

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Because of the Columbus Day Holiday, the regular October meeting was postponed from Monday, October 12th to Tuesday, October 13th. 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, Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: April Lester and Melissa McGuire.

Mayor Bruckner called the council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call. Minutes from the September meetings were approved as written, motion by Ashta, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

April Lester told the council she has handed in an animal permit application for two female goats, they will be used for brush and weed control. Council member Robert Cardoza asked April if she planned on breeding the goats, and she told him no she did not. Renee made a motion to approve April Lester for an animal permit for two female goats, good for one year, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton reported the cabins are reserved until the middle of December. Don also told the council there are a few things he wants to do at the lake, but is going to hold off for now because of the price of materials. Don asked the council if they want him to close the entrance bathroom during the winter or keep it open, he reminded them it was closed for the season last year and was vandalized. After discussion, the council agreed to keep the entrance bathroom open during the winter. Don said he will be around until the middle of December to keep an eye on it.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council the estimated cost for repairs to the oil truck is \$6,500.00 which includes parts and labor for them to travel here to fix it. Danny said just the parts are \$2,600.00 and he is ok with putting on the parts himself to save the labor bill. The council agreed. Danny also told the council they need to start working on the road at the lake or “we’re going to lose it”. Danny suggested raising rates to help pay for it, no decisions were made. Danny passed around pictures of water wells #4 and #6 before and after they were acidized. Well #4 was done 12 years ago and well #6 was done a few weeks ago. Danny said it’s better to start planning and being prepared for something now instead of waiting until it collapses.” He also said “to drill a new municipal well today is a quarter of a million dollars.” Council members discussed the possibility of grants to pay for such a project, but Danny told them they have looked for grants in the past for water projects and our water rates have been too low to qualify. After a lengthy discussion, the council asked Danny to talk to Layne Western to get an estimate on drilling a new well, plus look into what other cities’ water rates are compared to ours.

Mayor Bruckner said there would be no report from Police Chief Devon Duffield, he is still in Coronavirus quarantine until October 23rd, but he did ask her to bring up to the council the fact he is wanting to attend a bolowrap class on November 2nd., which would be free of charge to the City. He has ordered the bolowrap “weapon” to use and the class will also teach him to be an instructor as well. The council agreed to allow Devon to attend the class on November 2nd.

City Attorney Allison Kuhns passed around a sheet that explains the State of Kansas setoff program which collects delinquent utility bills for Cities, and proposes this as the answer to collect them. The State does withhold 19% of the bill if you have all the pertinent information on the individual, such as social security number, address, etc., but if you do not have the information, they charge 24%. Mike made a motion to approve using the State setoff program to collect delinquent

utility bills, with Kristal as the main point of contact, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes. Allison reported she has done some research into the paperwork for the Bushnell sewer line issue and has determined it is not a City issue, she made a suggestion to Mike to hire an attorney to resolve the issue and Danny would cooperate as needed. Allison asked the council to approve Ordinance No. 2020-6 which corrects errors made in the code regarding dogs and cats. Robert made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-6, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes. Allison asked the council to approve Resolution No. 2020-5 which gives Samantha Gilby 10 days to clean up her property at 605 N. Central or the City will abate the conditions described in the Order of Violation if any remain. Ashta made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-5, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes. Allison also told the council she will work on the seasonal camper lease and have a draft for them to review at the November meeting.

Mayor Bruckner said she has had several people ask if the city was going to allow trick or treating this year because of the Coronavirus. The council discussed the matter and said it should be left up to parents whether to have their kids go out trick or treating, plus as a resident if you want to welcome trick or treaters leave your porch light on, if not leave your porch light off.

Mayor Bruckner also asked the council to discuss the possibility of adding a washer/dryer set in the cabins at the lake which could be used by the guests that stay in the cabin, plus Don & Debbie could use it to wash the mattress covers, etc. After discussion, Mike made a motion to install a washer/dryer set in Locust Lodge, and can discuss nightly rental rates after the fact, the motion was seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes.

Council member Mike Bushnell reported on a government program that CMS is participating in that is helping to cover payroll costs for employees who miss work due to a Coronavirus quarantine either for them personally, or having to stay home to take care of their children. After discussion, the council asked Kristal to look into the program to see if the City would qualify.

Mayor Bruckner asked the council to go into executive session with the City Attorney for 10 minutes for preliminary discussion of a real estate acquisition, the motion was made by Ashta and seconded by Robert, all voted Yes. After returning to open session, no decisions were made.

Bills in the amount of \$231,955.52 were presented for payment. Robert made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business, Kristal gave the council a spreadsheet she had made with results from quite a few cities listing what they charge for water deposits/connection fees. The council reviewed the report and discussed changing the City's water connection fee. After discussion, Ashta made a motion to raise the water connection fee for new service from a nonrefundable \$25.00 to a nonrefundable \$75.00 and raise the shut-off reconnection fee from \$25.00 to \$75.00 between the hours of 8:00am to noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm and from \$80.00 to \$150.00 for reconnection after 4:00pm or weekends.

With no other business presented, Ashta made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.