

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 10, 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, Cleta Lampe, and Ashta Rosson, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Lake Co-Managers Don and Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Jeanette Siemens and husband and Chris Bruckner.

Mayor Bruckner announced there would be a public hearing on the proposed 2021 budget, and with no citizens appearing for public comment, Mike made a motion to approve the 2021 budget as published, seconded by Ashta, all council members voted Yes.

Mayor Bruckner closed the 2021 budget hearing and called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call. Council member Robert Cardoza was absent. Minutes from the July meetings were approved as written, motion by Ashta, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Mayor Bruckner announced anyone that was here for public comment has 5 minutes each to talk to the council and would appreciate them keeping to the 5 minute time limit.

Jeanette Siemens with the Sunflower Rail Conservancy passed around a sheet that lists the answers to questions and concerns the council may have about the trail, she went through the list and then asked the council if they had any questions. Council member Mike Bushnell said his main concern was the maintenance of the trail. Council member Cleta Lampe told Mrs. Siemens that there are not the volunteers there were 20 or 30 years ago and said that maintaining the mile length proposed trail would be a burden to the City because there would not be the volunteers to be able to take care of it and the city maintenance employees wouldn't have the time to dedicate to it.

Lake Manager Debbie Dutton handed out the new "lake lives matter, Coldwater Lake" t-shirts to the council. Debbie asked the council if they could make a "check out" time for campers when there is someone that has the same campsite rented the next day. After discussion, the council agreed to make the camper check-out at 1:00 p.m., the same as the check-out time for the cabins. Debbie told the council the camping spots have stayed pretty full, she only has one or two spots that she can rent off and on. Debbie also reported she has had a problem with one of the seasonal campers not ever bringing his camper to the lake, but still paying for the spot and not allowing them to rent it out to anyone. She said usually it wouldn't be any big deal, but being full most weekends, she has received a lot of complaints this summer from campers asking why there is always a reserved sign in that spot and never a camper. City Attorney Allison Kuhns said the council could agree to have the seasonal campers sign a lease and make it to where they would have to keep their camper there a percentage of the time in order to continue to rent their campsite. The council asked Allison if she would be willing to draw up a lease agreement for the seasonal campers, she said she would. Lake Manager Don Dutton reported he has already lost 4 buoys because of the wake rule. Danny told Don to check with Fish & Game which is where they have got the buoys in the past. Don also said "we need some presence on the water", he said if he receives a complaint all he can do is try to find them after they come off the water and he usually doesn't catch them.....he said Fish and Game has only been present once this summer and that was to put their jet ski in the water to make sure it ran before they went on. The council told Don to contact Fish & Game and tell them we have been busy this summer and would appreciate some coverage on the weekends. Don also asked the council about campers mowing or weed eating around their campers, he said there are a few that have done nothing all summer long and the weeds around their campers are getting pretty tall which attracts snakes, etc.

After discussion, the council agreed that issue should be put in the lease agreement that Allison is going to draw up for the seasonal campers.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw first asked the City Attorney what paperwork would be needed to change Mike Bushnell's home to show he no longer is a part of the private sewer line which runs across his property since a new city sewer line has been installed to his home. Allison said she would draw up the necessary paperwork. Danny recommended to the council that separate water meters be installed for each section of campers at the lake. He said right now there is only one water meter for the entire lake and it also registers water usage at Comanche Estates even though each house at the Estates has their own water meter. Danny said metering each section would greatly help with locating a water leak and the annual water loss on his annual report. The council agreed. Danny asked to replace the 6 inch meter at water well #6 at a cost of \$2,600.00. Ashta made a motion to allow Danny to purchase the 6 inch water meter for water well #6, seconded by Cleta, and all voted Yes. Danny asked permission to allow someone to come down to look at the hand gun on the oil truck since it's not working. The council agreed to have Danny get an estimate of repairs for the oil truck. Danny also asked to rent a skid loader and brush hog for a week to clear brush and weeds so he can locate the water line and clear around the city water well in Steve Broussard's pasture, he said it would make it a lot easier to locate a water leak in the line. After discussion, Mike made a motion to allow Danny to rent the equipment for a week to clear the brush and weeds in the pasture, seconded by Renee and all voted Yes. Danny told the council he received a zoning variance request from Alex Bruckner to put up a fence to the west of his home at the corner of West Main & Frisco. Danny said he was good on 3 sides of his fence, but the one side he's wanting to be out the 15 foot setback and Danny said he didn't have a problem with it. Ashta made a motion to allow Alex Bruckner the zoning variance for his fence, seconded by Cleta, and all voted Yes.

City Attorney Allison Kuhns said since the code enforcement letters were re-sent on July 31<sup>st</sup>, the end of the 10-days they have to request a hearing would be tomorrow, so if any of them haven't taken care of their properties, they can be addressed at the next meeting. Allison presented two ordinances for approval.....Ordinance No. 2020-2 which amends the compensation policy for members of the governing body for the remainder of the year 2020, any governing body member who is absent from a regularly scheduled meeting shall not receive his or her monthly compensation for that month. Ashta made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-2, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes. Ordinance No. 2020-3 which amends the compensation policy for members of the governing body for the year 2021 and forward, members of the governing body shall be allowed two absences from regular monthly meetings per calendar year without interruption of the monthly compensation. Beginning with the third absence, members of the governing body shall not be compensated for any month during which they fail to attend the regular monthly meeting. Cleta made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-3, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes. Allison asked the council if they had reviewed the draft of the Code of Conduct she had emailed them after 5pm today. After little discussion, Ashta made a motion to adopt the City Council Code of Conduct, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes. Allison told the council she had not worked on the changes they wanted to make to the Comanche Estates covenants, but said she will have it for their review at the next meeting. Allison also told the council that after researching the rezoning of a property from residential to commercial, she found that notice needs to be published in the newspaper once and the neighbors within 200 feet of the property need to be notified of the change, plus a hearing needs to be held at the September meeting. Kristal said she let Brena Alexander know of the new development (which she was not very happy about) and said the company who is constructing the building is starting on it tomorrow.

Mayor Bruckner told the council she would like to start looking at old blighted houses. She said the City of Protection has set back money each year to be spent on tearing down old run-down properties. She said the cost could be put onto the tax rolls or paid by the City. Allison said it's a process to go through, but can be done, and would take a minimum of 3 months to accomplish. She suggested they start by compiling a list of properties, taking pictures of said properties and bring back to the meeting.

Mayor Bruckner told the council the new owner of the former Comanche Motel came to see her and said they had intentions of remodeling the motel, but after realizing how bad of shape the water pipes, the roof, etc. were in, they didn't have the funds. She said there is a community block grant that she's going to check into. Cleta said she would take a look at it and see if it was something we could apply for to help them out.

Bills in the amount of \$127,939.55 were presented for payment. Mike made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes.

Under new business, Renee asked if there was an ordinance relating to parking on city streets, she said her neighbor parks his pickup right up next to their driveway and it's causing sand to wash up into their driveway. Kristal said she would look in the standard traffic ordinance and let her know if she finds anything.

With no other business presented, Renee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

\*\*After the meeting was adjourned, Jeanette Siemens came up to tell the council she thought they were making a mistake by not supporting the trail which she said would be beneficial to the City and to the lake. She thanked the council for their time and the council thanked Mrs. Siemens for coming to the meeting.