

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES
March 25, 2021
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The regular meeting of the Cotter City Council was called to order at 6:00 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, Linda McCarthy, and Mark Johnson.

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

REPORTS

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

Public Works Department Report was given by Justin Morrow
Fire Department Report was given by Chief Lyle Jack
Police Department Report was given by Chief Travis Hopson
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 gave an update on Ordinances 2020-05, 2020-06, 2020-08, 2021-01, and 2021-02. Ordinances are currently bring posted in 5 locations across the city and he is still working on installing lockable bulletin boards at a couple of the locations. All Ordinances on file at Cotter City Hall and are also filed with the Baxter County Clerk's Office.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, Mayor Caradine asked Council to review two items on the Sales Tax Ballot with voting set of May 11, 2021. He reviewed the dates of the public meeting as well as when early voting begins. He mentioned that the public meeting will be taking place at the Firehouse and floors are currently being cleaned for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first, second, and third orders of New Business, Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray suggested that Council discuss all three items at the same time and then consider all three items with one motion. The items considered to accept bids on are a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria from Police Department inventory, a 1978 Gallion motor grader and a compactor roller machine from Street Department Inventory. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept bids for the sale of these 3 items with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine informed Council that the City of Cotter did not receive funding for street paving for 2021, and he will continue to evaluate and prioritize the list of needed repairs and apply again next year.

In the fifth order of New Business, Public Works Director Justin Morrow asked Council to consider reviewing the cost to open and close graves in Walnut Hill Cemetery. Currently, the Public Works Department is having to move headstones or can't get the grave dug due to our equipment being too big to maneuver without collapsing graves. This is a liability to the city. He states it is a very old cemetery, and the roads are not laid out

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in a straight row causes issues when operating heavy equipment. Also in the newer section, he is dealing with solid rock and opening the grave takes longer. When these issues occur, services have to be hired out. He suggests raising our fees and hiring the process out completely. A majority of council members were in agreement with these policy suggestions, and Mayor Caradine will bring back either a resolution or ordinance for Council to consider next month.

In the sixth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2021-07: A Resolution to apply to a Grant Program by Arkansas Dept of Transportation for Recreational Trails. This matching grant opportunity would allow for repaving the walking path circle to the railroad bridge and back to the pavilion. It would also make the path ADA compliant. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill asked can the funds that Public Works Director Justin Morrow raises through the annual BBQ Fundraiser in the Park be used as part of the matching funds. The answer is yes. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Resolution 2021-07: A Resolution to apply to a Grant Program by Arkansas Dept of Transportation for Recreational Trails with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During information, Proof of Posting of Annual Cash-flow Financials 2020 City Municipal Funds and 2020 Water Department Funds were read into the minutes. A Proclamation of Ordinances for the May 11th Election Ballot shall be posted in Baxter Bulletin for 1 day by the Election Commission in the month of April. A Public Information Q & A on Special Election Sales Tax Ballot will be held on April 26, 2021, at 6:30 pm at the Cotter Fire Station. 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, and the Arkansas Ultra Running Championship May 23-24, 2021, at the Big Spring Park Walking Trail. A new piece of playground equipment was installed at the Stone Family Park and pictures of the slide were shared. The Cotter Trout Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021 in Big Spring Park and Jason Nazarenko gave an update specifically about the fundraising efforts to purchase a new trout net to use during the event. There are 30+ vendors so far, 3 bands, a duck race, a baseball tournament, and much more. Pedestrian signs will be placed along Hwy 365, and six cameras have been installed inside the Big Spring Park.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

Jason Nazarenko addressed the issue of "Keeping Cotter Clean" and urged Council to review a copy of the 2008-10 Nuisance Ordinance and impress upon the citizens of Cotter to take advantage of the large item/bulk trash pickup scheduled for April 26, 2021. He had documentation of immediate areas of concern on South Street causing bad smells, standing water, vehicles without tags, etc... Police Chief Travis Hopson said that city violations tags are going to start and if clean up doesn't occur, tickets will be issued.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Audience Announcements

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for coming and says to stay safe.

Councilman Mark Johnson had no comment.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill asked for a Tennis Court Project update.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone for coming out and thanked Jason Nazarenko for keeping Council informed of not only events, but areas of concern in our City. She wished everyone a Happy Easter and invited them to the sunrise service at the Fire Department.

Councilman Cameron Ross stated he was excited for all the upcoming events. He invites everyone to the sunrise service at 7:00 am at the Firehouse and mentions that he is looking for a house to purchase in Cotter.

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Councilman Linda McCarthy thanked everyone that helped with the benefit for Jason and Andrea. Jason updated Council on his wife at this time.

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 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

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