

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Jesse Garrett, Chris Shurrum, John Ridlington, Shellee Haynes, Cliff King and Michael Weatherman.

STAFF

Staff - Dave Willey, LeAnne Sanders, Brandon Hoover, Brian Heimbigner and Raena Hallam.

Guests -Chris Radar, Larry Kulesza, Joe and Jody Owens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

As there were no Announcements and Mail Received, City Council moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC HEARING - UTILITY RATES FOR WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE SERVICES

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the ordinances are ready for adoption to increase the water and sewer rates.

Mayor Garrett opened the Public Hearing to Public Comment at 7:03 p.m. to discuss water rates.

Mr. Larry Kulesza, 530 Juniper Street, asked what the proposed increases are for water and sewer.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam answered as follows:

Water In Town Base Rate: .50 cent increase
Water Out of Town Base Rate: \$1.00 increase
Sewer Base Rate: \$10 increase to base rate

Mr. Kulesza stated based on the water rate study and the October draft budget the water revenues exceed forecasted revenues. These numbers do not include the 4th quarter. Therefore, an increase to the water rate is not needed at this time. He feels the City is jumping the gun on an increase to the water base rates.

Water Fund History				
Fund Total Revenues (Rounded)				
Year	Actual	Yearly Difference	Goal	Shortfall
2021	\$ 786,300	\$ -		
2022	\$ 840,579	\$ 54,279		
2023	\$ 943,277	\$ 102,698		\$ 45,938
3Q 2024	\$ 987,867	\$ -	\$ 989,215	\$ 1,348
2025			\$ 1,019,869	
Water Fund Projection				
4Q 2024	\$100,000	ESTIMATE		
3Q 2024	\$987,867			
Total 2024	\$1,087,867			
2025 Goal	\$ 1,019,869			
Total 2024	\$ 1,087,867			
Surplus	\$ 67,998			
2027 Goal	\$ 1,088,004			
Total 2024	\$ 1,087,867			
Shortfall	\$ 137			
2028 Goal	\$ 1,125,744			
Total 2024	\$ 1,087,867			
Shortfall	\$ 37,877			

Mr. Kulesza further explained a 4% increase was already figured into the water rate study projections to meet the five-year projections.

Mayor Garrett closed the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Garrett opened the Public Hearing to Public Comment at 7:09 p.m. to discuss sewer rates.

Mr. Kulesza stated in the past it had been discussed to perform a sewer rate study.

Mayor Garrett stated City Council plans to do a sewer rate study in the near future, but the rate needs to be increased now as a stop gap until the sewer rate study is completed.

Mayor Garrett closed the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:25 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 BUDGET AND 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there have been no significant changes to the draft 2025 budget or 2024 budget amendment. Raena stated the 2025 budget ordinance is ready for adoption but asked City Council to not adopt the budget

amendment. Raena explained she will have a better idea of the amendments needed later in the month.

Mayor Garrett opened the Public Hearing to Public Comment at 7:28 p.m. No public comment was presented. Mayor Garrett closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2024 AND NOVEMBER VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL

Council Member Michael Weatherman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey reported that the new sewer pump is expected to arrive in the 3rd week of January 2025. The clarifier motor is not working properly. The department replaced the bearings, but the shaft doesn't look good and may need replaced soon. Dave further stated he supports conducting a sewer rate study.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey commended the department stating the Christmas lights are done and look really nice.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the department will be graveling the alleys as time permits.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the SCADA computer is fixed and they are fixing some water usage calculations. Should be completed tomorrow.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the City did not receive a grant from TIB for crack sealing. He stated he has spoke with Stevens County about getting a quote for crack sealing Meyers Street.

Mayor Garrett asked when the bid opening for the High School Sidewalk Project is. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated it is either December 17th or 18th, he will look tomorrow for details.

Council Member John Ridlington asked how much a sewer pump cost and if it breaks down can the wastewater treatment plant still operate. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey responded the cost is about \$35,000 and no, the City would need a utility pump.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Brandon Hoover reviewed the call log (copy on file).

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated he mentioned the proposed gun range rules at the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs meeting and didn't receive any opposition.

Police Chief Brandon Hoover stated one of the police cars needed the steering column replaced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Council Member John Ridlington stated the tree lighting is this Saturday. It will include a kids carnival, parade and lighting of the Christmas tree.

Council Member John Ridlington stated the Kettle Falls Rotary is holding their annual Breakfast with Santa on December 14th and will also be showing the movie Polar Express at the Woodland Theatre in the afternoon.

NEW BUSINESS

As there was no New Business, City Council moved on to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1834 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER RATES FOR WATER USERS.

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1834 by title only. Council Member Cliff King seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member John Ridlington - yes,

Council Member Chris Shurrum - no, Council Member Shellee Haynes - no, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 1835 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BASIC FLAT RATE FOR EQUIVALENT SEWER USERS.

Council Member John Ridlington made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1835 by title only. Council Member Michael Weatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - no, Council Member Shellee Haynes - no, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 1833 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF KETTLE FALLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

Council Member John Ridlington moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1833 by title only. Council Member Shellee Haynes seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member John Ridlington - yes, Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member Shellee Haynes - yes, Council Member Cliff King - yes and Council Member Michael Weatherman - yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PICKLEBALL COURT RESURFACE

Mr. Larry Kulesza stated he noticed the cracks were not filled with anything on the tennis court as part of the resurfacing project. Mayor Garrett stated the issue is being addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Approved:

Jesse Garrett, Mayor

Attest: _____
Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer