

**COTTER CITY
COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
January 25, 2024 -- 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 Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, Chuck Sugg, and Linda McCarthy. Absent was: Shelia Wingard.

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

REPORTS

Approval of the November 30, 2024, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to accept the minutes as presented from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray.

Approval of the November 30, 2024, special minutes was the second item of business. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to accept the minutes as presented from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill.

Public Works Department Report was given by Justin Morrow.
Fire Department Report was given by Chief Lyle Jack
Police Department Report was given by Interim Chief Michael Paterson
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray
Planning & Zoning Commission Report was given by Jason Nazarenko.
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, Council heard from interested applicants for Ward3, Position 2. Mr. Ben Woodard addressed Council expressing his interest in being appointed to the position. With no other interested applicants, Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to appoint Ben Woodard to fulfill the remaining Alderman term for Ward 3, Position 2 with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mayor Caradine then proceeded to swear Ben Woodard into office. This term will end on December 31, 2024. Ben Woodard join the rest of the Alderman on the Council bench and finished the meeting as a voting member of Council.

In the second order of New Business, Jason Nazarenko addressed Council pertaining to the F3T Fly Fishing Film Festival. This year's festival will take place earlier in the evening and he is working on a new digital screen instead of using the bridge support beams. He is seeking Council's consideration of a resolution at next month's meeting for a one-time request to have a beer garden at the festival.

In the third order of New Business, the Cotter/Gassville Chamber of Commerce made a donation of \$13,500.00 for the City of Cotter to use in pursuing funding for sidewalk lights around the new sidewalk on the north side of the park.

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-01: A resolution to adopt the 2023 year-end amended budget. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Resolution 2024-01: A resolution to adopt the 2023 year-end amended budget with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fifth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-02: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council member Code of Conduct. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Resolution 2024-02: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council member Code of Conduct with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the sixth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-03: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council Member Code of Meeting/Activities. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Resolution 2024-03: A Resolution establishing a Cotter City Council Member Code of Meeting/Activities with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ORIGINAL

In the seventh order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-04: A Resolution to amend the 2024 budget to receipt a donation from the Chamber of Commerce - light the bridge fund, for additional matching funds in the amount of \$13,500 for Arkansas Rural Community Development grant for installing light bollards along the new sidewalk under the bridge in the Big Spring Park. Councilman Ben Woodard moved to pass Resolution 2024-04: A Resolution to amend the 2024 budget to receipt a donation from the Chamber of Commerce - light the bridge fund, for additional matching funds in the amount of \$13,500 for Arkansas Rural Community Development grant for installing light bollards along the new sidewalk under the bridge in the Big Spring Park with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the eight order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-05: A Resolution applying for Arkansas Rural Community Development grant in the amount of \$15,000, for lighting new walkway in the Big Spring Park under the bridge. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Resolution 2024-05: A Resolution applying for Arkansas Rural Community Development grant in the amount of \$15,000, for lighting new walkway in the Big Spring Park under the bridge with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the ninth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-06: A Resolution to amend the 2024 budget to receipt grant funds in the amount of \$49,240.39 from the Arkansas Department of Safety for purchasing police equipment. This will affect General fund line items GL#4098, GL#6451, and GL#6856. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Resolution #2024-06: A Resolution to amend the 2024 budget to receipt grant funds in the amount of \$49,240.39 from the Arkansas Department of Safety for purchasing police equipment with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine stated the Budget Announcement of 2024 City Organizational Committee Members - will be posted on City's website. He read into Meeting Minutes Proof of Posting of the final revenues and expenditures for 2023, Year End Amended Budget shall be posted at City Hall and the Post office on Jan 26th for 30 days as well as read into Meeting minutes by title only the Semi-annual Report 2023-02 of inventory items purchase/retired items. He read into Meeting minutes Proof of Posting of the 2024 Operating Budget was posted for 30 days from December 1- December 31, 2023, as well as read into Meeting minutes Proof of Posting of Ordinance 2023-06 for special election on March 5, 2024, was posted for 30 days from December 1- December 31, 2023, at five locations in the City of Cotter. He announced the Let's "Taco 'Bout" A Taco Supper Fundraiser for Cotter Volunteer Fire Department will be held on February 10, 2024, from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Firehouse. He also announced the upcoming event dates in Cotter: Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024, Annual Cotter Trout Festival is Saturday, May 4, 2024, F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour is May 25, 2024, and the Cotter Fly Casting Contest is May 25, 2024. Coffee with the Mayor shall be on February 16, 2024 at 8:00 am at Cotter Bridge Market, and a Special Election will be held in the City of Cotter, Arkansas (the "City") on March 5, 2024, for the purpose of financing the remaining portion Sewer Rehabilitation Project.pm.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

None at this time

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Morrow announced that he is working to organize a BBQ Cook off on October 5, 2024. All proceeds will be going towards Down Syndrome Awareness. They will be organizing a buddy walk, luminary bags, duck scramble for kids. Donations are accepted and they are working on set-up online accounts. He will be securing festival permits.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg states that everyone is doing an amazing job and he appreciates all the hard work of every department.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill thanks our tax payers in supporting our Fire Department as they voluntarily elect to give when paying their personal property taxes. She also thanks the Public Works Department in all they do during this freezing weather while fixing water leaks and maintain other areas of the City.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray welcomed Ben Woodard to the Council and thanks him for his interest in the city. She thanked all those involved in the success of Christmas in Cotter and appreciates the Chamber's donation and investment in the betterment of the Big Spring Park.

Councilman Ben Woodard thanked everyone for the welcome.

ORIGINAL

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy shared that the FD Auxiliary is selling eclipse glasses at the FD auction. She shared the early voting is in one location and the actual election day, anyone can vote in any of the polling locations in the county.

Mayor Caradine thanks Lyle Jack and Freddie Wooten for staying at the Fire Station during the bad weather and keeping the facility accessible as a warming station during extreme temperatures.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL