

**COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES
February 25, 2021
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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, Carolyn Gill, Cameron Ross, Mertice Kray, Linda McCarthy, and Mark Johnson.

The invocation was given by Councilman Cameron Ross followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

At this time, Mayor Caradine suspends the Agenda to begin with Sign Ins. Marcia Taylor presented a collection of appreciation from the citizens of Cotter to the men of the Public Works Department. Thomas Pittman and Bruce Baker were in attendance to accept the monetary honorarium. Mayor Caradine also played a slideshow of pictures taken of repairs during the recent snowstorm. He expressed his gratitude for all their efforts going above and beyond for the citizens of Cotter during the single digit weather. They worked tirelessly to ensure our residents continued to have water service during the freezing temperatures. Everyone in the audience was very appreciative of all the city employees and their efforts to keep our city services functioning during the winter storm.

REPORTS

Approval of the January 28, 2021, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept the minutes with noted corrections from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Works Department Report was submitted as Justin Morrow could not attend
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 given by Jason Nazarenko
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill
Tree Advisory Board was given by Marcia Taylor

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees. Mayor Caradine asked Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray to read Ordinance #2021-01 in its entirety. Mayor Caradine discussed the current ordinances on file conflict with what is listed in the Municipal Code book page 117. Page 117 states there is no charge to residents of Cotter to reserve and use the park pavilion and gazebo. Audience member Kay Laughy states that she feels that the City is taking away a perk of being a resident by now charging them for use of such spaces.

Councilman Cameron Ross asks about protocol if a person randomly uses the pavilion when it is reserved. Mayor Caradine explains that reservations of the pavilion and gazebo are posted on the Big Spring Park bulletin board. Mayor Caradine further explains that the spaces are open for use at any time by anyone for free. However, if said party wants to ensure the spaces are available for use at a specific time, then a reservation should be made. That reservation will come with a usage fee as well as a cleaning deposit. Councilwoman Mertice Kray asks Council to consider allowing a Cotter resident being charge 1/2 price if the cost is that much of a concern. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill expressed that the current rate was a nominal fee and was not an outlandish charge.

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Councilman Cameron Ross questions the listing of civic organization free usage of said spaces and could the Ordinance be amended to include any current churches within the city limits be added to the list.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to amend Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees with the addition of adding churches in the city limits of Cotter to the listing of organizations with no charge with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees could be placed on its 1st reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moves to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees on its 1st reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Mark Johnson. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-01 by title only states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees could be placed on its 2nd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moves to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees on its 2nd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-01 by title only states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees could be placed on its 3rd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moves to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray reads Ordinance 2021-01 by title only.

Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees. **Motion passed unanimously.** Later in the meeting Recorder/Treasurer asked Council to come back to this Ordinance and pass it as an Emergency seeing as the second Ordinance of the night required one as well. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Ordinance 2021-01 – an Ordinance to amend the Park Usage Fees as an emergency with a second provided by Carolyn Gill. **5 in favor of passage with Councilman Cameron Ross opposed.**

In the 2nd order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage. Mayor Caradine consulted with Attorney Ryan Bowman, and Mr. Bowman sent specific steps in which this Ordinance had to be adopted concerning the need for a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to have Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage placed on its 1st reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. A roll call vote was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage could be placed on its 2nd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage on its 2nd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. A roll call vote was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray states that if Council so moves, Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage could be placed on its 3rd reading by title only with a suspension of the rules.

Councilman Mark Johnson moved to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. A roll call vote was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray **Motion passed unanimously.**

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Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage with a second provided by Councilman Cameron Ross. A roll call vote was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-02 – An Ordinance to identify five locations for posting of ordinances after passage as an emergency with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. A roll call vote was taken by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the 3rd order of New Business, Mayor Caradine read into the minutes the Cotter Gassville Sewer Commission voted to pay-off early the \$69,000 ANRC loan for Phase I Sewer Line Replacement. Balance owed on the loan is \$16,000.

In the 4th order of New Business, Council review the Public Information Sheet on Sales Tax Ballot to be mailed to voters in March. Mayor Caradine explained that paying off the sewer plant expansion debt will eliminate the current 1% sales tax. He states the City of Cotter is requesting to add that 1% back to pay for a revenue bond that will finance current and future water and sewer projects. Both items on the ballot must pass to continue with the bond application. The only other option if the 1% sales tax does not pass is to increase sewer rates to finance Phase II of the ductile iron replacement project.

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine announced that a Public Information Q&A on Special Election Sales Tax Ballot will be held on April 26, 2021, at 6:30 pm at the Cotter Fire Station. The Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce announced the Cotter Trout Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021 in Big Spring Park and to please contact Linda McCarthy for vendor booth information. A Special Election will be held on May 11th at Wesley United Church to extend the 1% sales tax to pay for Water and Sewer Improvement Projects.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

One Sign-up Request. See information above Reports.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Peitz expressed his concerns with there being no pedestrian signs on Hwy 365 as the stretch of highway now as attractions like the private walking trail and he has seen more usage of people out using that part of town. He feels that this is a safety factor that needs attention. Mayor Caradine states that he has made a request to the Arkansas Department of Transportation and he has followed up with Steve St. Lawrence and is awaiting to hear from the street department in Mountain Home. Mayor Caradine also states that Hwy 62 B is on the 2023-24 preliminary budget to be paved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg says, "Great job to all departments. So proud of all of them".

Councilman Mark Johnson had no comment.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no further comments as other's comments were hers as well. She does go on to mention that other towns lost their water, and it puts it all into prospective of how hard of the city's employees worked during this time.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray seconded the sentiments by Councilman Ross as it was scary times and appreciates the Fire Department Volunteers staying at the Fire House during those winter weather days. She also appreciates the audience's attendance.

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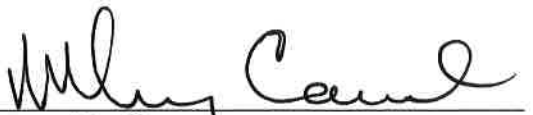
Councilman Cameron Ross thanked all the department workers for all their hard work during the winter storm and stated, "may you be well blessed".

Councilman Linda McCarthy thanks everyone and seconds the other council comments.

Mayor Caradine asked Councilwoman Linda McCarthy to introduce Jason Dunivan and speak upon the upcoming yard sale fundraiser and the Go Fund Me Account set up to help with medical expenses of Jason and his wife Andrea.

Councilman Cameron Ross moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:27 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

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