

**COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES
August 26, 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 July 22, 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 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 not given as there was no meeting
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill
Tree Advisory Board was given by Marcia Taylor during New Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the first order of Unfinished Business, the USDA Grant 75% Grant (maximum \$50,000) for the Purchase of a Case Backhoe for the Street Department was approved.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, the City of Cotter received 50% of the fund in the amount of \$98,154 from ADFA for the American Recuse Plan. The other half will be received in 2022. The City will now advertise for bids for the water tower for another pump and a mixing system in the tank. The City is also looking for a generator to place at the water tower.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Marcia Taylor with Cotter Tree Advisory Board presented \$2,000 check from Arkansas Flower and Garden Show Grant for Bynum Roadside Park. She provided Council with a visual placement of the proposed trees. With the City agreeing to provide maintenance and upkeep, the trees are scheduled to be here in October 2021.

In the second order of New Business, Jason Nazarenko, President of Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce to updated Council on the Bridge Lights Project. He shared that a fundraising night was held on 7/29/21 and to-date, \$207,625.00 have been pledged to the project with \$141,625.00 deposited of those monies pledged. The lights will now and forever be known as The Peitz River Lights. He also shared that the first lighting will take place on December 1st to kick off the Christmas in Cotter celebration. He shared the feature article in the Mountain Echo and shared the website is still being updated with donor information and recognition spotlights. Mayor Caradine stated the lights are 5 weeks out from being installed and the utilities would be approximately \$100 per month.

In the third order of New Business, Council considered passage of Resolution 2021-16: A Budget Resolution – to the 2021 General Funds operating budget to reflect current grants received this year. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to pass Resolution 2021-16 with noted corrections from himself, Mayor Caradine, and

ORIGINAL

Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray. Councilwoman Mertice Kray provided a second and **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine shared a chart of the current 2021 Grant Database and open grants the City of Cotter has currently active. He said that he has been advised to close out and finalize some of these open grants before pursuing any further funding for projects.

In the fifth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine gave a preliminary update on the Census numbers and shared that the Census is in talks to recount in 2023 due to numbers being significantly lower due to trying to collect data at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine shared that the Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce - Movie in the Park will be held on August 27, 2021, 8:30 pm, in Big Spring Park under the Bridge. He also shared that the 2nd Annual Big Spring River Rally will be held on August 28th sponsored by Iron Horse Disciples. This is a Bike Show, Poker Run, Music and Vendors where all proceeds go to support the Cotter Backpack Program. Please contact Curtis Traylor for Vendor Booth Space. He also shared that he is looking for volunteer and committee members to help with 2021 Christmas in Cotter. First meeting will be on September 13th at 6:00 pm at Cotter City Hall.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

No sign-ins at this time.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shannon Nelms thanked the City of Cotter for the gravel.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanked all those in attendance.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comment.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked the fire department, the tree advisory board, and the chamber of commerce for attending and is proud of all their hard work they are doing for the City of Cotter.

Councilman Cameron Ross thanked Jason Nazarenko for his hard work in relighting the bridge. He also shares that he is still looking for a house to purchase.

Councilman Linda McCarthy had no comment.

Mayor Caradine expressed his sincerely gratitude to Jan and Peter Peitz for their grand generosity in being the top donor in relighting the bridge.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 6:46 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

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