

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL MINUTES
May 23, 2024
6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The regular meeting of the Cotter City Council was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Caradine. He asked for roll call by Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray. Present were: Council Members Chuck Sugg, Shelia Wingard, Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, Ben Woodard, and Linda McCarthy.

The invocation was given in the Public Hearing.

REPORTS

Approval of the April 25, 2024, regular minutes was the first item of business. Councilman Ben Woodard moved to accept the minutes as presented from Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously with Councilwoman Carolyn Gill abstaining.**

April 2024 Financials were included in the packets
Public Works Department Report was given by Director Justin Morrow
Fire Department Report was given by Chief Lyle Jack
Police Department Report was given by Sargeant Michael Paterson
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray
Planning & Zoning Commission Report was not given
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Carolyn Gill
Tree Advisory Board Report was given by Mayor Caradine

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the first order of Old Business, Council considered placing Ordinance 2024-01 on its 3rd reading. Councilwoman Shelia Wingard moved to place Ordinance 2024-01 on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2024-01 by title only. Council then considered passage of Ordinance 2024-01. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to pass Ordinance 2024-01 with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.** Ordinance 2024-01 will be posted in 5 locations and go in affect 30 days from May 25, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Brain Haas presented the 2023 Water Audit to Council. He reviewed elements on pg. 11 which was revenue. It is \$331,703 which is \$100,000 over the year before. On pg. 12, he reviewed the depreciation of \$135,873. On pg. 21, reference the joint venture with Gassville. He is going to pull 3 line items from the restricted assets before sending to the state auditor. He spoke with Joe Archer to conform this move. He also assured Mayor Caradine that he would be still able to continue his services next year when the City enters Phase II on the Sewer Rehabilitation project.

In the second order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-13: A budget Resolution to receipt the \$10,000 donation to the Cotter Police Department from William Hungate. Councilwoman Shelia Wingard moved to pass Resolution 2024-13: A budget Resolution to receipt the \$10,000 donation to the Cotter Police Department from William Hungate with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** As of right now, the monies will be placed in the Police Department Equipment Purchases budget.

In the third order of New Business, Council considered Resolution 2024-14: A Resolution to apply for a \$7,000.00 grant from USDA for FD to purchase 10 new radios and pagers. Councilwoman Carolyn Gil moved

to pass Resolution 2024-14: A Resolution to apply for a \$7,000.00 grant from USDA for FD to purchase 10 new radios and pagers with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Council considered Ordinance 2024-02: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Sales and Use Tax and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond (the “bond”) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,196,000 for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of betterments and improvements to the City’s sewer system. Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to place Ordinance 2024-02: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Sales and Use Tax and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond (the “bond”) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,196,000 for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of betterments and improvements to the City’s sewer system on its 1st reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Shelia Wingard. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2024-02 by title only.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill then moved to place Ordinance 2024-02: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Sales and Use Tax and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond (the “bond”) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,196,000 for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of betterments and improvements to the City’s sewer system on its 2nd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2024-02 by title only.

Councilman Ben Woodard then moved to place Ordinance 2024-02: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Sales and Use Tax and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond (the “bond”) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,196,000 for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of betterments and improvements to the City’s sewer system on its 3rd reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray read Ordinance 2024-02 by title only.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill then moved to pass Ordinance 2024-02: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Sales and Use Tax and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond (the “bond”) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,196,000 for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of betterments and improvements to the City’s sewer system with a second provided by Councilwoman Shelia Wingard. **Motion passed unanimously.** This Ordinance will be posted in 5 separate locations and go into effect 30 days from May 25, 2024.

In the fifth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine presented a change order from Crawford Electric for existing electrical service upgrades at Well House required by Entergy to meet current code for new generator installation. Public Works Director Justin Morrow explained that the pump uses a dimmer switch method to gradually increase. The change in the amount is \$61,520.00. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to accept the change from Crawford Electric with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the sixth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine asked Council to move the Regular June Council Meeting from June 27, 2024, to June 25, 2024, due to a scheduling conflict of the Recorder/Treasurer. Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to move the Regular June Council Meeting from June 27, 2024, to June 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the seventh order of New Business, Mayor Caradine asked Council to set a June Workshop. Councilwoman Carolyn Gill moved to set a June Workshop for June 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodward. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION

During information, Mayor Caradine shared Ordinances 2024-01 and 2024-02 shall be posted at five locations in Cotter for 30 days. He also stated that the closing on the Phase II-b Sewer loan will be after June 26, 2024. Construction starts July 1, 2024. A notice of for Elections in November for all City Alderman and the Recorder/Treasurer shall be posted on the City of Cotter Website and at City Hall. He also shared a list of ordinances needing review at the June Workshop. The new contract with Waste Connection was approved by the Council at the last meeting. The new rate will be \$16.50 per month. He provided an update on approved and pending grant projects. The F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour is set for May 25, 2024, and the Cotter Fly Casting

Contest is May 25, 2024. The Cotter Bridge Ultra Running Event will be held in Big Spring Park on June 8-9, 2024, and Coffee with the Mayor is scheduled for June 21, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at Cotter Bridge Market

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

None at this time.

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Morrow is wanting to bring a Farmer's Market to Big Spring Park every Saturday. He sees this as an all day event from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Andrea Kray recapped the golf cart rides at Trout Fest and thanked the Mayor for organizing the golf carts. There was only one incident of a couple of visitors being rowdy on the carts due to being overserved. Mayor Caradine shared that the Geo Fence showed over 3000 cell phones entering the park that day and First Security Bank served 742 hotdogs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg is going to miss Shelia.

Councilwoman Shelia Wingard read a letter to Council and the employees of the City of her resignation from the Council.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill asked about the trees with orange ribbon in the cemetery. She asked if the Railroad Monument has a perpetual care fund like the cemetery? It does not.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray shared the Saturday Club of Cotter will be placing flags on the veterans graves in Walnut Hill Cemetery. She thanks Justin Morrow for always taking such good care of the cemetery. She loves the new covering of the directory and applauds Joe Ross, Joe Bass, and Jan Chipps for all their hard work in seeing this project to its completion.

Councilman Ben Woodard shared it was great to have the 3rd reading for Phase II.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy shared that Thomas Pittman was so helpful at the Trout Festival.

Mayor Caradine is going to missed Shelia.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilman Ben Woodard. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVED:


Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:


Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray