

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
April 25, 2026
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Regular meeting of the Cotter City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll call was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray. Present were Council Members Nicole Hatchet, Joe Bass, Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, Ang Pereira and Linda McCarthy.

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

REPORTS

In the first order of New Business, Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept the minutes of a Public Hearing of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on March 26, 2026, with noted corrections with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business Councilwoman Nicole Hatchet moved to accept the minutes of a regular meeting of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on March 26, 2026, as written with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

March 2026 Financials were emailed, and Council had no comments/questions during the meeting.
Public Works Department Report was given by Justin Morrow
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 -none at this time
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill
Tree Advisory Board Report -none at this time

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, members of the Cotter Saturday Club presented a check in the amount of \$5,056.33 for the upkeep and maintenance of the Cotter Cemetery. Member Mertice Kray shared that the perpetual fund has given over \$70,000 to the City of Cotter for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. She also states that a Decoration Day is planned for Memorial Day weekend and lunch will be provided.

In the second order of New Business, Mark Kapshandy and Jenny Burns addressed Council on behalf of the NAYC for their yearly update. There are students from Cotter, Flippin, Mountain Home, and Yellville that attend the facility each day. They thank the City of Cotter who helped with a new roof this past year and updated Council on the current financials. They shared an update on the new security procedures and announced a benefit on May 9, 2026, featuring the Jerry Hopper Band. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill states she has been in Mark's shoes, and he has done an amazing job. Mark gives all the credit to the board and Jenny Burns. Currently the City of Cotter is waiting on a grant for physical maintenance of the building.

In the third order of New Business, Council considered passage of the Resolution 2026-09: A Resolution to amend the Cotter employee personnel policy to adopt a Cybersecurity policy per ACT 846 of 2023. During discussion it was discovered that there were some incompletions in the wording of the Resolution. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to table Resolution 2026-09: A Resolution to amend the Cotter employee personnel policy to adopt a Cybersecurity policy per ACT 846 of 2023 with a seconded provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy to give the mayor an opportunity to review and bring the Resolution back to Council at the next regular meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ORIGINAL

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Nicole Hatchet.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered passage of Resolution 2026-10: A Resolution to amend the Cotter Employee Personnel Policy to adopt an AI Policy. Councilman Joe Bass moved to pass Resolution 2026-10: A Resolution to amend the Cotter Employee Personnel Policy to adopt an AI Policy with a seconded provided by Councilwoman Nicole Hatchet. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During Information, Mayor Caradine read into the meeting minutes the City of Cotter's for year 2023 and 2024 Financial and Compliance Report was approved by the Arkansas Legislative Audit Committee on March 12, 2026. There was no Traffic Light Update from ARDOT. However, the ARDOT Railroad Crossing Improvement Project on Big Spring Parkway tentative schedule to start in 2027. The Trout Festival will be held on May 2, 2026. The next Coffee with the Mayor shall be on 5/24/26 at 8:00 am at Cotter City Hall, and the next City Council meeting shall be on May 28, 2026, at 6:00 pm. During this time, Councilwoman Linda McCarthy gave an update on the Trout Festival sharing vendors, events, and activities.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

None at this time.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Morrow-The Cotter Farmer's Market will not take place on the 1st weekend in May as most of the vendors will be at Trout Fest.

Andrea Kray-Five Cotter FBLA students have qualified to compete at the national level in San Antonio, TX, this year. Two of the students are 4-time national qualifiers. She appreciates all the generosity and support of our citizens and is so proud of these students. Councilman Joe Bass thanks Andrea for her dedication to her students and to FBLA. Councilwoman Mertice Kray shares that one of the students is the niece of Jason and Kammi Nazarenko.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Nicole Hatchet appreciates what is happening in the Walnut Hill Cemetery. She walks there as it is peaceful and she is thankful for all that is taking place in the cemetery.

Councilman Joe Bass shares that he is excited about the Trout Fest, and that Cotter is a wonderful town. He is not leaving.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill states that Walnut Hill is becoming a popular cemetery and compliments the City crew for the upkeep as it really is a peaceful place.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanks everyone for attending. She also praises the Cotter VFD. She states that we have such a caring team and that even on a family's worst day, they are there comforting families in their time of need.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira states that it is incredible that our town has a volunteer EMT and she is so proud. She also encourages attendees to interact with the community's social media platforms by sharing or liking posts.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy states that the park looks beautiful and congratulates Melody (volunteer EMT) on her accomplishments. She also is proud of Sharon Kaster. During this time, Chief Lyle Jack states that Melody is the first female EMT to make it through the course.

Mayor Caradine thanks the Saturday Club for the donation to the cemetery and invites everyone to Coffee with the Mayor.

ORIGINAL