gotten buried over time; the city should consider getting risers to fix curb stops as we find them

- d. Talked to AUS (Eric Appelwick) about tamperproof curb stops. Eric's only recommendation was a padlock type device
 - e. Internet at plant has been down a lot, waiting for SCI
 - f. Reading meters in the morning
 - g. New Fleetzoom from AUS is working well according to Eric Appelwick
 - h. No restroom vandalism
 - i. Lots of geese and goslings, AUS is not overly concerned
- 3. Fire and First Responder Department
 - a. Nine fire calls (seven grass fires, some mutual aid calls), two medical calls
 - b. Surrounding communities (not Moose Lake) are sending equipment to assist with wildfires in northeast Minnesota, Kettle River is not sending equipment to ensure we have necessary equipment to safeguard local area
 - c. Barnum idea of combining fire department was a miscommunication
 - d. Pool filling – need to let AUS know, fire department should use different hydrants for each pool fill
 - e. City Hall should be informed if excessive water will be used for any reason
- 4. Personnel Committee
 - a. Jon Lingle performance review was completed
 - b. The Personnel Committee recommends increasing Jon Lingle's wage to \$14.90 with back pay to April 8th because the committee was late with his review
 - c. Motion to increase Jon Lingle's wage to \$14.90 with back pay to April 8th made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Lund. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 5. Planning and Zoning
 - a. The city has received a request for a crosswalk from rest area to the Legion Building because children are crossing the highway to catch the school bus. City Hall is working with the Barnum School District to see if the bus stop can be moved
- 6. City Council
 - a. The City BBQ was poorly attended
 - i. Consider changing hours to 11am – 2pm.
 - ii. The city will consider purchasing two new grills before August National Night Out

Correspondence:

- 1. From John Peura:
 - a. Will virtually attend FEMA training in Maryland
 - b. Requested to hold an EMS open house on May 23 at the Kettle River Senior Center to celebrate National EMS Week (May 18 – 24)
 - i. Call for motion to hold EMS week open house on May 23 at the Kettle River Senior Center to celebrate National EMS Week, no motion made, motion failed

Old Business:

1. Discussion on Cannabis Ordinance
 - a. Workshop to discuss July 22 6pm at City Hall
2. Waiting on quote for class 5 gravel for City Hall parking lot

New Business:

1. Resolution 2025-03 Accepting Donation from Lawler Area Community Club for \$1,500.00 for Fire Department and EMS
 - a. Motion to accept Resolution 2025-03 for \$1,500 made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
2. Resolution 2025-04 Kettle River Snowmobile Club Permit for lawful gambling permit to conduct lawful gambling at Kettle River Bar and Grill within the Kettle River city limits
 - a. Motion to accept Resolution 2025-04 to give the Kettle River Snowmobile Club a lawful gambling permit was made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Sarvela. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
3. City Council Requests from Kettle River EMS (John Peura and Jennifer Johnson)
 - a. All funding requests need to be discussed as part of the February Fire Commission meeting and then approved by the Kettle River City Council
 - b. Funding for advanced equipment CAD dispatch system (being used by Cloquet, Esko, maybe Barnum) PROs: more accurate, coordinates better with other software.
 - i. Need to see clear benefits to justify the costs (4 units: \$4800 initial + \$500 per year + \$2160 (\$45*4 units*12 months))
 - ii. Call for motion to acquire CAD system for EMS personnel, no motion made, motion fails
 - c. Increase personnel and training, enhanced EMS training
 - i. Currently EMS personnel are given training to meet requirements
 - ii. Jordan Azzam doesn't believe training to a higher level is needed
 - iii. Should have EMS personnel attend the Under One Roof conference (May 20 – 21), \$150 per person
 - iv. This needs to be discussed as part of the February Fire Commission meeting and then approved by the Kettle River City Council

- d. Infrastructure improvements
 - i. Image Trend Elite – if free and Chief Gran approves, this can be implemented
 - ii. Improving Communications Systems: may be required in the future due to current system being outdated and not supported. No indication that we could get a grant for this
 - iii. Modernizing facilities: no funding available for this
- e. Community Services, Outreach and Education
 - i. City would have to adopt a higher level of service to register
 - ii. Future captain will research and propose direction
- 4. National Night Out August 5, 2025, 5pm – 7pm
 - a. Carlton will be here
- 5. EMS Captain Letters of Interest
 - a. Ms. Jennifer Johnson is interested in assistant EMS Captain
 - b. Mr. John Peura and Mr. Jordan Azzam expressed interested in EMS Captain
 - c. Motion to appoint Mr. Azzam as EMS Captain was made by Councilor Sarvela and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
 - d. The EMS Captain will propose creating an assistant captain position if he/she feels it is necessary
- 6. Set Budget Workshop Meeting Date
 - a. September 2, 2025, at 6:00pm at City Hall
- 7. Data Request for February Meeting recording
 - a. There is no audio recording of the February 11, 2025, Kettle River City Council meeting due to the recording device malfunction
 - b. Let City Attorney know that we do not have February 11, 2025, Kettle River City Council meeting recording
 - c. Respond to data request with the written minutes for February 11, 2025, Kettle River City Council meeting
- 8. Approve Kalevala Township Fire Service Contract for 2026
 - a. Motion to accept Kalevala Township Fire Service Contract for 2026 (\$18104.00) made by Councilor Sarvela and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 9. John Peura's request for a City of Kettle River EMS Week Proclamation
 - a. Request for City Council to proclaim May 18 – 24 as Kettle River Emergency Medical Services Week in recognition of the service the Kettle River EMS team provides

- b. No motion made, motion fails
- 10. SCI Broadband Internet and Phone Service
 - a. City has received a quote from SCI for service in City Hall
 - b. City is waiting on water treatment plant and rest area quotes
 - c. City Hall service quote
 - i. Internet 100M fiber \$59.95 (monthly)
 - ii. WIFI \$11.95 (monthly)
 - iii. One phone \$34.95 (monthly)
 - iv. One fax line \$24.95 (monthly)
 - v. Installation \$100 (one-time fee)
 - d. Need to drop GigFire (Genisys) and negotiate with them to use the Kettle River water tower as a transmitter
 - e. Need to drop Frontier when we no longer are using it (office first, then the plant)
 - f. Motion to table SCI quote made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:18pm

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Lund, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.

Next meeting is June 10, 2025, 7:00pm at Kettle River City Hall

Submitted by Carol Grutkoski, Deputy Clerk