

**COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES
April 22, 2021
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The regular meeting of the Cotter City Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Caradine. He asked for roll call by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray. Present were: Council Members Chuck Sugg, Carolyn Gill, Cameron Ross, Mertice Kray, and Linda McCarthy. Councilman Mark Johnson was absent.

The invocation was given by Councilman Cameron Ross followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

REPORTS

Approval of the March 25, 2021, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to accept the minutes as written from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Works Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine
Fire Department Report was given by Assistant Fire Chief Jason Dunivan
Police Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray
Planning & Zoning Commission Report was given by Jason Nazarenko
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill
Tree Advisory Board had no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the first order of Unfinished Business, Mayor Caradine read into the minutes the sealed bids for the 2001 Ford Crown Vic for \$1525.00 to Lewis Auto. The 1978 Gaillon road grader went to Mike Richardson for \$3,500, and the compactor roller went to Brady Madden for \$226.00.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, Mayor Caradine updated Council on the grant application to the Arkansas Department of Transportation for recreational trails to request to repave walking path. Mayor Caradine and Councilman Chuck Sugg met with Chelsea Weaver from the NWEADD about resurfacing bids based on asphalt vs. concrete. The application would be a 80/20 split with the caveat that the grant reimburses the money. Thus the City would need all funding up front, and the application is due by June 1, 2021.

In the third order of Unfinished Business, Mayor Caradine updated Council on the Walnut Hill Cemetery Burial Plats. There are still 537 unsold plats with a breakdown of 111 groups of 4 plots, 4 triples, 24 doubles, and 33 singles. Mayor Caradine isn't going to proceed with looking to expand the cemetery at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Jason Nazarenko, President of the Cotter/Gassville Chamber of Commerce is requesting to rent the Park for Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) on June 19, 2021. He is asking to allow for craft beer vendors with applicable permitting to serve craft beer/wine to guests ages 21 & up identified by an arm band to be consumed in a designated area only during the event. He is asking for a one-time permission as was granted previously for another event and provides Council with a copy of Resolution from 2019. Steve Dally from Dally's Fly Shop also addressed Council explaining that he has wanted to bring this event to the area for about a decade. Both Mr. Dally and Mr. Nazarenko feel that the event encourages tourism, highlights Cotter's beauty, momentum in the path of growth. The sale of tickets will cover the cost of the movie to bring into the area with all funds raised given back to the community non-profits that focus on the river, the park, and our community.

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Councilwoman Mertice Kray asks where the designated area will be and if event organizers will be limited where and when it can be consumed. She also questions if the Cotter Chamber of Commerce has already applied with the F3T organization. Mr. Nazarenko foresees this portion of the activities being in the volleyball pit area with admittance by arm band or ticket.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray asks if it will be one brewery or several companies. Those details are not decided yet, but Mr. Dally and Mr. Nararenko both agree that it should be local craft brewers. Mayor Caradine encourages Mr. Nazarenko to consider only having one local brewer.

Mayor Caradine has consulted City Attorney Roger Morgan and he suggested acquiring three items before proceeding. They are a certificate of insurance for the event organizers, a rental agreement, and for Council to construct a 1-time Resolution for the event.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray asks if the event could take place without the sale of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Nazarenko says it can, but assures Council that he would be in charge of the event allowing no disturbances as well as not drinking himself the night of the event.

Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery shared that law enforcement has worked other types of event like this. He expresses that these owner's are artisans of their product/craft and it is a different type of crowd with more professionalism demonstrated.

Councilman Chuck Sugg's moves to have a Resolution brought before Council at the May 24, 2021, meeting to allow the Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce a 1-time allowance to proceed with such an event and allowing the sale of craft brews to be sold in the Big Spring Park with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passes with 3 in favor and Councilwoman Mertice Kray and Councilman Cameron Ross opposed.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2021-08-A Resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Cotter to utilize and apply for Federal Aid for Recreational Trails Program funds. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Resolution 2021-08-A Resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Cotter to utilize and apply for Federal Aid for Recreational Trails Program funds with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2021-09: A Resolution authorizing ESI to analyze water systems in downtown Cotter to search for funding from ANRC and other sources. Mayor Caradine explained the need to be ready and prepared for possible funding opportunities. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill states that ESI is wonderful about doing front work with the understanding payment will not come until the project completes. Councilman Cameron Ross moves to pass Resolution 2021-09: A Resolution authorizing ESI to analyze water systems in downtown Cotter to search for funding from ANRC and other sources with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves. Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read the Ordinance in its entirety. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to place Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves on its 1st reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves by title only and states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves on its 2nd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moves to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves on its 2nd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-03 by title only states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves can be placed on its 3rd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

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Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moves to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-03 by title only states that Ordinance 2021-03 has been properly read three times and could now be considered for passage.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance to increase the Fees for opening and closing graves with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** This Ordinance will go into effect 30 days from passage and will be posted in 5 separate locations.

In the fifth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine reviewed a list of properties unoccupied for more than 2-5 years that are in violation of City Ordinances. He has identified 12 properties in need of clean up or that are vacant that could be classified as a nuisance. He is contacting property owners and asking plans to clean up and has a lot of positive contact thus far.

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine read into the minutes the termination of tax paying off the 2002 Sewer Revenue Bond for plant expansion as well as read into the minutes the 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. In April, a proclamation of Ordinances for the May 11th Ballot will be posted in the Baxter Bulletin. There will be a public information meeting to answer questions pertaining to continuation of the 1% sales tax at the firehouse at 6:00 pm on April 26, 2021. The Cotter Trout Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021 in Big Spring Park. A Special Election will be held on May 11th at Wesley United Church to extend the 1% sales tax to pay for Water and Sewer Improvement Projects. The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on May 11, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Arkansas Ultra Running Championship May 23-24, 2021, Big Spring Park Walking Trail

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

Donna Powell, Mertice Kray, and Linda McCarthy presented the City of Cotter with a check for \$4,242.91 which is the interest from the Walnut Hill Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund. They shared that the new directory and maps are posted and the project has been a labor of love as Donna Powell and Mertice Kray have worked tirelessly in verifying these records for over a year or more. They encourage the City to look into funding to provide markers for unmarked graves.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Nazarenko reminds audience of the city wide yard sale and offers his assistance to move any large items to the curb. He also shared that there will be a parade at the festival this year. He also has the little flags for the graves given to him by Linda Reed from the American Legion.

Andrea Kray shared the Cotter FFA's current nutrition grant/program and asked any residents over the age of 60 wanting free eggs to please contact FFA Advisor Adriane Watts at the Cotter High School.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for attending and is happy about this new event.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comment.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanks everyone for attending.

Councilman Cameron Ross is excited for the upcoming Trout Festival.

Councilman Linda McCarthy encourages all to attend the Cotter Trout Festival.

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Mayor Caradine had no further comments.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

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