

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2023

The Kettle River City Council meeting was held in the Senior Community Center of City Hall, Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 7 pm.

Members Present: Mayor Lucas, Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas.

Staff Attending: Kathryn Lake, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Chad Schmidt, Utilities/Maintenance; Isaac Gran, Fire Chief; Rob Tschida, Building Inspector.

Others attending: Laura Simi, Marcia Sarvela, John Peura, Kevin Peura, Judy Collier, Theresa Schmidt, Joseph Pelawa, Judy and Gary Marsyla.

Mayor Lucas called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Tower Tap Event Permit for Ma & Pa Kettle Days

Motion to approve Outdoor Event permit for Tower Tap made by Councilor Collier and Seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: 0. Motion carries.

Zack Meyers from Meyers Water, LLC offering Water/Sewer contracting services.

Bolig Engineers: Specializing in small towns with populations under 1,000. Also has a funding department to help with finding financing/grants for needed projects. Charges per project, no charge for phone calls or attending meetings.

Tim Winter of Winter Enterprises here to dispel rumors of the plans for the Old feed mill property they bought from Bryan Alberg. They plan to restore the building and open a farm supply store and possibly a fertilizer plant. Also looking into selling machinery.

Dan Reed representing Ma & Pa Kettle Days. They plan to have 4 food vendor trucks and the Ma & Pa Committee will be selling beef sandwiches. They chose not to rent porta potties because of the price and are asking the city if someone will be able to clean the public restrooms and keep them stocked over the weekend.

Laura Simi- Thanking the City Council members and City staff for hard work and doing a great job. Wanted to share her grievances against Councilor Doward's actions and question why she is the only Council Member who does not follow the rules.

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2023

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

- Minutes of the July 11, 2023 , regular council meeting, July 18, 2023, Workshop, and the July 25, 2023, special meeting, with the correction of changing “at tech.” to engineer tech.
- Claims (6766-6789=\$7,225.16)
- Cash control statement, receipts, disbursement registers and bank statement.

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

- Regular daily, weekly, monthly work.
- Working with Engineering Firms and Water/Sewer Contracting companies for bids
- Received \$58,683.84 from Carlton County for partial payment for LGA and assessments on Alberg’s property.
- The Servlink letter was for residents not the city, will find out more at a later date.
- Have not yet received quotes for lawn mowing services
- Will be working on ATV Ordinances for next meeting
- Still working with the State on updating the Building Code

Utilities Department

- Water pumped during July 213,000 gallons
- The Fluoride pump is now fixed and running
- The well #1 pump was pulled and evaluated everything is working well but will need to be replaced at the next evaluation in 5 years.
- The new hire quit
- Will get the No Parking signs, booths and picnic tables ready for Ma & Pa

Fire and First Responder Department:

- The new hire is now in the 6-month training period

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2023

- There was another application submitted and interviewed, it is recommended to hire him.
- There were 3 fire runs, 2 mutual aid and 1 local grass fire
- No medical runs
- The Fire Department will be purchasing turnout gear for the new hires. There is money in the budget for this.
- There were some truck repairs, have not yet received the bill
- August is Air Pack Testing and pump testing, these are budgeted costs

Personnel Committee:

- Recommends accepting the application for Isaac Gran to be Fire Chief
Motion to approve made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays:0. Motion carries.
- Recommends placing the ad for maintenance position.

Planning and Zoning Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the rezoning of the property for the campground from R-1 to R-R. The Planning and Zoning commission approved the passing on of the rezoning to the City Council for final approval.

Building Inspector:

- 1 Roofing permit issued
- 1 siding permit issued
- Mr. Brown is thinking about demolishing his house and will need a permit to do so.
- No word from Duane Grace on the Old Store property, it is believed that the County owns the property again.

City Council:

- The Mayor and Council give thanks to everyone attending National Night Out and to those who helped.
- The council will be looking into cat removal as the population of feral cats has exploded again.
- The Mayor addressed Councilor Doward about multiple issues: The first was her inquiry about payment for meetings and she was informed she needs to fill out the voucher form in order to receive payment, the next was the grant she applied for without Council approval. The city does not have the funds to match a grant

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2023

- for playground equipment at this time. She was also informed her chickens need to be kept in a fence at all times as per the City Ordinance they are not allowed to free range, she has been sent multiple letters to notify her of the infractions.
- Motion for Ms. Doward to remove her chickens due to not following City Ordinance made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward. Motion carries, Ms. Doward has 14 days to remove her chickens.
 - Mayor Lucas once again asked for the return of the Audit Book.
 - Mayor Lucas informing the community that Councilor Doward has been attending the Planning and Zoning meetings. This is a liability for the city since it creates a quorum and creates a governing body giving the capability of voting. Ms. Doward can attend the meetings, but cannot participate.
 - Anonymous Letter voicing a community members frustration with Councilor Doward attitude and actions.
 - An Email was received from the DNR about Grant Compliance concerning the restrooms, playground and basketball courts. There needs to be a sign for Funding Acknowledgement, the restrooms need loop style handrails for accessibility, and the playground surface needs to be changed.

Old Business:

- Motion to accept Bolig Engineering on retainer as the city's engineering firm made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.

New Business:

- Ordinance 108: Updating building code for State Compliance. Motion to accept made by Councilor Doward and seconded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve rezoning of Callen Eschenbach's property from R-1 to R-R (has already been approved by Planning and Zoning) made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward. Motion carries.
- Changing of Office hours to be open on Wednesdays from 8 am – 4 pm starting August 23,2023. Motion to accept made by Councilor Doward and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher,

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2023

- Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
- Quote for fixing lighting in Senior Center table until next meeting to see if help with funding from Lake Country Power is available.
 - Resolution 2023-08 To abate special assessments on Bryan Alberg's property. Motion to accept made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
 - Motion to hire Lily Freddrick to clean the public restrooms on the weekend for Ma & Pa Kettle Days, made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward. Motion carries.
 - The city needs to find someone to remove the feral cats.
 - Motion to place ad for Public Works position made by Councilor Doward and seconded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
 - Motion to hire new Fire Fighter Applicant Jordan Azzam made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
 - Marcia Sarvela question Councilor Doward on why she only hands out her newsletters to certain community members instead of everyone.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: 0. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

The next regular city council meeting will be held on September 12, 2023, at 7 pm. in the meeting room of City Hall.

Submitted by,
Jamie Dobosenski
Account Clerk