

COTTER CITY
COTTER COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
September 25, 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, Carolyn Gill, Mertice Kray, Ang Pereira and Linda McCarthy. Absent was Joe Bass.

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, Councilman Chuck Sugg moved to accept the minutes of a regular meeting of the City of Cotter, Arkansas, City Council held on August 28, 2025, as written and with a second provided by Councilman Joe Bass. **Motion passed with Councilwoman Ang Pereira abstaining.**

August Financials were emailed.

Public Works Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine

Fire Department Report was given by Mayor Caradine

Police Department Report was given by Sergeant Michael Patterson

Building Permit Report was given by Andrea Kray

Planning & Zoning Commission Report was given by Mayor Caradine

Cotter/Gassville Sewer Commission was given by Councilwoman Carolyn Gill

Tree Advisory Board Report was given by Marcia Taylor

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In the first order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-02 - Status on 427 McLean Clean up. City Attorney Roger Morgan is filing a court order for the city to enter the property for cleanup.

In the second order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-03 – property sold to Dr. Byrd and then he sold the property after cleaning it up.

In the third order of Unfinished Business, Council heard an update on Ordinance 2025-05- Owner of 433 South works out of town and our city attorney hasn't been able to make contact. The current renters have moved out of the residence.

NEW BUSINESS

In the first order of New Business, Council considered accepting the annexation of the property located at 89 Chamberlain Lane into the city of Cotter as commercial C-2. Council heard from Chris Ball as he explained the plans for cleaning and renovation of the property. They've cleaned the drainage ditch, removed trailers, and have future goals of having a club house. There is full capacity for 35 people currently at His Place Resort. The property will be open year-round, and they eventually hope to hire local employees.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to placed Ordinance 2025-06 - Accepting the Annexation of property located at 89 Chamberlin Lane into the City of Cotter as Commercial C-2 on its first reading by title only with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **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 first time.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to suspend the rules 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 second reading by title only with a second provided by Councilman Chuck Sugg. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ORIGINAL

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 second time.

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 facilities 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 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 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 met approving 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 complete within 60-90 days. The FEMA grant for 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. Cycle reopened October 1, 2025. The Cotter 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. He updated on ARDOT Street Aid Asphalt Paving Program in Cotter. The committee will meet in December 2025, to consider municipalities eligible for street aid for 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

Chris Ball signed up, but he was asked to address Council during New Business instead.

ORIGINAL

AUDIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marica Taylor thanked Council for their service to the city.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Chuck Sugg was happy to be able to pass tonight's ordinance. Listening to Chris Ball's plans, he feels that the project is being done well.

Councilwoman Carolyn Gill thanked Fred Gerdeman as he has done such great work in beautifying the cemetery. The city of Cotter is blessed to have him take such an interest in the work at the cemetery.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray thanked everyone for attending and praised Michael for switching with Travis Hopson by attending tonight's meeting so that Travis could attend his daughter's volleyball game. She also thanked Phyllis and her daughter, Carolyn, for painting stones and placing them around the city of Cotter. They are delightful little surprises that bring smiles to the people of Cotter.

Councilwoman Ang Pereira shared that her husband, Fred Gerdeman, has postponed shoulder surgery until every single gravestone has been cleaned. He will be going back in 2 weeks to use the wet and forget solution. She also shared that he had had several visitors looking for the grave sight of Sam and Alice Mason. There was a recent radio segment of the story of Sam and Alice, and the cemetery had at least 13 people visit the graves. She also shared that some trees and evasive plants had been removed. She was able to share that the Cotter Chamber of Commerce has voted to implement a "Trout Trail" where Art meets River. There will be 6 ft sculptures of trout installed all over town. This is still in the development stage, but a sample fiberglass sculpture will be coming in November.

Councilwoman Linda McCarthy thanked everyone for coming and is amazed at how the Public Works Department handled the recent water leaks.

Mayor Caradine invited those in attendance to stop by the River Art Galley as they were participating in the Art Odyssey Tour. He also shared that a donation was received of crossing signs. They will be installed at the Big Spring Park and will be interactive. He also asks everything to keep Councilman Joe Bass in their thoughts as his dog, River, was attacked by another dog and needed medical assistance.

Councilwoman Mertice Kray moved to adjourn with a second provided by Councilwoman Linda McCarthy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVED:


Mayor MacGeorge Caradine

ATTEST:


Recorder/Treasurer Andrea Kray

ORIGINAL