

**COTTER CITY**  
**COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**December 17, 2020**  
**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 and John Bell. Councilwoman Kerry Ann White 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 August 27, 2020, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept the minutes as written from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman John Bell. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the October 15, 2020, Special minutes was the first item of business. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to accept the minutes as written from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Works and Fire Department Reports were submitted as is as neither department head could attend.  
Police Department Report was given by Chief Travis Hopson  
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray  
There was no Planning & Zoning Commission Report  
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission were submitted as is

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

In the first order of New Business, Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Resolution 2020-16-- A Resolution to enter into Cotter-Gassville Interlocal Agreement. Roger Morgan, City Attorney, addressed Council regarding the Resolution explaining his recommendation in moving forward with passage of said Resolution. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to pass Resolution 2020-16-- A Resolution to enter into Cotter-Gassville Interlocal Agreement with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business, Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Resolution 2020-17. Council considered Resolution 2020-17—A Resolution to enter into Engineering Contract with ESI, Inc. Roger Morgan, City Attorney, addressed Council regarding the need to take this next step and enter in the agreement. Councilman John Bell moved to pass Resolution 2020-17—A Resolution to enter into Engineering Contract with ESI, Inc. with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

At this time, Mayor Caradine asked Council if the Agenda could be rearranged presenting Resolution 2020-18 after the reading of the Ordinances. Hearing no objections, Mayor Caradine proceeded with Ordinance 2020-05.

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2020-05—Continue a Levy of a 1% Sales and Use Tax to Finance Capital Improvements for Water and Sewer projects. Mayor Caradine reads guidance from Ryan Bowman, Municipal League Lawyer and then asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Ordinance

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2020-05 in its entirety. Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-05—Continue a Levy of a 1% Sales and Use Tax to Finance Capital Improvements for Water and Sewer projects in its entirety. Councilman John Bell moves to place Ordinance 2020-05—Continue a Levy of a 1% Sales and Use Tax to Finance Capital Improvements for Water and Sewer on its 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-05 by title only and states that the Ordinance will be placed on the January 2021 Agenda to be considered for its second reading.

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2020-06—Calling for a Special Election of Levying a One Percent Sales (1%) and Use Tax. Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Ordinance 2020-05 in its entirety. Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-06 in its entirety. Councilman Cameron Ross moves to place Ordinance 2020-06—Calling for a Special Election of Levying a One Percent Sales (1%) and Use Tax on its 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-06 by title only and states that the Ordinance will be placed on the January 2021 Agenda to be considered for its second reading.

In the fifth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2020-07—Calling for a Special Election of Issuing Bonds Under Amendment 62 for the Purpose of Financing a portion of the cost of the Sewer Improvements. Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Ordinance 2020-07 in its entirety. Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-07—Calling for a Special Election of Issuing Bonds Under Amendment 62 for the Purpose of financing a portion of the cost of the Sewer Improvements in its entirety. Discussion by Council pertaining to if the bond doesn't pass, will the City of Cotter raise water rates. City Attorney Roger Morgan explains how the bonds secure the loan from the USDA and repayment is from the collect sales tax. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moves to place Ordinance 2020-07—Calling for a Special Election of Issuing Bonds Under Amendment 62 for the Purpose of financing a portion of the cost of the Sewer Improvements on its 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2020-07 by title only and states that the Ordinance will be placed on the January 2021 Agenda to be considered for its second reading.

In the sixth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2020-18—A Resolution to adopt the 2021 Operating Budget for the City of Cotter, Arkansas. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Resolution 2020-18—A Resolution to adopt the 2021 Operating Budget for the City of Cotter, Arkansas with a second provided by Councilman John Bell. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the seventh order of New Business, Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to renew the \$110 yearly membership fee of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the eighth order of New Business, Council considered and declined purchasing the Municipal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance.

In the ninth order of New Business, it was read into the meeting minutes that the City of Cotter will add 40 hours sick time hours to each employee related to COVID for year 2021

In the tenth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine appointed Council Member Carolyn Gill to the Cotter-Gassville Sewer Commission

### **INFORMATION**

During information, Mayor Caradine stated that the City of Cotter Received CARES Act Funding in the Amount of \$32,598.29 as well as the Arkansas Rural Community Grant in the amount \$13,053.61, which is a matching grant from Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the Fire Department Extrication Equipment. The 2019 Cotter Municipal Water and Wastewater Fund Audit was submitted by Brian Hass to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee for review on October 8, 2020. Christmas in Cotter—Tour of Lights is scheduled for December 1-31, 2020, and the Christmas in Cotter will be held in Big Spring Park December 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 pm. Santa Claus and Polar Express Train Conductor. Free Christmas Face Mask will be handed out during the

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event. House Decoration judging is on December 17th by Representative Jack Fortner and Gassville Mayor Jeff Braim and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place winners will be announced on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

No sign-up sheet requests.

### AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gill announced that she appreciated the email from the Mayor pertaining to the passing of Billy Gaines who served on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission in previous years.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for working together this year. He appreciates all the people in the different departments and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill thanks everyone and asks the Mayor to set the swearing in ceremony for January 2, 2021, at 10:00 am. She also asks Mayor Caradine for an update on the bathroom project at Big Spring Park.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray appreciates John and Kerry Ann White's service to the City and is looking forward to working with Mark and Linda as they join the Council in January. She is also looking forward to honoring Officer Quilhot on his passing the Academy.


Councilman Cameron Ross thanked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray for reading all the Ordinances tonight. He thanks John Bell for his service to the City. He wishes all a Merry Christmas and extends an invitation to his Church's Sunday night program.

Councilman John Bell appreciates everyone in the City and all the hard work they do making Cotter a great town. He appreciates all the support and has enjoyed watching our town grow and flourish.

Mayor Caradine updated Council on the improvements to the bathrooms at the Big Spring Park adding the roof insulation, automatic lights, exhaust fan, hands free water and flushing elements totally \$44,516.00 in total costs that were covered by matching grant, CARES Act money, and re-appropriated monies from the former Spring House project, making the actual cost \$1,298.00. He also thanks John Bell for his service to the City.

Councilman John Bell moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

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