

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
Kettle River Council Meeting
October 11, 2022

Kettle River City Council meeting was held in the meeting room of City Hall, Monday, October 11, 2022.

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

Members Absent: Councilor Doward

Staff Attending: Kathryn Lake, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, Jerry Peterson, Utilities Superintendent.

Staff Absent: Robert Tschida, Building Inspector

Others attending: Kyle Riehl-Fire Chief, Gary Marsyla, Judy Marsyla, Laura Simi, Pat Lund, Marcia Sarvela, Kevin Peura, Pat Lund, Ed Lund.

Mayor Lucas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Accept agenda made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher.

- Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas. Mayor Lucas.
- Nays: 0. Motion carries to approve the following consent agenda items:
 - Minutes of the September 12, 2022, regular meeting.
 - Claims (6583-6597 = \$15343.89)
 - Cash control statement, receipts, and disbursement registers.

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

- Regular daily, weekly, monthly work.
- Kathy called the company that painted the water tower, it had a two-year warranty, which has passed. Kathy called Matt from Elevated Engineering and he recommends that she call KLM, they can rough up the paint and do two more coats instead of starting over. He also stated that the company that did the original work, did the work when it was too cold. Mayor Lucas brought up that regardless of the warranty the original company should be responsible since they did not do the job correctly. Mayor Lucas recommends contacting the company

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- again and the city attorney to see what can be done and to look up the original paperwork to see what it says.
- Kelly Lampel from Carlton County sent an email. They are canvassing Monday November 14, 2022, at Carlton at 4 p.m. so, the meeting needs to be scheduled after the 14th. Council meeting will be moved to November 15, 2022.
 - Kathy would like to move Pace and the life insurance to automatic withdraws instead of paper checks, because they are monthly bills. The power, gas and phone bills are already on this system. She would initiate the payments every month and if anything is out of the ordinary would be able to hold off payment and bring it to the council.
 - Motion to approve auto draft for Pace made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
 - Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - Nays:0 Motion carries.
 - Motion to approve auto draft for insurance policies made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
 - Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
 - Nays:0 Motion carries.
 - Kathy and Jerry noticed that at the Brown's house there is now a camper parked there and a garden hose going from the camper into the house. Kathy will be sending a letter to them about living in the camper without a conditional use permit. The water should be shut off, but the plug is removed on the curb stop. Suggested to put another plug in and check it regularly.
 - Ad was placed for sealed bids on tractor and lawn mower.
 - Kathy contacted the League about the culvert at Ms. Caron's. The League believes it is the homeowner's responsibility to replace the culvert but to talk to the City's Attorney. The county would be responsible for the right of way.
 - Kathy sent a letter to Mr. Kasden about removing his belongings so the road can be plowed this winter. Robert Dahl said they will be sending a letter to the city that says they will not plow in front of his building if his does not remove his belongings blocking the roadway. Mayor Lucas suggests offering to move the belonging out of the way for him as a reach out. If Mr. Kasden is non-compliant Jerry should bring the letters from the city, county, and fire hall stating that the belongings are a safety hazard and have the sheriffs come while he removes the property to store at the city garage for 30 days. Mr. Kasden would be able to pay a fine and get his belongings back withing those 30 days. After that they would be hauled away.
 - Council would like Kathy to call around to small cities in the area and ask what they charge for new construction water and sewer hook ups.

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- The standpipe and water meter grants are held off until March.

Utilities Department

- 169,700 gallons of water
- Discharged ponds
- Attended drinking water classes in St. Cloud and took the license for Class C operator and passed.
- Attended a drinking water class in Carlton and received 6 credits of the needed 16 credits in 3 years.
- Back washing filters on Mondays
- Port a potty at ball field is locked up and will not need to pay rent for the winter months
- Talked to John Mikrot about cleaning sand out of main shutoffs on streets. John charges \$200 an hour and has the vacuum to do it. It would take about 2 hrs. and he usually does this in other cities in October. Jerry doesn't think this has ever been done.
- Motion to buy new pump made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
- Jim Mueller who lives near the water tower says his water has never been better
- Jerry got a quote from Hawkins Chemical to switch from potassium permanganate to sodium permanganate. Pump will cost \$1,900. A smaller tank at 65 gallons for \$275 could be purchased but current tank will suffice as long as the chemicals are emptied out. Disposal of said chemicals is unknown, possibly donate it to a nearby city who uses potassium permanganate. Will need to purchase another pump for \$149, to get the sodium permanganate to the city's tank. There is a 5-year warranty on the pump and with regular maintenance will last much longer and use less chemicals than the current pump and chemicals. Motion to use remaining covid funds of around \$3,000 to convert to new sodium permanganate operation costing a total of \$2,049 for both pumps made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: O. Motion carries.
- Locks on City Hall office doors have been changed
- Request for Jerry to fix potholes on Cedar Street and 2nd street and Birch.
- Jerry will be flushing hydrants on Oct. 21, 2022

Fire and First Responder Department:

- 2 fire and 3 medical runs in September

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- 1 fire and 1 medical so far for October
- Of the 2 new fire fighters one is good to start. The one untrained member has signed up for training. There is one fire fighter/ first responder will be putting in a leave of absence request.
- Officer elections: Thomas Simi is the new Captain and Scott Giannini is the new Lieutenant.
- Emergency apparatus will be in at the end of the month for yearly maintenance/ oil changes. No pump testing will be needed, and nothing is broken
- Chief Riehl would like to notify the council he may be moving out of the area in the next six months. He will notify the council immediately when he knows.
- Laura Simi asked what was found when she called the Browns fire in and Chief Riel notified her they didn't respond to that fire because they were called off by law enforcement. She stated the smell was so bad she couldn't be outside and is upset that nothing is ever done when they repeatedly burn things, they shouldn't like insulation. Suggested the DNR is notified they would be the ones to issue a ticket. Council suggests continuing to call 911 when they are burning things or call the non-emergency line to ask questions about who should be contacted.

City Council:

- Councilor Mascarenas brought up that the company that did the under-ground cable work put the green box in front of their culvert, blocking it. Council asked Kathy to contact the company SCI to see what can be done.
- Mayor Lucas found a cat at his front door a couple weeks ago and brought it to the vet because it was sick. The cat was found to have Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Infectious Peritonitis and had to be euthanized. These diseases spread rapidly in felines that are not vaccinated. The council would like the residents of the city to know if they have unvaccinated cats, they could be infected.
- Mayor Lucas would like everyone to know that the city is not paying for Kathy's legal fees. A hearing is ongoing for a restraining order Councilor Doward has against Mrs. Lake. The council did discuss hiring the city attorney however the city attorney and the league both declined, saying it is a conflict of interest. This was done unknown to Kathy, and she has hired her own attorney. The restraining order includes Kathy having to stay 50 feet from any city building, which would prevent her from doing her job.
- Mayor Lucas read the email from Council Doward sent as to why she isn't attending council meetings. The council feels the reasons are unfounded, however there is no reason why she can't attend the meetings through zoom, which she has done in the past.

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- Council wants to recognize and Thank Phil Entner for volunteering his time to help with the sewer compliance until Jerry gets his license. It is greatly appreciated.

Committees-

Planning and Zoning Commission:

- Faysal Belkhous is interested in buying the old feed mill and possibly opening a slaughterhouse. The planning and zoning committee held a special meeting to meet with the company and get more information. It would be a small business to start but would grow quickly into a large operation. There has been no contact since the meeting with the information on water usage and sewer capacity. Council recommends waiting to see if they call.
- Have not heard from Ike Miller on progress for campground
- Still have not heard from Terry OLeary on duplex progress. He is still making his payments.

Personnel Committee:

- Need to schedule review for Kathy
- Need to schedule walkthrough for safety committee
- Since Jerry got his drinking water license, he should get a pay increase from \$19.00 to \$20.50
- Motion made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher.
- Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
- Nays: 0.
- Motion carries.

Correspondence:

- Mike Hayes-Nova Group, remediation activities for land on Highway 27. Council is unsure why they are contacting the city as it is out of city limits. They will be doing soil remediation on Grimm's farm.
- Nov.15, 2022-April 15, 2023, no parking on the streets between 12am and 8am for snow removal purposes.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Resolution 2022-12 levy for 2023 property taxes. \$102,188. It is less than last year by about \$300.
- Motion to accept resolution made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
- Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.

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- Nays:0.
- Motion carries.
- Cancellation of services with Mr. Mikrot. 60-day notice given.
- Motion to cancel contract for water/sewer services with Mr. Mikrot made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
- Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas.
- Nays:0.
- Motion carries.
- Water/sewer needs to be discussed. Sewer will be over budget, left over money from standpipe could be added to debt service. Numbers need to be reconciled before moving forward with discussion. Debt service may need to be increased for 2024. All information will be discussed at the November meeting.
- Ma & Pa Committee is waiting on a quote from an electrician. Still waiting on concrete also.

- Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.

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

- Nays: 0.

- Motion carries to adjourn meeting at 8:44 pm.

The next regular city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7 pm. in the meeting room of City Hall.

Submitted by,

Jamie Dobosenski
Account Clerk