

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2023

The Kettle River City Regular Council meeting was held in the meeting room of City Hall, Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

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

Members Absent: Councilor Collier- excused, Councilor Doward- unexcused.

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

Others attending: Laura Simi, Marcia Sarvela, Judy Marsyla, Gary Marsyla, Bobby Kohmetscher, Ken Harju

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lucas thanked everyone for coming to meeting.

Mayor Lucas stated he is asking the council to approve Resolution 20203-02 Declaring Vacancy of seat. Ms. Doward has not come to a city council meeting since September 2022 and under the State Statue it is 90-Day Absence Rule, there were legal issues the city was contending with and were holding off on this until those legal issues were resolved.

- Motion to accept Resolution 2023-02 Declaring seat Vacancy.
- Motion made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
- Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas
- Motion adopted for Resolution 2023-02 Declaring a vacant seat on the council.

Mayor Lucas stated that there was a candidate willing to fill in the position. Mayor Lucas asked Mr. Harju if he was still interested in the position and stated that if Ms. Doward asks for her seat back that she will be put back in. Mr. Harju stated that he completely understands.

Ms. Doward was informed that if she did not attend this meeting that her seat would be vacated. Ms. Doward did not respond back.

Swearing in of Mr. Harju, to fill vacant seat.

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2023

- Motion to Accept consent agenda made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor Kohmetscher.
- Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas, Councilor Harju
- Nays: 0.
- Motion carries to approve the following consent agenda items:
 - Minutes of the January 3, 2023, regular council meeting
 - Claims (6646-6671=\$9,364.47)
 - Cash control statement, receipts, and disbursement registers.

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

- Regular daily, weekly, monthly work.
- Audit is finished, waiting on report.
- Lake Country Power fixed two of the streetlights and will remove the Christmas decorations when time is available.
- Contacted the county to have the parking lot sanded.
- Kathy has two training courses coming up: March 21-24, 2023, cost is \$305, and a grant was applied for. The other is May 8-12, 2023, cost is \$345, and a grant was applied for this one also.
- Email was sent to the owner of the roosters, notifying them again that the roosters need to be removed.
- Jerry will issue a tag on vehicles being parked on the street, blocking the snowplow, warning of towing if not removed.
- Jerry needs a new printer at the pump house.
- Sheriffs' department says water tampering is a civil matter, City Attorney says it is a misdemeanor. Kathy will contact the County attorney's office.
- Mr. Kasden continues to be an issue, the belongings he was supposed to remove are now frozen in. He has been placing his garbage cans in the middle of the street.
- Motion to approve Kathy's upcoming trainings in March and May made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
- Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Councilor Harju, Mayor Lucas.
- Nays: 0.
- Motion carries.

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2023

Utilities Department

- Water pumped in January 194,300 gallons.
- Kurt Hawkinson has been here working with Jerry on the water issues. The number 2 well is three times worse than the number 1 well, back washing the filter twice per week has helped. Trying to pump water only from well 1, had issues with the computer switching to well 2. The computer issues have been figured out and will now only be pumping from well 2 twice a month, as a back-up so it does not go stagnant. The orange water issue will not be resolved until spring when the water tower can be flushed.
- Markers have been placed on all hydrants except for the one by the church.
- The city truck was involved in a vehicle accident. Jerry was making a left-hand turn when the vehicle behind him tried to pass, resulting in a collision with the plow on the city truck. The sheriff's department responded and reported the accident. The other driver has been deemed at fault. Contact has been made with their insurance company. The plow has been temporarily fixed and the city is waiting for a quote on a permanent solution.

Fire and First Responder Department:

- Runs 2- fire, both mutual aid for Moose Lake. 6 – First Responder. The department is down to 1 first responder and looking for more.
- The Fire Commission Meeting is on February 28, 2023, at 6 pm
- No trainings in January
- The captain position is still open.
- The budget is still being discussed as an issue with Beaver Township leaving the fire service area has come up. Since the state mandated that the Kettle River Fire Department take over the area, Beaver Township will have to go through the state to find out if they can sign a contract with the McGregor Fire Department instead. Council suggested the Fire Department make two budgets, one with Beaver Township included and one without Beaver Township included.

City Council:

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2023

- Thanks to Mark Graves and Dan Davidson from Federated Co-op for helping with snow removal at the Veterans Building.
- The Annual BBQ will be held on May 6, 2023, from 12-4 pm. Motion to approve the date made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas, Councilor Harju. Nays: 0. Motion carries.
- Question for the Council if they have heard anything about Carlton County trying to close the county garage. Council has not heard anything from the County. The County will be having a meeting at the end of the month.

Committees-

Personnel Committee:

- Interviewed 3 candidates for the maintenance/custodial worker.
- They would like to recommend Alex Stolberg for the position as he has some experience. The other two applicants did not seem as qualified as Mr. Stolberg.
- Motion to accept Mr. Alex Stolberg as the new maintenance/custodial worker at \$14.00 per hour starting February 21, 2023, made by Councilor Mascarenas, and seconded by Councilor Harju.
- Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas, Councilor Harju.
- Nays: 0.
- Motion carries.

Planning and Zoning Commission:

- Meeting was cancelled due to not enough members in attendance. Next meeting is April 10, 2023, at 9 am.

Old Business:

- Playground Equipment: A list of items for needed for repairing needs to be compiled. If the supports are good and the metal is not rusted through it should be repaired in the spring. If the equipment is not repairable it will need to be demolished. The city would like to save up money to move the playground to the ball field in the future.

New Business:

- Kathy requested vacation April 3-6, 2023.

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2023

- Moose Lake Post Prom is asking for a donation from the city.
- Motion to approve donating to the Moose Lake Post Prom in the amount of \$50 made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas.
- Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas, Councilor Harju.
- Nays: 0.
- Motion carries.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor Harju.

Ayes: Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas, Councilor Harju.

Nays: 0.

Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next regular city council meeting will be held on, Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 7 pm in the meeting room of City Hall.

Submitted by,
Jamie Dobosenski
Account Clerk