

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

Saturday May 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The governing body of the City of Coldwater met in special session for the purpose of discussing opening of the lake during the COVID-19 Pandemic, with the following present: Mayor Penny Bruckner, Council members Renee Blasi, Mike Bushnell, Robert Cardoza, Cleta Lampe and Ashta Rosson, Chief of Police Devin Duffield and City Clerk Kristal Sherman. Lake Manager Don Dutton joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Bruckner called the special meeting to order.

Council member Renee Blasi told the council that since the meeting last night she has had several calls and people coming into her work upset with the decision that was made last night to open the lake. Council member Mike Bushnell said he has had two calls and those citizens were very upset at the decision that was made Friday night, he said they even went so far as to say if the virus comes to Comanche County it will be the fault of the Coldwater City Council for opening the lake. Mike and Renee both said they want the council to revisit the decision and discuss an alternative plan. It was said since we were voted on by the citizens of Coldwater, we need to do what we can to keep Coldwater citizens safe, as well as Comanche County as a whole since, at this time, there are not any known cases of the corona virus here.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield said he came to the meeting to let the council know he really doesn't want to see them close the lake. He said it would hurt the City as well as the City businesses financially, and he didn't want to see us lose any of our businesses over this. He recommended to still let the seasonal campers come to the lake.

Lake Manager Don Dutton said all the seasonal campers have already been notified from the decision Friday night that they can come and camp starting Monday and some of them were going to bring their campers and "spot them in" over the weekend (not stay in them until after Monday).

After a lengthy discussion by the council, Ashta made a motion to leave the opening of the lake the way it was voted on last night, seconded by Cleta. Ashta and Cleta both voted Yes. Renee and Mike both voted No and Robert said he didn't want to vote because he could see both sides and was really conflicted. The council discussed whether or not they could restrict access by people from certain counties. Mayor Bruckner said she has been trying to call and message City Attorney Allison Kuhns (and even tried to call her twice during the meeting), but said Allison hasn't answered any of her messages. The council said they really needed some legal advice before a final decision was made and it was mentioned to try and call former City Attorney Skip Herd....Mike had his phone number so he gave him a call and explained the situation. Skip agreed to be put on speaker phone for the council to ask any questions they may have. They asked Skip about being able to restrict access to the lake. Skip said he thought they could restrict access to certain people during the virus pandemic especially since there were counties in the area that were considered virus "hotspots". The council thanked Skip for taking time to talk with them. After speaking with Skip and further discussion on an alternative plan, Robert made his decision to vote No on Ashta's motion. The motion was denied. Cleta then made the following motion: The only people that may enter the lake are "seasonal campers" from Clark County, Kiowa County, Barber County, Harper County, OK and Woods County, OK, and recreational day visitors from those same counties previously listed. Comanche County residents may use camper hookups and full recreational use of the lake, with the exclusion of dry camping for all visitors. Pavilions may be used as long as the visitors maintain the Governor's guidelines on social gatherings (which in Phase 1 is mass gatherings of no more than 10 individuals allowed). Failure to sign and complete any required documentation at the lake entrance will prohibit access. This is termed "Phase 1" of the opening of Lake Coldwater and will coincide with the Governor's "Phase 1" opening of Kansas, which is through May 17, unless it is extended. The motion was seconded by Robert and the motion carried. Ashta then made a motion to rescind the motion and vote from the special meeting Friday night, seconded by Mike and the motion carried.

With no further business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Robert and the motion carried.