

CITY OF KETTLE RIVER
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2022

Kettle River City Council meeting was held in the meeting room of City Hall, Monday, August 8, 2022.

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

Staff Attending: Kathryn Lake, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, Robert Tschida, Building Inspector, Jerry Peterson, Maintenance/ Utilities

Others attending: Laura Simi, Patty Lund, Ed Lund, Judi Collier, K. Peura, Tina Tollgaard, Sue Pedersen, Marcia Sarvela, Gary Marsyla, Judy Marsyla, Tom Simi, John Mikrot, Calen Eschenbach, Jesse Kemp, Kyle Riehl-Fire Chief

Guests:

Trey Morgan

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Trey Morgan attended for approval of Outdoor Event Permit for Tower Tap on August 12-14, 2022, from 12pm to 1am. Motion to approve made by Councilor Kohmetscher and 2nded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward

Motion to Accept agenda made by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Mascarenas. 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 12, 2022, regular meeting had to be updated due to clerical errors and unneeded old business minutes. Councilor Doward objected, stating that her name should not be included, and City Taxpayers should not have to pay attorney's fees for this matter. Mayor Lucas stated Councilor Doward is the reason why these attorneys' fees have incurred and that is why her name is included.
- Claims (6550, 6552-6562 = \$107,978.34)
- Cash control statement, receipt, and disbursement registers.

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

- Regular daily, weekly, monthly work.
- Waiting to hear from State if Jerry can take the 2-day course and license test for the water treatment plant. Asking for a motion to approve on the contingency State gives the ok. Cost is \$255+ hotel and will be held on Sept. 13-15, 2022. Motion made by Councilor Collier and 2nded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward. Motion carries.
- Kathy would like approval to go to the Clerks Academy Training on September 8 and 9, 2022. Cost is \$249+ hotel. Motion to approve made by Councilor Mascarenas and 2nded by Councilor Kohmetscher. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: Councilor Doward.
- Kathy talked to Tim Newgaard about a grant for playground equipment. It is a 50/50 grant and will get more information. Councilor Doward informed that she had also talked to someone about a playground grant and said it is 100% covered and the adult equipment would be a 50/50, she will forward the information.
- The county removed the old manhole from the recycling shed property but has not mowed behind it, Kathy will contact them to see when it will be done.
- In emails between Mayor Lucas and Councilor Doward about meeting notices it was suggested the date of posting be added. This will be done on all future meeting postings.

Utilities Department

- 181,600 gallons of water
- The 3 quarterly samples were done by July 26, 2022
- Work on water tower began on July 13, 2022. Bladder tank was brought in and hooked up on July 12, 2022, and water tower was drained. Bladder tank had issues on 28 and 29, issues were resolved and water samples from water tower were sent in for testing and passed. On the July 30, 2022, the water tower was put back into use and the bladder tank was removed.
- Met with Rural Water on the 29th, was informed everything looked good.
- Met with Department of Health on August 4, 2022, they are testing area wells for certain chemicals.
- June Drinking Water Report was completed

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- Potassium Permanganate Tank pump is not working, this chemical is used as a water softener, Jerry talked to Hawkins Chemical and is waiting on a quote for a new pump or for an alternative solution.
- Chlorine Pump was fixed again and is now working properly, the new pump has also been delivered for future need.
- Around the 20th of July it was noticed the secondary pond level was rising which should only happen if there is an abundance of rain. It was found that the pump was open partially. There has been no other issue since it was closed. Mayor Lucas recommended changing the locks on the gates.
- Still waiting on a quote for cleaning out the ditch

Fire and First Responder Department

- 3 fire calls and 3 EMS calls in July
- 2 fire calls and 3EMS calls in August
- Pumper truck broke down on July 4th on the way back from the parade. The rear seal on the pump transmission blew out. Thanks to Mark Peters Employer it was hauled down to Lino Lakes for a low cost. Lance at Emergency Apparatus was able to fix it for a cost \$9,926.55. The money will need to be paid out of the Capital Improvement Fund. The Fire Commission should be notified of this and if they wish a meeting can be held to discuss. Councilor Doward asked if the Council or Fire Commission needs to approve this and was informed that the Council does. Motion made to approve payment from the Capital Improvement Fund made by Councilor Collier and 2nded by Councilor Mascarenas. Aye: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: 0
- Tank testing is coming up, date and time still need to be confirmed. Meeting room will be needed. This is a yearly certification and is budgeted already.
- 2 new fire recruits still need to be interviewed. They are only available on weekends, interviews tentatively set for Sunday, August 14, 2022, between 12 pm and 3 pm. Councilor Doward asked if she could attend these interviews and Chief Riehl stated he and the mayor typically do the interviews then bring the information to the council. Councilor Doward requested to be included in a future interview to see how they are run.
- In September the Relief Association will be requesting and increase on the yearly amount paid out to fire fighters. Chief Riehl is waiting on information for a safe amount of increase and will pass on said information to Kathy before the Budget Meeting August 30, 2022.
- A request for a controlled burn on Walczak Road made by Kathy.
- Mayor Lucas requested to have someone from the fire department at the meetings in the absence of the Chief.

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City Council:

- Mayor Lucas would like to Thank Dan Reed and the Ma & Pa Committee for taking the time to paint the crosswalks. The council and city greatly appreciate it. Also, it was un-called for, for Councilor Doward to instead of offering help or asking if they had or needed permits, she tried to stop them from improving city safety. Councilor Doward responded that at the last council meeting they were told to get proper approval. She was informed that they did get approval as they stated at that meeting. Kathy informed everyone that the city and MnDOT have an agreement that the city will paint any cross walks needed. MnDOT will only paint the center and fog lines. Mayor Lucas asked Jerry and Bob to paint a cross walk from the old bank building to Todd Lawrences (across 1st Ave.) and any others that may be needed.

Committees-

Planning and Zoning Commission:

Personnel Committee:

- False allegations by Councilor Doward by email to Councilor Kohmetscher and Amber from the Minnesota League of Cities. In said emails Councilor Doward states she will be contacting the IRS because of tax fraud or evasion pertaining to Rob Tschida not filing taxes for the last three years. Councilor Doward was informed the city takes out the necessary taxes from Rob's Salary. Councilor Doward also alleges the hiring of Jamie Dobosenski was based on personal connections with Councilor Kohmetscher and that there was never a hiring process or application. Councilor Doward was informed this was false, there is an application, and an interview was held, and the application was passed out when the personnel committee made the recommendation. Councilor Doward also stated a city employee refused a certified letter from Councilor Doward. She was informed it was refused because it was addressed personally to Rob Tschida at the city's mailing address, because of this the post office is the one that returned it not the city.
- Councilor Doward also states the special meeting held to discuss the utilities/maintenance department was a waste of taxpayer dollars and could have been discussed at current meeting since there were still two remaining employees in that department. Councilor Doward was informed the special meeting was called to retain those employees and to discuss the job posting and having a utilities and maintenance department is important for the citizens safety.
- It was mentioned that Councilor Doward is the one wasting the taxpayer dollars with false allegations. An outburst from Councilor Doward results in an argument with the rest of the council in which Councilor Doward is called out of order

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when she shows her middle finger and a citizen reprimands the council saying that what is going on is shameful, recess is called at 8:05 pm.

- Mayor Lucas called 911 due to unruly behavior.

- Meeting is resumed after 30 minutes, and the personnel committee resumes with a letter to Rob Tschida from Councilor Doward accusing him of harassment and threatening to get his contractor license revoked and take him to civil court. This letter was in response to the ordinance violation letter pertaining to the 2nd green house Councilor Doward put up without a building permit. Mr. Tschida informed them that his contractor license and business have nothing to do with the city of Kettle River, yet she is still going after him personally.
- An incident report was filled out by an anonymous source stating that while they were at the post office a lady forced her to take papers she didn't want and felt harassed.
- Recommendation for Jamie Dobosenski's wage increase. Step structure needs to be revised first, will discuss at next meeting.

Building Inspector:

Safety Committee:

- Councilor Doward reached out to someone from OSHA and scheduled an evaluation for August 20, 2022. This is only for an evaluation and not infractions or fines will be given. A list of what needs to be to be fixed or changed will be given with a time frame for repairs. Council agrees this should be done and will be put on the agenda for the next council meeting as this should have been discussed by everyone before moving forward.

New Business:

- Resolution 2022-10 Adoption of the Carlton County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. 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.
- Intergovernmental Mutual Aid agreement with Cloquet Fire District- Cloquet has written their own and is similar to Carlton County's however they do state there may be an invoice on aid if mutual aid is not given on both sides. They do this because they have a district north of them that asks for aid but does not give aid. Motion to approve made by Councilor Mascarenas and seconded by Councilor

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- Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: 0 Motion carries.
- Resolution 2022-11 Code of Ethics and Conduct: For all city employees, council members and committee members. Need to have signed copies on file in office for everyone. Motion to approve made by Councilor Kohmetscher and seconded by Councilor Collier. Ayes: Council Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays: 0 Motion carries.
 - Mayor Lucas would like to know why Councilor Doward is sending out a newsletter on messenger about the city, when asked she said she just shared what she received. A citizen asked where she got her information from, and Councilor Doward responded it was from the Audit Book. When confronted with her previous statement that she did not write it, she said she was told the person that wrote it did a data request for the information, Kathy said that has not been done. Mayor Lucas also voiced that he didn't understand why Councilor Doward does not try to work for the city and improving it and why she does not bring her concerns to the council meetings, instead of causing issues.
 - Motion made to adjourn by Councilor Collier and seconded by Councilor Doward. Ayes: Councilor Collier, Councilor Kohmetscher, Councilor Doward, Councilor Mascarenas, Mayor Lucas. Nays:0. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.
 - The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7 p.m. Budget meeting Tuesday, August 30, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning meeting September 12, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jamie Dobosenski, Account Clerk

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