

**COTTER CITY  
COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
January 26, 2023 -- 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, Mertice Kray, Linda McCarthy, and Cameron Ross. Councilwoman Shelia Wingard 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 December 15, 2022, 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 Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously with Mark Johnson abstaining.**

Public Works Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine  
Fire Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine  
Police Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine  
Building Permit Report and 2022 Residential New Construction 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 was given by Mayor Caradine  
Monthly Financials were provided to Council in their packets

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

In the first order of New Business, Jason Nazarenko addressed Council pertaining to the Fly Fishing Film Tour (FT3) movie under the Cotter Bridge on 5/27/23. He is asking a for a 1-time permit to allow sales of craft beers in Big Spring Park during the event. This request has to be approved by a resolution and if Council is in agreement, Mayor Caradine will bring forth a resolution at the next Council meeting. Discussion was had if it was still going to be only one vendor and still in a roped off area. **No action taken.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2023-01: A Resolution to adopt the 2022 year-end amended budget showing revenues and expenditures for the City of Cotter, Baxter County Arkansas. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Resolution 2023-01: A Resolution to adopt the 2022 year-end amended budget showing revenues and expenditures for the City of Cotter, Baxter County Arkansas with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2023-02: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council member Code of Conduct. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to pass Resolution 2023-02: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council member Code of Conduct with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2023-03: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council Member Code of Meetings and Activities. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Resolution 2023-03: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council Member Code of Meetings and Activities with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passes unanimously.**

In the fifth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605. Mayor Caradine shared that the last time rate have been raised were in 2009. Since the release of ACT 605,

more requirements and studies has shown that the City of Cotter is not covering the costs of its water system at the current rates. Mayor Caradine provided an in-depth explanation of the rate study and projected increases. The proposed rate increase is \$2.75 on the first 1000 gallons consumed and goes up from there. Councilman Cameron Ross moved to have Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 read in its entirety with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passes unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 in its entirety.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to have Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 placed on its 2nd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. **Motion passes unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 by title only.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to have Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 placed on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passes unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 by title only.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to pass Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance to increase customer water rates per the rate study completed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association pursuant to ACT 605 as an emergency with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill. **Motion passes unanimously.**

At 7:04 p.m., Cameron Ross excused himself from the meeting.

### **INFORMATION**

During information, Mayor Caradine shared the announcement of 2023 City Organizational Committee Members and will post them on the City's website. He read into minutes Proof of Posting of the final revenues and expenditures for 2022 Operation Budget has been posted for 30 days as well as read into minutes that the Waterworks Customer Deposit Funds ending in #7218 has been closed due to repetitive fraudulent activity and a new Waterworks Customer Deposit Fund ending in #3292 has been opened as a replacement. He also read into minutes by title only the Semi-annual Report 2022-02 of inventory items purchase/retired items, and he read into minutes Proof of Posting of the 2023 Operating Budget was posted for 30 days. Finally, he read into minutes that City of Cotter will have Yelcot Support wipe old computers of data. He announced the annual Cotter Trout Festival will be held on May 6, 2023, the F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour will be held on May 27, 2023, and that the Cotter Fly Casting Contest will be held on May 27, 2023. Jason Nazarenko added that the Trout Fest is being sponsored this year by 1st Security Bank and that there will be a raffle of a Shawnee Boat. All ticket sales after expenses will be donated funds to the Cotter/Gassville Chamber of Commerce. Also, there will be a Poker Run with stops in Calico Rock, Mountain Home and Searcy and any person participating in that separate event will receive an extra entry ticket for stopping at those three locations.

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

Jason Nazarenko addressed Council pertaining to a new Trout Fest After Party where he is requesting a 1-time use permit to host a craft beer tent at this After Party event sponsored by 1st Security Bank. Since this is a festival permit, multiple craft beverage vendors are eligible to apply to attend. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill questions what the benefit to Cotter is for these addition to the event. Jason explains that the benefit would be the attraction of people to the area that might rent accommodations, visit local restaurants and businesses. Councilwoman Mertice Kray questions if this was 1st Security Bank's suggestion or did the suggestion come from him. It was Jason's suggestion. If this is to be considered, it would need a Resolution present before Council.

**AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None at this time.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Chuck Sugg stated it was an interesting night.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comment.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone for attending.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy had no comment.

Mayor Caradine appreciates the people in attendance.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy.  
**Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:

  
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Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray