

**COTTER CITY  
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
August 25, 2022 -- 6:00 p.m.**

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 July 28, 2022, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept the minutes with noted corrections from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **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 given by Jason Nazarenko  
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Schuyler Brower  
Tree Advisory Board was given by Marcia Taylor  
Monthly Financials were provided to Council in their packets

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

In the first order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-13 – A Resolution to correct incorrect deposit account by DF&A received for the Police Stipend. The sender of the funds coded and directly deposited the funds to the incorrect account. This resolution provides a correction to place those funds their proper account. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moves to pass Resolution 2022-13 – A Resolution to correct incorrect deposit account by DF&A received for the Police Stipend with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-14 – A Resolution to set Baxter County Property Tax Levy (Mills) for Cotter to be accessed in 2022 to be collected in 2023. Councilman Mark Johnson moved to pass Resolution 2022-14 – A Resolution to set Baxter County Property Tax Levy (Mills) for Cotter to be accessed in 2022 to be collected in 2023 with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-15 – A Resolution to apply for Urban & Community Forestry Grant to Trim Trees in Big Spring Park and Warrior Park. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill asked if the City considered doing the older tress first. Mayor Caradine confirmed that the planning had not focused on the oldest trees first, but that if there were extra funds, other trees could be added. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to pass Resolution 2022-15 – A Resolution to apply for Urban & Community Forestry Grant to Trim Trees in Big Spring Park and Warrior Park with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-16 – A Resolution for Loan and Grant from USDA for funding the Phase II Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project. Mayor Caradine provided an in-depth update on the progress/status of the project. He covered concerns pertaining to manholes, easements, and meetings with land owners, engineers, and our city attorney. The Mayor along with Schuyler Brower and Neal Hodges met to discuss the current loan resolution ensuring that the letter of conditions is being followed.

Mayor Caradine then asked Schuyler Brower to expand on the topic. The 1% sales tax renewal is in place to help with financing the cost of the project. If the project goes over budget, there is a possibility of increasing the loan and both mayors, the Cotter/Gassville commission chair are constantly looking, addressing, and working on the project. They hope to be breaking ground on these much needed repairs next year. There is a debt service/asset reserve requirement of 1 years' worth of payments for emergency and by the time the project starts the City of Cotter will almost have their share of the debt service/asset reserve in place.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill asks if we get bids back and its higher, does the City have to repeat the entire process again. Mayor Caradine states he does not have an answer for that question at this time. Councilwoman Mertice Kray questions the inner city agreement. Does this loan application effect the current agreement? Mayor Caradine states that it does not.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moves to pass Resolution 2022-16 – A Resolution for Loan and Grant from USDA for funding the Phase II Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously with 6 yeas and 0 nays.**

### **INFORMATION**

During information, Mayor Caradine shared the Cotter-Gassville Sewer Commission a letter to Arkansas Natural Resource Commission requesting financial consideration for Phase II Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project from the state ARPA American Rescue Program Act funds when available. He also encouraged Residents in the City of Cotter to fill our Survey received for Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District to be eligible for Grants. He explained the requirements of the Council obtaining 8 hours of Retail Water Provider Board Training for Act 605 of 2021. He advertised the Free Classic Movie in the Park on Saturday September 10, 2022 and October 8, 2022 at 8:30 in Big Spring Park under the Bridge. He also announced the Cotter Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary there annual fundraiser Chili and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 12th and Garage Sale on November 11th & 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS**

No sign-ins at this time.

### **AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bob Zdora asked what the old VFW was going to be. Mayor Caradine does not know at this time. He only knows that there is a lot of clean up occurring right now.

Chief Travis Hopson announced that the annual Block Party will be held on 10/1/22. He'll be finalizing locations and make posters/flyers for the event.

Linda Zdora said that cotterbridge.org has a live webcam to view the Cotter Bridge Lights at night.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for coming and thanks the Chief for doing a great job.

Councilman Mark Johnson thanks all city employees for their hard work as the City is a very busy place.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill thanks our Water Department crew for their constant checking and watching for leaks in the area. They are also quick to respond. She appreciates them.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone in attendance and appreciates the Mayor keeping everyone updated and on the same page for the Phase II project. That project has a lot of layers and checkboxes and she appreciates the time he has put into the project.

Councilman Cameron Ross also recognizes and appreciates the Mayor's service to the City of Cotter and appreciates all that he does.

**ORIGINAL**

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy says it is good to see so many in attendance and that there was also a great turnout for the Baxter County Parade.

Mayor Caradine is looking for volunteers to help with putting up lights for Christmas in Cotter. They will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in November to get started. He also mentioned that the Chamber was thinking of having a camera placed in the park for live views of the festivities.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL