

**COTTER CITY
COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
July 30, 2019
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The public hearing meeting of the Cotter City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor McGeorge Caradine. He did not ask for Roll Call from Jennifer Cheek who was filling in for Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray. Councilwoman Kerry Ann White along with Councilmen Chuck Sugg and Nathan Buck were present. Councilmen John Bell and Cameron Ross along with Councilwoman Mertice Kray were absent. A quorum was not established, yet Mayor Caradine proceeded with the Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Council heard from a presentation from Jeffrey Dehnhardt and Tim Mays from Engineering Services, Inc. The prime reason for his presentation is the City of Cotter's ASDA Rural Development Grant application. This application would provide rehabilitation to the current system as it is not effectively working. The current system is operated mostly by gravity. This system causes the flow build up which in turn creates hydrogen sulfide gas, and it erodes the cast iron pipes. The City of Cotter is eligible for a 75% matching USDA grant being funded with an interest rate of 2.50%. The debt would be repaid by an agreement between both the City of Cotter at 36% and the City of Gassville at 64% by a separate agreement based on flow contribution. The approximate loan cost would be \$2,178,402.00 and would be repaid over a 40 year term.

Councilman Nathan Buck questions could the grant be as low as 50% matching? Mr. Dehnhardt responds with Yes. There are 3 tiers of the grant. Highest tier=No grant, Interim tier=50% and Poverty tier=75%. He goes on to state that it could be anywhere from 45% to 75%, but USDA decides the amount of grant. Councilman Buck asks how long will the project take? Construction will be 9-12 months with a 60-day bid. Service will not be interrupted as the work will be done next to current and then removing the old.

Councilman Chuck Sugg asks if the rehabilitation would bypass the low point? No, gravity fed to the lift (current main) from the wet well.

Councilwoman Kerry Ann White questions that Cotter will be filing the application and the USDA will loan the amount in the City of Cotter's name. Cotter would then have an agreement with the City of Gassville to pay their percentage of the debt. She also questions if the old station would remain and only the concrete box would.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

Although there were no sign requests, Mayor Caradine entertained questions from the audience.

Anita Seaman, Gassville City Council member, asked how long the funding process would take. Tim Mays responded that the USDA grant funding runs October to October. Hopefully we can tap into the money now, but it could be December and be about 2 years out from completion. She also questions if there will be a need more repairs before completion. Tim Mays responds in the affirmative stating that the bad holes will have to be repaired.

Mayor Caradine asked for no motion for adjournment from Council and closed the meeting himself. Meeting ended at 6:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

ORIGINAL


Mayor McGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:


Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL