

**COTTER CITY  
COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
December 15, 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, Mark Johnson, Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, Linda McCarthy, and Cameron Ross.

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

**REPORTS**

Approval of the November 17, 2022, 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 with Mark Johnson abstaining.**

Public Works Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine  
Fire Department Report was given by Chief Lyle Jack  
Police Department Report was given by Travis Hopson (Mark Clark was 1st in Class at Officer Training)  
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray  
Planning & Zoning Commission Report—no report given  
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill  
Tree Advisory Board was given by Mayor Caradine  
Monthly Financials were provided to Council in their packets

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Caradine updated the Council on the Water and Sewer application to the ANRC per Resolution 2022-18 and Resolution 2022-19. There were 182 applications and 270 million dollars in funds requested. Cotter's application didn't make the cut as most projects were approved for bigger cities. Not a single Baxter County application was approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

In the first order of New Business, Council heard from Brian Haas, CPA, as he presented the 2021 Water and Sewer Annual Budget. He stated that the City is in fantastic shape in not owing expenses, setting budgets and sticking to them, which is incredibly hard with the current status of inflation. Councilman Chuck Sugg moves to grant permission to Brian Haas to file the Audit with a second provided by Councilman Mark Johnson. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-20: A Resolution to adopt the 2023 City Operating Budget with the few changes brought forth at the Budget Workshop. It was stated that this budget is 19% less compared to the 2022 City Budget. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adopt Resolution 2022-20: A Resolution to adopt the 2023 City Operating Budget with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2022-21: A Resolution to amend the budget to receipt additional grant funds for the Police Department vehicle. Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to pass Resolution 2022-21: A Resolution to amend the budget to receipt additional grant funds for the Police Department vehicle with 2 noted corrections with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to have Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue placed on its 1st reading in its entirety by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passes**

**ORIGINAL**

**unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue in its entirety.

Councilman Mark Johnson moved to have Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue placed on its 2nd reading by title only by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passes unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue by title only for its 2nd reading.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to have Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue placed on its 3rd reading by title only by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passes unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue by title only for its 3rd and final reading.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue with a second provided by Councilman Mark Johnson. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Ordinance 2022-09: An Ordinance to establishing a Civil and Small Claims Court Venue as an emergency with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the fifth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine presented the 2021 Water and Sewer Rate Study prepared by the Arkansas Rural Water Association per ACT 605. He shared the rates and would like to explore an Ordinance to increase water rates due as the study shows that Cotter is behind by \$105,195 in revenue to cover the current expenses as well as to be able to budget for repairs. **No action taken.**

In the sixth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine asked Council to schedule a Workshop to discuss a water rate increase recommended by the ARWA. Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to set a workshop on January 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passes unanimously.**

### **INFORMATION**

During information, Mayor Caradine Christmas in Cotter Event with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 17, 2022, from 5 to 7 pm. He also stated that newly elected Council members may take the Oath of Office January 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Baxter County Courthouse or sworn in by the Mayor at our member on January 9, 2023.

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

No sign-ins at this time.

### **AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jason Nazarenko-appreciates all the hard work of the Council as well as Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for attending and appreciates the service the Fire, Police, and City departments.

Councilman Mark Johnson states he is happy to be a part of the Council and won't rule out running again in the future.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comments.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanks Mark Johnson for his service to the city and hopes everyone has a very blessed holiday with their families.

**ORIGINAL**

Councilman Cameron Ross thanks Mark Johnson for serving. He states the City of Cotter has been spoiled with Melissa serving as our bookkeeper and thanks Andrea Kray for serving as Recorder/Treasurer. He also invites everyone to attend the Christmas Church program at his church the following Sunday.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy hopes to see everyone at the Christmas in Cotter event.

Mayor Caradine appreciates Mark Johnson serving on the Council and hopes he returns one day. The Council has done a lot this year and he appreciates everyone's willingness to serve our community.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray.  
**Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 6:51 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:

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

ORIGINAL