

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
August 28, 2025
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 Chuck Sugg, 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, Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to accept the minutes of a regular meeting of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on July 24, 2025, as written and with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed with Councilwoman Ang Pereira abstaining.**

July Financials were emailed.

Public Works Department Report was given by PW Director Justin Morrow

Fire Department Report was given by Fire Chief Lyle Jack

Police Department Report was given by Officer Jake Kelley

Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray

Planning & Zoning Commission Report was given by Mayor Caradine

Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill

Tree Advisory Board Report was given by Mayor Caradine

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the first order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-02 - Status on 427 McLean Clean up. A letter was sent to property owner, Patricia Harris, from Cotter City Attorney. She has 30 days to clean up the property.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-03 - Owner of 210 Combs has a sale contract to close within 30 Days. Property has been cleaned.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2025-15 - Approve Property Millage for 2026 for the City and Fire Department. Mayor Caradine shared this has been the same split since 2013-14.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Resolution 2025-15 - Approve Property Millage for 2026 for the City and Fire Department with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025. Mayor Caradine explained the difference between the wards and at large pertaining to the election process. The current policy for Cotter is voting at large. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to place Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 on its first reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 by title only.

Councilman Joe Bass moved to place Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 on its second reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 by title only.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira moved to place Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 on its third reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 by title only.

Councilman Joe Bass moved to pass Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Ordinance 2025-04 - Adopt Ordinance requiring Municipalities to declare to elect city council members by wards or at large per Ark Act 283 of 2025 as an emergency with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to place Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave on its first reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave by title only.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave on its second reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave by title only.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira moved to place Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave on its third reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave by title only.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Ordinance 2025-05 - Ordering Removal and Clean-up the House and Improvements at 433 South Ave as an emergency with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During Information, Mayor Caradine shared that there would be an Arbor Day Proclamation on October 4, 2025, with a tree planting ceremony in Big Spring Park to be held at 10:00 am on October 4, 2025, during BBQ Contest and Car Show for Down Syndrome Day. The 2024 Audit for Water and Sewer is being prepared by Brian Hass, CPA. See Audit Engagement Letter. On September 8, 2025, the Cotter Planning and Zoning Board will meet to consider a set-back variance at 404 Eighth St and annexation of 89 Chamberlain Lane (HIS Place Report) into the City changing zoning from R1 to C2. New street signs with Bridge Logo have been ordered to place on Harding, Second Street, McLean Ave, Big Springs Parkway. Signs paid by Cotter Branding through a donation to the Cotter Chamber of Commerce. The Sewer Project Phase IIB at Ryan Road Sewer line has started and will be completed within 60-90 days. The FEMA grant for new Fire Truck is still under review. He updated Council on the ARDOT Street Aid Program. The committee will meet in December 2025, to consider municipalities eligible for street aid for year 2026-2027. The amount of street aid has increased for a municipality from \$300,000 to \$400,000 dollars. The "Coffee with the Mayor" will be on Friday, August 29, 2025, at Cotter City Hall from 8 am to 9 am.

ORIGINAL

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

None at this time.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Terri Conrad thanks workers of the city as she has utilized all the services the City of Cotter offers. She is voicing her concerns about the old Magness house on section line road. She asks when this house is going to be address and placed on the clean up list. She states that there is graffiti on the rock building. She personally has had to cut back branches that our touching her personal property. She mentions cat issues as she's trapped feral cats on the property to spay and neuter. She feels that there is black mold on the property affecting the feral cat population as they are residing in this abandoned house.

Lyle Jack asked about the brightness of the lights in front of the gas station as he hit a deer there.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanked all those in attendance and is appreciative of both the Fire and Police Departements.

Councilman Joe Bass announced there is a new member on the Cotter Care Crew.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill stated that she understands that trees on personal property are the owner's responsibilities, but she sure hates to see 200-year-old trees being cut down in the city.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone for attending and is so glad to see Justin Morrow back.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira thanks everyone for attending and is proud of the success of the Cotter's Farmer's Market. She updated Council on the progress being made to clean up graves by Fred (her husband) and shared she has been contacted about donations to the cemetery.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy reminds people to use the post office as we want to keep it busy.

Mayor Caradine thanked the Saturday Club for the cemetery work. Ang Pereira and other club members and city volunteers were doing a great job! He also shared that the branding next phase is flags on the light poles, new street signs, a new crosswalk design and a new highway sign design when entering the city.

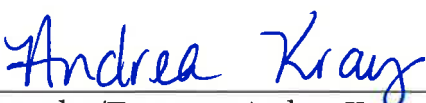
Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL