

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
March 27, 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. Prior to the meeting Mayor Caradine swore in Councilwoman Carolyn Gill.

REPORTS

In the first order of New Business, Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to accept the minutes of a regular meeting of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on January 23, 2025, with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed with Councilwoman Carolyn Gill abstaining as she was not present at the previous meeting.**

February Financials were included in the packets
Public Works Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine
Fire Department Report was given by Assistant Fire Chief Freddie Wooten
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, Council heard from Mark Kapshandy, President of the NAYC board. He shared that awareness is rising through benefits/fundraisers. The tennis courts are being used, and he is thankful for the City's support and grant funding opportunities. The center is awaiting a grant response on the roof as the historical designation causes issues. There is a new director, Calli Dilbeck. She is being trained by a former director.

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution #2025-09: A Resolution allowing the sale of craft beer at a designated location for Cotter Trout Festival. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Resolution #2025-09: A Resolution allowing the sale of craft beer at a designated location for Cotter Trout Festival with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed 5 in favor with Councilwoman Mertice Kray opposed.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution #2054-10: A Resolution allowing the sale of craft beer at a designated location for Cotter F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to pass Resolution #2054-10: A Resolution allowing the sale of craft beer at a designated location for Cotter F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed 5 in favor with Councilwoman Mertice Kray opposed.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Resolution #2025-11: A Resolution to enter into a contract with Hubbs & Whitehead CPA, to perform a single Federal Audit. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Resolution #2025-11: A Resolution to enter a contract with Hubbs & Whitehead CPA, to perform a single Federal Audit with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fifth order of New Business, Council Resolution #2025-12: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for ARDOT Trails (RTP) Grant for Sidewalks to Big Spring Park. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to pass Resolution #2025-12: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for ARDOT Trails (RTP) Grant for Sidewalks to Big Spring Park with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During Information, Mayor shared that three CPA Firms responded to RFP request per Resolution 2025-05 to perform a single audit of the City's federal fund for the year ending December 31, 2024. The firm Hubbs & Whitehead, CPA of Van Buren, Arkansas, was selected. He read into the Meeting Minutes that the 2024 Financial Statement for all departments was presented to City Council and shall be posted at City Hall and the Post office on March 28, 2025, for 30 days at City Hall, Cotter Post Office and shall be posted on the City website as well as read into meeting minutes 2024 Semi-Annual Inventory changes. The Cotter Fire Department Chili and Fundraiser was a success. Thanks to the CVFD Volunteers and Auxiliary. The Cotter Warrior Foundation 5K Run in Big Spring Park on April 5, 2025. The race will be on the Walking Trail. Start time is between 7:00-7:30 am. The Cotter City Wide Yard Sale is scheduled for March 28-29, with the Large Item Pickup scheduled for the following Monday, March 31. The Annual Cotter Trout Festival is Saturday, May 3, 2025. The F3T Flyfishing Film Tour movie and fly-casting contest will be held on May 24, 2025. The "Coffee with the Mayor" dates have changed to the last Friday of each month. The next meeting will be on February 28th at the Commercial Hotel at 110 McLean Ave, Cotter, Arkansas, from 8 am to 9 am.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

Jason Nazarenko asked Council to consider reviewing policies pertaining to area beautification. There are some areas of concern as there are items around the city out of compliance. Those items are unlicensed cars and abandoned houses/trailers that are safety concerns. He stated a new bill 1695 passed in the House. It is going to Senate next pertaining to liens on property that is unsightly and unsafe. Mayor Caradine asked Jason to address another proposed bill pertaining to property rights and the current authority of the Cities' P & Z Commissions.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Gerdeman suggested that condemned properties be used for fire training exercises.

Kammi Nazarenko saw where there were flags for sale at the VFW for \$16.00.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg was glad everyone attended. He is interested in seeing the new pump house.

Councilman Joe Bass was glad he made it tonight. He stated that coming to Cotter was the best decision he ever made. Cotter provides an amazing quality of life, and he is so proud of the team effort of the citizens working together.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill had no comment.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray appreciates everyone in attendance and loved seeing Fred Pereira in the audience.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira thanks everyone and stated moving here has been wonderful. She announced a work session set for 1:00 pm on March 28, 2025, in the Walnut Hill Cemetery to do an assessment of graves. She had two flags that will go in the cemetery and Mayor Caradine said he'd purchased more as well.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy had noticed some youth cleaning in the park, and it was shared that it was Juvenile Service Week.

Mayor Caradine gave an update on the pump project and asked citizens to let him know if there were pressure issues they've noticed. Both Freddie Wooten and Sharen Kaster confirmed pressure issues at the Firehouse. Lights are finished in the park and a new unveiling of the Cotter branding will be released at the end of April.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray