

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2024

The Kettle River City Council meeting was held in the meeting room of City Hall, Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7 pm.

Members Present: Mayor Lucas, Councilor Guy Collier, Councilor Miya Kohmetscher, Councilor Elizabeth Mascarenas

Members Absent: Councilor Monique Doward

Staff Attending: Kathryn Lake, City Administrator Clerk/Treasurer; Isaac Gran, Fire Chief; Carol Grutkoski, Deputy Clerk; Travis Leino, Utilities Department

Staff Absent:

Guest Speaker: Dakota Tjaden, Bolling Engineering

Other Guests: Marcia Sarvela, Calen Eschenbach, Ike Miller, Kevin Peura, Laura Simi, John Peura, Judy Collier, Michele Caron, Gary Marsyla, Judy Marsyla

Mayor Lucas called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dakota Tjaden, Bolling Engineering – Lead Pipe Update

- Minnesota House has approved \$1,000,000 for Kettle River to remove lead piping
- Waiting for Minnesota Senate to approve
- Bolling or Kettle River can send support letters to the Senate – Dakota will look at Bolling doing this
- LSL Inventory System-Owned Portion Classification: 90 non-lead, 16 unknown
- LSL Inventory Customer-Owned Portion Classification: Requires replacement 3, 91 non-lead, 11 unknown
- Bolling is working on a grant to cover cost of replacing the lead (galvanized) pipes for residents
- Residents with unknown pipes should let the City know if the pipes are lead or not before the grant is complete to be eligible to have the cost covered. Bolling or the City can also help determine the pipe material. Bolling will send letters to residents with pipes of unknown material.

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Motion to Accept consent agenda made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Motion carries to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Minutes of the May 21, 2024, regular council meeting, with some edits.
- Claims (7011-7026 = \$10,858.87)
- Cash control statement, receipts, disbursement registers, and bank statements.
- (Added) Correspondence from Department of Health
- (Added) Variance for PID 19-140-0010 to add second driveway
- (Added) Conditional Use Permit to move mobile home to PID 19-140-0010

Mayor Lucas reminded everyone that according to policy, council members cannot record council meetings.

Reports of City Departments and Committees:

Departments –

Administration Department: report submitted by Kathy Lake, City Administrator Clerk/Treasurer:

- Working on compiling budget information for August's budget workshop.
- Website is being updated. Additions and modifications can be left at the City Hall office or emailed to KRclerktypist@outlook.com.
- State aid is delayed, Kettle River has filed for an extension and expects to find out if it's granted the week of July 15.
- Have received payments from Carlton County.
- Have asked for pricing on UBMax's replacement software and for a demo, but have not heard back.

Utilities Department: report submitted by Travis Leino, Maintenance

- The sewer ponds are full due to recent ongoing rain
 - We have reached our limit on discharges and cannot do another until fall
 - The Mercantile Co-op's basement is full of water and the water is draining into the City sewer
 - Have bids from Dave Girard (\$3200) and Tim Gobel (\$2200) to cap.
 - **Councilor Collier** moved to accept Tim Gobel's bid of \$2200 to cap the sewer access, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.

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- **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
- **Nays:**
- **Motion carries.**

- Pottery plant is also dumping water into sewer due to partially missing roof.
- The Feed Store may also be dumping water into sewer, but it is uncertain if there is a sewer access on the property.

- Vandalism of city property continues to happen at the park and rest area.
 - **Councilor Kohmetscher** moved to keep the restrooms locked at all times and discuss reopening the restrooms at the September 10, 2024 council meeting, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- Kiminski Paving has provided a quote of \$18,200 to repair the large hole in the Post Office parking lot and a quote of \$3100 to repair smaller holes. We are waiting for quotes from Recon Paving. Will ask both companies to provide a separate quote to repair city streets.
- Orthophosphate pump has been ordered.
- We have 65 gallons volatile chemicals that need to be disposed of. The cost of disposal is approximately \$8000 to \$10,000.

Fire and First Responder Department: report submitted by Isaac Gran, Fire Chief

- One fire related call for downed power line.
- Five medical calls.
- North Star Training provided a training session.
- Participated in Fourth of July parade.
- Have not heard from North Star Training on purchasing old gear.
- Trucks are in good repair.

Committees-

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Personnel Committee:

- No updates

Planning and Zoning Commission:

- No updates

City Council:

- A policy is needed specifying that if the City pays for a city employee to attend training(s) and the employee resigns (or is terminated?) their position before the end of the fiscal year, the employee must reimburse the City for all expenses incurred by the City for the training(s). Will check with City's lawyer for a template or example language.
- Monique Doward was absent and has been absent from the May and June council meetings. All of her items will be removed from the August agenda.
- Monique Doward has filed a complaint against the City of Kettle River, Advanced Solutions, JT Repair and Towing, Mayor David Lucas, City Administrator Kathy Lake and Sarah Sonsalla.
- The Water Quality Report has been received from the State of Minnesota. It will be sent to Advanced Utility Solutions and posted in the City Hall office.
- We are getting quotes to replace the counter in the City Hall office with a wall with safety plexiglass, a receiving window and a door with an automatic lock. We have received a quote of \$23,000 from AUS and are waiting on Russ Dobosenski for an additional quote.

Correspondence:

- The League of Minnesota Cities will be increasing dues.

Old Business:

- Resolution 2024-10: the tallying and recording of write-in votes is only required if the total number of write-in votes for the office is greater than or equal to the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. This is allowed by Minnesota Statutes 204B.09, subdivision 3.
 - **Councilor Mascarenas** moved to accept Resolution 2024-10, seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

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New Business:

- Resolution 2024-11: accept donation from Steve Johnson of \$100 to fire department
 - **Councilor Kohmetscher** moved to approve Resolution 2024-11: accept donation from Steve Johnson of \$100 to fire department, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- Resolution 2024-12: accept donation from Lake Power Country of \$2500 to fire department
 - **Councilor Mascarenas** moved to approve Resolution 2024-12: accept donation from Lake Power Country of \$2500 to fire department, seconded by **Councilor Collier**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- Resolution 2024-13: accept donation from Essentia Health of \$10,000 to fire department
 - **Councilor Collier** moved to approve Resolution 2024-13: accept donation from Essentia Health of \$10,000 to fire department, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- Ordinance 2024-14: amend City Code, Section 150.01 to 150.05 to opt-out of the requirements of Minnesota Statute 326B
 - **Councilor Collier** moved to approve Ordinance 2024-14: amend City Code, Section 150.01 to 150.05 to opt-out of the requirements of Minnesota Statute 326B, seconded by **Councilor Kohmetscher**.

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- **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
- **Nays:**
- **Motion carries.**

- Zoning laws and enforcement remain with the City of Kettle River.

- The Budget Workshop is scheduled for August 27, 2024.

- Tim Gobel bid \$2200 to cap the sewer access from the Mercantile Co-op to prevent rainwater from going into the City's sewer
 - **Councilor Collier** moved to accept Tim Gobel's bid of \$2200 to cap the sewer access from the Mercantile Co-op to prevent rainwater from going into the City's sewer, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- We are getting quotes to replace the counter in the City Hall office with a wall with safety plexiglass, a receiving window and a door with an automatic lock. We have received a quote of \$23,000 from AUS? and are waiting on Russ Dobosenski for an additional quote.

- Variance for PID 19-140-0010 (Calen Eschenbach's property) to add second driveway
 - **Councilor Collier** moved to allow a Variance for PID 19-140-0010 (Calen Eschenbach's property) to add second driveway, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.
 - **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - **Nays:**
 - **Motion carries.**

- Conditional Use Permit to allow a mobile home to be placed on PID 19-140-0010 (Calen Eschenbach's property)
 - **Councilor Kohmetscher** moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit to allow a mobile home to be placed on PID 19-140-0010 (Calen Eschenbach's property), seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.

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- **Ayes:** Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
- **Nays:**
- **Motion carries.**

- There may be someone living in a truck camper along Main Street in Kettle River. A conditional use permit is required to live in a camper or travel trailer. A letter will be written by the City Administrator who will ask that a Carlton County Sherriff deliver it. If residents are using campers or travel trailers for temporary guests, they should contact the City.

- Michele Caron requested that snowplows alternate the sides of the streets where snow is plowed to help prevent large snowbanks. The City Administrator can send this request to Carlton County

Councilor Collier moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Councilor Mascarenas**.

Ayes: Council Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.

Nays:

Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, July 9, 2024.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 7 pm in the meeting room of City Hall.

Submitted by,
Carol Grutkoski
Deputy Clerk