

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
October 23, 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, Mertice Kray, Ang Pereira and Linda McCarthy. Absent was Carolyn Gill.

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, Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to accept the minutes of a regular meeting of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on September 25, 2025, with noted corrections and with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira. **Motion passed with Councilman Joe Bass abstaining.**

September 2025 Financials were emailed.
Public Works Department Report was given by Justin Morrow
Fire Department Report was given by Chief Lyle Jack
Police Department Report was given by Officer Jake Kelley
Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray
Planning & Zoning Commission Report -none at this time
Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Mayor Caradine
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. Police delivered summons to Patricia Harris. Property clean-up has not improved.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-05- Owner of 433 South Ave. No update as of owner cannot be located.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Justin Morrow introduced BJ Richardson from Viking Industrial Paintings. He presented to Council options on repairs or refurbishments for the 2 water towers. He shared pictures of the highway tank and it is pretty good on outside, but he suggests new anchor points, a vent on top and updating the mixer. Justin wants to add a stainless-steel cable for the floats and repainting a section on the inside that failed. The proposed scope and budget for this tank repair cost is \$160,550.00.

The Powell Tank needs its I-Beams must be blasted and could need possible replacement. It needs a mixer on it and a new vent that meets compliance. There are minor failures below waterline. The scope and budget is \$133,500.00.

Council question from Joe Bass was "Is there a rating/regulation system?" Answer: Most rating rating/regulation systems are "pay" for. This company has excellent references, and it is the only company that will do a 5-year plan. Mayor Caradine asked, "Do you carry bonded insurance?" Answer: Yes, but it adds a 2-3% percent to cost. Linda McCarthy asked, "What area does the Powell tank serve?" Answer: It serves 5th street and down. Ang Pereira's question was "Can the Powell Tank really wait until 2028?" Answer: Justin and Mayor Caradine both agree that it should. Mertice Kray asked, "Is there is an adjustable scale for items to come up during repair?" Answer: Suggestion of budgeting 10-15% percent in addition to adjust for increase in cost of repairs overtime.

ORIGINAL

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2025-06 - Accepting the Annexation of property located at 89 Chamberlin Lane into the City of Cotter as Commercial C-2 on its third reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira. **Motion passed unanimously.** Recorder/Treasurer read Ordinance 2025-06 - Accepting the Annexation of property located at 89 Chamberlin Lane into the City of Cotter as Commercial C-2 by title only for the third time.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2025-06 - Accepting the Annexation of property located at 89 Chamberlin Lane into the City of Cotter as Commercial C-2 with a second provided by Councilwoman Ang Pereira. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the second order of New Business, Council considered setting dates and times for Budget Workshops for November 17, 2025 and December 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Councilwoman Linda McCarthy moved to set Budget Workshops for November 17, 2025 and December 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the third order of New Business, Council considered moving November and December's regular Council meetings to November 20, 2025, and December 18, 2025, respectfully due to the holidays. Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to move November and December's regular Council meetings to November 20, 2025, and December 18, 2025, respectfully due to the holidays with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the fourth order of New Business, Mayor Caradine informed Council that the City of Cotter has entered into a Letter of Commitment with North Central AR Economic Alliance for the economic development of the building where Contractor's Truss Company is located. The facility's parent, US LBM Operating Co., has listed the building for sale with a realtor out of Little Rock. The truss company plans to close at the end of the year.

INFORMATION

During Information, Mayor Caradine shared the Arbor Day Proclamation October 4, 2025, in honor of Evelyn Marie Turnbull, granddaughter of Justin and Casey Morrow. A tree planting ceremony in Big Spring Park shall be held at 11:00 am on October 4, 2025, during a BBQ Contest and Car Show for Down Syndrome Day. The 2024 Audit for Water and Sewer is being prepared by Brian Hass, CPA. The Arkansas Legislative Auditor has been working on general audit on all departments for 2023 and 2024. On September 8, 2025, the Cotter Planning and Zoning Board approved two recommendations to city council for 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. The new street signs with Bridge Logo have arrived. They will be installed in the next few weeks on Harding, Second Street, McLean Ave, and Big Springs Parkway. Signs paid by Cotter Branding through an anonymous donation to the Cotter Chamber of Commerce. The Sewer Project Phase IIB – Ryan Road Sewer line should be completed in 30 has started and will be complete within 60-90 days. The FEMA grant for the new Fire Truck will be decided by October 1, 2025. The Northwest Economic Development on behalf of the City of Cotter has re-applied for ADEC Block Grant for the North Arkansas Youth Center renovation in the amount of \$487,620, for year 2026. The cycle reopened October 1, 2025. Cotter's application to ARDOT RTP grant program for new sidewalks from downtown to the Big Spring Park restroom will be announced on October 8, 2025, Commissioner meeting. Update on ARDOT Street Aid Asphalt Paving Program in Cotter. The committee will meet in December 2025, to consider municipalities eligible for street aid for the 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, September 26, 2025, at Cotter City Hall from 8 am to 9 am.

SIGN-UP SHEET REQUESTS

Justin and Casey Morrow updated on the annual BBQ Fundraiser for Down Syndrome Awareness raised \$1812.50 and approximately 1000 attended by cell phone tracking. There were 5 BBQ contestants and the voting for best BBQ raised \$900. Donations were split between School of New Hope and AR Down Syndrome Association.

ORIGINAL

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Morrow shared that the newly installed train traffic signal was built in 1930 and its last usage was in 1958. It was donated by Dale Goodbrake.

Mayor Caradine wished Linda and Ang "Happy Birthday".

Sharon Kaster asked about the rust and water quality, and Justin Morrow assured her that it was not affecting quality and sampling have remained in the passing level of quality.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg thanks everyone for being in attendance and is proud to be a part of a great Council.

Councilman Joe Bass agrees with people investing in our city and complimented the "Joe's" on the installation of the railroad crossing sign installed in the Big Spring Park.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone for attending and investing in the City of Cotter.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira had no comment.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy asked about the intersection improvement project and no, the city has nothing to report. She announced that the VFD would not be doing a Halloween drive thru as they passed out bags of candy made by Mrs. Phyllis at the Cotter Fall Festival.

Mayor Caradine stated that new emails would be implemented for the city employees and launching the new website at www.cotterar.gov

Councilwoman Ang Pereira moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Mertice Kray.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:



Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL