

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday April 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

After postponing the regular monthly meeting from April 12, 2021, because of a conflict with a school music program, 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, Clela Lampe, and Ashta Rosson, City Attorney Charley Herd, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Chief of Police Devon Duffield, Lake Co-Managers Don & Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Mike Younger, Diane Thompson and Chris Bruckner.

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

Mike Younger with EBH Engineering out of Pratt, KS met with the council to go over their plans to upgrade the water system and the possible ways to fund the project. Mike said in order to get any funding for a water project, the first step would be to hire an engineer to get a preliminary engineer report. He passed around a sheet that showed the estimated cost of constructing an 8" PVC waterline to connect the City with Comanche Estates that was done back in January, 2020 which was 419,413.00 and also water well work and other improvements from December 23, 2014 which was \$261,100.00. The sheet also showed details on each possible way to fund the water project and after discussing the different ways of funding the project, he thought the KDHE low interest loan would probably be the way to go. Mike told the council the preapplication project submittal is due June 15th. After discussing the different options, the council agreed to have Mike get with Danny for a list of what they'd like to see included in the project, and put together an agreement by the next meeting on May 10th.

Diane Thompson with Haviland Broadband met with the council to let them know they are in the process of upgrading the internet service in Coldwater to fiber optics and need a centralized place in the City to house the "hub" which would be an 8 foot by 16 foot hut. She said they would like to purchase a portion of the vacant lot in between the pharmacy and furniture store which the City owns to house the hut. Diane presented the council with an ordinance granting Haviland Telephone a license to operate and maintain a communications system in the public rights-of-way of the City and also an Easement Agreement. She said the same documents had been used in Greensburg when they converted to fiber optics there and everything worked great. She said she knows there is a possible issue with acquiring the portion of the vacant lot the City owns because of the owners of the pharmacy, but reiterated they would not need much space to house their 8 x 16 hut. City Attorney Charley Herd said he would like to review the agreement and ordinance and consult with the Mayor and City Council before a decision is made. Diane said she understood and hoped to hear from them soon.

City Attorney Charley Herd told the council he would like to go into executive session with the Mayor, City Council and City Clerk for 30 minutes. Ashta made a motion to go into executive session for 30 minutes to confer with the city attorney, seconded by Clela and everyone voted Yes. After returning to open session, no decisions were made.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw asked the council to approve the Circle C Paving contract for \$90,000.00 which includes chip sealing 50 square yards or 37 city blocks. Clela made a motion to approve the Circle C Paving contract for \$90,000.00, seconded by Robert and everyone voted Yes. Danny reported the grader is in need of repair, it needs the front seal fixed and estimates the cost to be about \$3,700.00. Ashta made a motion to allow Danny to fix the grader at a cost of \$3,700.00, seconded by Clela and everyone voted Yes. Danny also reported the pool coverings (umbrellas) are getting pretty bad and will need to get replacements into the budget for next year. Danny told the

council that Pat Wells has been in contact with the Mayor letting her know his water pressure is down again. Danny said that ever since Bob Harrington (who owns the property across the highway from Pat) put in a garden last summer and waters it, it takes away from Pat Wells' water pressure. He said the City needs to run a 4 inch line and tie it into the 8 inch line on Cleveland Ave. and since they will have to bore a hole under the highway, he recommends the City hire Frank's Plumbing from Montezuma to do the project, he estimates the cost to run about \$35,000.00. Kristal gave the council a sheet that shows, after paying the bills to be approved at this meeting, the water fund will have a deficit of -13,607.88. She said she will call Aaron Koehn, the City's auditor and visit with him about using the 1% sales tax funds to fund this water project. Mike made a motion to hire Franks Plumbing from Montezuma to install the new 4 inch water line from Cleveland Ave., North, pending the answer from the auditor to use 1% sales tax funds, seconded by Ashta and everyone voted Yes.

Lake Co-Manager Debbie Dutton reported the lake is pretty full for the summer, she said there is only a couple campsites to rent for weekend campers before Memorial Day and after that there are no vacancies until the end of summer.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton passed around a picture of the picnic table "kit" he built for himself, he said he's not sure of the exact cost because the lumber price varies from week to week, but estimates it would be somewhere in the vicinity of \$150.00 per table. Don asked about putting up "no liability" signs for the boat ramps stating that any damage incurred when loading or unloading would be the responsibility of the boat owner, not the city. The council discussed the matter and said they thought they had approved such signs to be put up last year. Don said he will get with Danny Bruckner of Stick It Signs to get the signs made.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield told the council that at this time snare traps are legal in the City, but he would like to see them made illegal and only allow live traps. The council agreed to talk with the city attorney about making them illegal. Devon reported he has talked with Ashland Vet Clinic about using the city's tranquilizer gun for animals, he said they are going to discuss the matter and let him know. He said if he is approved to use it, they will train him to use it. The council agreed. Devon also reported he has been doing code enforcement on houses that need condemned and on one property in particular he said the council will need to appoint a project code enforcer since it would be a conflict of interest for him to take care of it. He said after talking with Danny, he has agreed to be appointed whenever he has a conflict of interest. The council agreed to talk with Danny about being project code enforcer.

Mayor Bruckner asked the council if they had read the letter sent by Dustin Allen regarding the increase in water rates. The letter states he doesn't think it was fair for those homeowners who don't live here full-time, and don't use much water, to have to pay for the increase. He thought they should raise the cost for only those residents that use the most water. After discussion, Mayor Bruckner said she and Kristal will draft a return letter to Dustin.

Council member Mike Bushnell said he put employee raises on the agenda because he wasn't at the last meeting when employee raises were given. He said he would like the council to revisit the two full-time employees that did not receive a raise last month, he said he understood the reason they were not given a raise is because they received a large increase in their wages last year. He said he would like to see them get some kind of raise since they both had positive evaluations. After discussion, Mike made a motion to give Rodney Keith and Jason Roberts each a 50 cent per hour raise, seconded by Ashta and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Bruckner told the council Kayla Snyder has been hired as pool manager for the upcoming summer and she was asking about the hourly wage for the pool manager. After discussion, and the fact that Kayla has experience with swim lessons, etc, Ashta made a motion to pay Kayla Snyder \$14.00 per hour, the assistant pool manager wage will stay at \$10.50 per hour and lifeguards wage will stay at \$9.00 per hour, the motion was seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Mayor Bruckner presented Lynda Cooley's painting bill for \$980.00 which is \$20.00 an hour for 49 hours painting the restrooms and entryway of the veteran's building. Mayor Bruckner explained Lynda had come to her and said she usually charges \$20 per hour to paint and Penny told her she would need to get the council's approval for that amount. Kristal told the council Lynda told her since the council didn't meet until April 19th, she would go ahead and paint it and if the council doesn't agree to the \$20 per hour she'll just do it for her regular veteran's building wage which is \$11.25 per hour. After discussion, Ashta made a motion to pay Lynda Cooley \$15.00 per hour for painting the veteran's building restrooms as contract labor, not as an employee, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$154,631.41 were presented for payment. Cleta made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.

With no other business presented, Cleta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Renee and all voted Yes.