

**KETTLE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 10, 2026 7:00 PM**

**Pledge to Allegiance**

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

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Administrator Kathy Lake, Deputy Clerk Carol Grutkoski, Fire/EMS Captain Jordan Azzam

**Staff Absent:** Maintenance Jeramy Hall

**Guests:** Dakota Tjaden, Wanda & Gordon Berthiaume, Mark Peters KR Snowmobile Club, Eric Appelwick, Laura Simi, Jesse Kemp

**Guest Speaker(s):**

Dakota Tjaden

1. Lead service line task order 6 for replacing galvanized piping. Work to start this fall. Grant will cover the costs.
2. The City must pass Ordinance 115 to allow replacing galvanized pipe.
3. Great Rivers Energy is proposing to build a new substation. GRE will pay Bollig to design the reroute, Bollig will bill the City and the City will send the bill to GRE. This will go to Planning and Zoning, Planning and Zoning will make a recommendation to the Council.
4. The City of Kettle River received a Small Cities Development grant for \$6000 and a Congressional Discretionary Spending Request bill for \$1M, but the funds will not be available until all reviews are completed which will most likely be in 2027.

Wanda Berthiaume

1. Playground – has a volunteer with equipment to stabilize playground equipment, City will purchase rubber matting (Wanda will find out what size is needed), pea rock needs to be removed
2. Would like to do Kettle River Festival on August 1, 2026, 8am – 6pm. Not part of Ma & Pa Kettle Days
  - a. Family oriented, all ages
  - b. Educational
  - c. Proceeds would go to the Kettle River community
  - d. Barnum football team has volunteered to help

- e. Wanda needs to form a 501c3 organization, obtain insurance, permission from City to use property
- f. Other community events in summer 2026: Kettle River City Barbeque May 2, Kettle River National Night Out August 4, Ma & Pa Kettle Days August 7 – 9, Carlton County Fair 13 – 16.

Mark Peters – KR Snowmobile Club

- 1. The Snowmobile Club would like to put a 40 ft storage container next to the Snowmobile Club building

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion to accept the following was made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.

- 1) Minutes of January 6, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting
- 2) Claims (7591-7613 = \$20,225.70).
- 3) Cash control statement, receipts, disbursements

**Reports of City Departments and Committees:**

- 1. Administrative Department
  - A. Regular daily, weekly, monthly
  - B. Four new data requests
  - C. Kathy attended finance training in January
  - D. The city received letter on Monday from Mr. Kasden with intent of suing the City. Nothing will be done until he indicates exactly what the complaint is.
- 2. Utilities Department AUS – Eric Appelwick
  - A. Filter 2: gasket came free and was leaking. Lakehead repaired it on Jan 13. Had to be disinfected, back online Jan 16. All filters are working. Dakota will talk to Lakehead to make sure they are covering all the costs (parts, labor, AUS and City maintenance).
  - B. Water tower issues. To prevent the water tower from freezing during the extreme cold temperatures, more water was run through the system to attempt to keep ice from forming and to keep any ice that had formed moving. The standpipe did not freeze. The water in the bottom of the bowl of the water tower froze causing a 6 inch ice cap that had to be drilled out. A total of 16 holes were drilled. The design of the water tower tends to cause the water to be more apt to freeze.
  - C. The air dryer is not working, a lot of water is in the lines. It's a 2002 model that has been discontinued for many years. Eric has not found a similar replacement, but has suggested a newer but different model.
  - D. Discharge pump needs to be replaced but not immediately.
- 3. Fire and First Responder Department
  - A. Fire/EMS Captain Jordan Azzam filled in for Chief Gran
  - B. Six EMS calls, five fire calls
  - C. A newer EMS rig has been approved

- D. Dr. Steven Tekippe, MD is the current medical director for the Kettle River Fire Department. He is not paid and is not very involved. Jordan is looking for a new medical director.
- E. Jordan is a paramedic. A few weeks ago, Essentia didn't have any paramedics available only EMS. Jordan is looking to see if there is a way he could act as a paramedic in emergencies when no other paramedic is available.
  - a. The Fire/EMS department would need new protocols
  - b. Need to understand impact on City's insurance (Kathy will talk to the League)
  - c. City will not pay for training beyond EMR
- F. New OSHA regulations – NFPA – OSHA accepted 22 of the regulations, it's not final but a draft has been written. There will be a large cost if the City has to comply to the new regulations
- G. Issues found during vehicle inspection, work on both pumps (tender and engine) – the pumps still working but have problems
- H. Fire department food warming unit should be moved to the garage
- 4. Personnel Committee
  - A. One application has been received for the part-time maintenance position
- 5. Planning and Zoning
  - A. Planning and Zoning met on February 9, 2026.
  - B. Discussed Great River Energy building a new relay station and reroute. Great River Energy will attend future meeting.
  - C. No updates on co-op building and property.
- 6. City Council
  - A. Jeramy needs to manually shovel the entryways to City Hall, Vets Building and recycling shed
  - B. No update on outlets on lightpoles

**Correspondence:**

- 1. City received the CW WIF Project information worksheets that Bollig had to submit to MN PFA
  - A. The information is required for the PFA to calculate possible funding
- 2. Assessment Notice regarding Property Assessments
  - A. The Board of Equalization will be April 15, 2026 10:00 am at City Hall
- 3. Quote from Bollig to Great Energy for re-route of water and sewer for new power station
- 4. Community Project Update
  - A. Funding received from federal government
- 5. Email from Data Practices (M Doward asked for an opinion)
  - A. Sarah wrote a letter to explain we are open 8 – noon, M-Th, only those days should be counted in the 10 day limit

**Old Business:**

- 1. Desktop computer for City's Deputy Clerk
  - A. CybertPC quote: Intel I3 14100 quad core, monitor, mouse - \$729.99

- B. Motion to purchase Intel I3 14100 was made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 2. Approval of playground repairs (tabled)
  - A. Need estimate of cost of mat
- 3. Quotes for installing security cameras (tabled)
- 4. Putting Old Brush Rig on the Moose-Bid Auction
  - A. Jeremiah is in charge of getting this done. Battery is probably dead, the portable jump pack is broken – Jordan will talk to Issac
- 5. Streetlights-sodium bulbs no longer available
  - A. The light near the Marsyla residence has been fixed, three more need to be replaced (entire fixture has to be replaced by electrician)
  - B. Need an estimate to replace just the light on the side street. The lights on main street will be replaced in 2029.
- 6. Resident Water Bill
  - A. Replaced meter, consistently measuring 1000 gallons per week which is normal
  - B. Continue to monitor for another month
  - C. Another resident had frozen pipes, which cracked
  - D. Motion to accept task order 6 from Bollig to start design and construction for Great River Energy was made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 7. Resolution 2026-02 Water and Sewer Service Rates, Fees and Charges
  - A. Motion to accept made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Lund. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.

**New Business:**

- 1. Updated Data Practice Policy – must be updated every year
  - A. Motion to accept updated data practice policy made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Lund. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 2. Pentair Meyers pump for water treatment plant \$633.00 + freight
  - A. Motion to purchase spare pump for \$633.00 + freight cost was made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Sarvela. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 3. Moose Lake Historical Society 2026 Membership
  - A. Motion to donate \$50 made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 4. Barnum Post Prom Donation

- A. Motion to donate \$25 made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 5. Carol Grutkoski Resignation
  - A. Motion to accept Carol Grutkoski's resignation made by Councilor Kohmetscher, seconded by Councilor Sarvela. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
  - B. Motion to place ad in paper made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
  - C. Change policy/ordinance to allow Personnel Committee to place want ad before approved by Council
- 6. City Annual BBQ
  - A. May 2, 2026 11am-2pm in KR Kids Park if weather is good, move to the Legion Building if weather isn't good. This is also Marcia's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - B. Motion to approve hold the City of Kettle River Barbeque on May 2, 2026 in the KR Kids Park made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 7. Kettle River Fun Fest
  - A. Motion to allow the planning of the Kettle River Fun Fest made by Councilor Mascarenas, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 8. Kettle River Snowmobile Club would like to place 40 foot storage container on the east side of their Snowmobile Club building
  - A. Motion to allow the Kettle River Snowmobile Club to keep a 40 foot storage container for 5 years made by Councilor Sarvela, seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
- 9. Motion to approve jetting\* of water tower ice cap made by Councilor Sarvela, seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Sarvela, Councilor Lund, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: none. Motion carries.
  - A. \*holes drilled, the tower was not jetted

**Adjourn:** motion to adjourn made by Councilor Mascarenas. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 7:00 PM