

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The governing body of the City of Coldwater met in regular session with the following present: Mayor Penny Bruckner presiding, Council members Renee Blasi, Mike Bushnell, Robert Cardoza, Cleta Lampe and Ashta Rosson, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Chief of Police Devon Duffield, Lake Managers Don and Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Dan and Cindy Hall.

Mayor Bruckner called the meeting to order and minutes from the April regular meeting, May 1st and May 2nd special meetings were approved as written, motion by Mike, seconded by Ashta and the motion carried.

Cindy Hall from Wellsford, KS told the council she was being told she can't come to the lake because she doesn't have a camper. She explained that she and her family come to the lake every year for most of the summer, and camp in a tent. She said as a kid her parents brought her to the lake and now she brings her kids. She said she was very upset when they came down last week and were told they could not enter the lake because it was only open to the surrounding counties. She said she gets why the council made their decision, but would appreciate them opening it up to more counties and letting people tent camp. Cindy's husband Dan asked the council "why not restrict just the "hotspot" virus counties like Ford, Seward, Finney and Sedgwick. Council member Cleta Lampe told Cindy and Dan that the decision they made was a hard one to come to, there was a lot of discussion both ways, but it was one they felt they had to make for the wellbeing of our Comanche County citizens. The council told them they will hold a special meeting after Sunday when "Phase 1" ends and will discuss plans for the lake at that time. They thanked Dan and Cindy for coming to the meeting.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw reported he put Mike Bushnell's sewer line on the agenda because when Mike bought his house he was tied into a shared sewer line with his neighbors, and after the City has gone in and replaced his line, he is no longer tied into the shared line, his home is on its own sewer line. Danny said he is wanting to get with the City Attorney to draft a document for the Bushnell's to file at the courthouse saying they are no longer tied into the shared sewer line. Danny said the only other thing he had on his agenda was zoning for the Deborah McDonald property which is the vacant lots north of the Coldwater Apartments. He said there is a person that is interested in buying the property and she was wondering if the council would rezone it to be commercial property since it's currently zoned "R-2" residential, she is wanting to put in a boat and RV storage business at that location. Danny told the council just the mowing assessment against the property amounts to \$3,600.00 and he asked the council not to forgive the mowing portion of the bill. Mayor Bruckner said they can think about the zoning issue and will discuss both that and the mowing assessment later in the meeting.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield reported he received an email today from KLETC saying the start date for class is now set for June 8th with graduation in September, he also said he would be able to work the July 4th holiday. He said if the virus starts going around while they are at class, they will shut it down and do what they can online. He also said that while he's at class he will not be able to do code enforcement and told the council they may want to find someone to fill-in for him since it will be the busy part of the year for that job. Devon also reported since the last meeting he has written 35 tickets and given 3 warnings.

Lake Manager Debbie Dutton reported she is almost full for Memorial Weekend and there has been a couple of contractors from the electric company move into the D section while they're here working in the area. Debbie said she had to turn several people away over the weekend. Council member Mike Bushnell asked if there was a better way to get the word out there to let everyone know what was going on at the lake. Debbie said she usually posts on Facebook and Penny posts on the

City Facebook page which seems to be the best way at this time to get the word out. Debbie said she thinks people, especially people coming from a distance, would call before they try to come to the lake. She said there were people from Wichita and Kansas City that tried to enter the lake last weekend.

Mayor Bruckner told the council Deborah McDonald has been calling to try to get the taxes on her property resolved since she has someone interested in the property. City Clerk Kristal Sherman said she has talked to Deborah and she would like a “teleconference” with the council tonight to come to an agreement on her taxes. Ashta said Deborah has also been calling her in the County Clerk’s office and she has the figures of what Deborah owes on her taxes: Since her 2015 taxes have not been paid, she owes interest of \$1,324.36 and all together, subtracting the few payments she has made, her current total tax bill is \$4,899.19, with \$3,600 of that total being the City’s mowing assessment against the property. Ashta said Deborah told her she only wants to pay \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 maximum and wants to ask the City to forgive part of the mowing assessment. The council discussed the issue, then Deborah was called and put on speaker phone. After speaking with Deborah, the council told her they would discuss the matter and call her back with a decision. After discussion, the council agreed to offer that Deborah pays the City \$2,000.00 toward their mowing assessment of \$3,600.00 (forgiving \$1,600.00) and then she would be responsible for the rest of the taxes she owes the county. Deborah was then called back and put on speaker phone.Cleta told Deborah the proposal the council agreed to and Deborah said she agreed. Cleta asked Deborah to call the County Treasurer’s office, before she sends payment, and get an amount from them of the remainder of the taxes she would owe after paying the City \$2,000.00 for their mowing assessment. After the phone call with Deborah, Ashta made a motion the City forgive \$1,600.00 of the \$3,600.00 special assessment on Deborah McDonald’s property, seconded by Cleta and the motion carried.

Mayor Bruckner told the council the Blue Cross and Blue Shield policy rates are up for renewal. Kristal told the council she had given them a sheet with the renewal rates listed. The rates are increasing anywhere from 12% to 17%. After discussion, Ashta made a motion to renew the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health and dental policy for full-time city employees, seconded by Robert and the motion carried.

The council discussed opening the swimming pool. If Phase 2 is allowed to happen after May 17th, pools are allowed to open in that phase, along with gatherings of no more than 30 people. If everything goes as scheduled, Phase 3 would then begin June 1st, along with gatherings of 90 people. Lifeguards are an issue since we have had only one application. Kristal told the council she had spoke with Protection City Hall and they had at least 7 lifeguards signed up, they talked about the Protection and Coldwater managers working together and sharing lifeguards. They found out that Candi Teichman, the lady that does our lifeguard certifications, is not having the lifesaving class for 120 days which would be sometime in August, so no new lifeguards, who have never taken the class before, are able to be employed. Anyone who has taken the lifesaving class, but needs recertification, is able to go ahead and lifeguard this summer and then take the class when it is offered at the end of the summer. Kristal also told the council that if they do share lifeguards with Protection, they pay their lifeguards \$9.00 per hour across the board every year, whereas our starting wage for lifeguards is \$8.00 per hour, and we give raises every year they come back. The council discussed paying our lifeguards the same wage as Protection, but will make that final decision at the special meeting on the 18th. They also discussed Dr. Stanford’s advice if the older ladies do their water aerobics on a certain evening, they would need to do that when the kids aren’t there. Ashton would need to close the pool early to just the water aerobics ladies a couple of days a week. Discussed what the pool hours should be and agreed Tuesday through Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and let the ladies come in from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. a couple days a week. Council member Mike Bushnell said a recreation

commission board member told him he would like to open the ballparks at the same time the City opens the pool.

Mayor Bruckner asked the council to set a special meeting next week to discuss the next phase of opening the City. The council agreed to set a special meeting for Monday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Council member Mike Bushnell passed out a sheet from Mike Jellison, member of the Rec Commission, it was an estimated spraying bill from Chem-Solutions for spraying the ballfields over the course of the summer for \$3,760.00, but said they have already started the first spraying. Mike said they talked about having the City share the spraying bill, but wasn't sure on the amount. Mike Bushnell said he will speak with Mike Jellison and have an answer for them at the special meeting on Monday the 18th.

Bills in the amount of \$123,399.31 were presented for payment. Robert made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Cleta and the motion carried.

Under new business, Mayor Bruckner asked the council if they wanted to discuss rezoning Deborah McDonald's property, or if they even agree with it. The council said they didn't see a problem with rezoning the property, but wanted to wait and see if she pays the taxes in full first before they rezone the property.

Robert asked Danny about seeing an ad that they are going to do a limb pickup in June sometime. Danny said June 3rd they will be picking up limbs around town. Danny also told the council the three pickups he has for sale are on the purple wave online auction site. He said if they wanted to view the auction, just go to the purple wave website and select the auction that ends June 16th.

With no other business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05p.m., seconded by Renee and the motion carried.