

**COTTER CITY
COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 23, 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, Shelia Wingard, Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, and Linda McCarthy. Cameron Ross was absent.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Mertice Kray followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

REPORTS

Approval of the February 23, 2023, 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 Carolyn Gill. **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.
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was not given.
Tree Advisory Board was not given.
Monthly Financials were provided to Council in their packets

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Mayor Caradine had Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read the resignation letter of Cameron Ross from Ward 3, Position 2. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to accept the resignation as read with a second provided by Councilwoman Shelia Wingard. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mayor Caradine announced the open position and asked any interested persons to please contact him if interested.

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance to follow recommendations by Arkansas Rural Water Association 2022 Sewer Rate Study to increase customer sewer rates annually starting in 2024. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to have Ordinance 2023-02 read in its entirety with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. Mayor Caradine entertained a comment from the audience at this time by Kay Laughry. She questioned why the City of Cotter is going forward with this ordinance and its time frame. Mayor Caradine stated it was at the recommendation of the sewer rate study to ensure that the inflation was accounted for and that the sewer department could successful cover its operating expenses in the years to come. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-02 in its entirety.

Councilwoman Shelia Wingard moved to place Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance to follow recommendations by Arkansas Rural Water Association 2022 Sewer Rate Study to increase customer sewer rates annually starting in 2024 on its second reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-02 by title only.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to place Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance to follow recommendations by Arkansas Rural Water Association 2022 Sewer Rate Study to increase customer sewer rates annually starting in 2024 on its third reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2023-02 by title only.

Councilwoman Shelia Wingard moved to pass Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance to follow recommendations by Arkansas Rural Water Association 2022 Sewer Rate Study to increase customer sewer rates annually starting in 2024 with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance to follow recommendations by Arkansas Rural Water Association 2022 Sewer Rate Study to increase customer sewer rates per 4% annually starting in 2024 as an emergency with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Mayor Caradine sought Council's approval to move forward on the construction of the sidewalks in the Big Spring Park based on the grant funding received. Councilwoman Mertice Kray with a second provided by Councilman 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.**

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine shared that the 2022 Financial Statement for Cotter has been posted for 30 Days (Proof of Posting) and that the Annual Cash Flow Financials for Year 2022 Municipal Funds and Water Department Funds shall be posted for 30 days at Cotter City Hall and the Cotter Post Office. There is a vacancy on City Council and those interested should contact the Mayor prior to April 21, 2023. The City of Cotter was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a 2022 Tree City USA. The Annual Cotter Trout Festival is May 6, 2023. The F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour May 27, 2023, and the Cotter Fly Casting Contest May 27, 2023.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

None at this time

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay Laughry asked if Mayor Caradine can state the names of the 2 interested candidates for the open office, and he can't at this time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg stated that the Big Spring Park looks really nice after cutting the trees.

Councilwoman Shelia Wingard asked for clarification on the appointment and voting at the next meeting. Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray provided procedural information for the entire Council addressing this topic.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comment.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray congratulated the Tree Board and is excited for the crepe myrtles along the highway.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy stated the Trout Festival Plans are going well.

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

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray