

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Because of the Columbus Day Holiday, the regular scheduled city council meeting was postponed one week. The governing body of the City of Coldwater met in regular session, with the following present: Mayor Joe Ceballos presiding, Council members Mike Bushnell, Robert Cardoza, Cleta Lampe, Britt Lenertz and Ashta Rosson, Public Works Director Danny Shaw and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Kalee Martin & Vanita Blundell

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

Kalee Martin, President of FCCLA at SCHS told the council they have received a grant for the “Little Library” and would like to put it on the New York Street side (west side) of Heritage Park, she said they (FCCLA) would be the ones to take care of it. Ashta made a motion to approve the Little Library on the west side of Heritage Park, seconded by Cleta and the motion carried. The council told Kalee to get with Danny Shaw when they are ready to put it in the park and he will help get it set.

Vanita Blundell reported to the council she has received an offer from a “hunter”, or a group of hunters, to purchase 4 lots in Rawhide Lane. She said the offer was for \$32,000.00 and the City’s purchase price for those 4 lots is \$36,000.00, he also has stipulations.....he only wants to build on two of the lots and maybe put sheds on the other two lots; he wants his own private drive from County Road 12; and he would like to extend the time to have the builds completed to 5 years. After discussion, the council agreed they wanted to see homes built on each lot, all denied the request for the private drive from County Road 12, and ultimately declined to accept the offer.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council the loader need to go to the shop, it’s leaking a gallon of oil out of the engine every couple of days. Mike made a motion to have Danny get the loader fixed, seconded by Robert and everyone voted Yes. Danny also reported KDOT is going to be widening the right-of-way 30 feet on each side of the highway starting just south of town, there can be no trees or water lines so that means the water line on the Lenertz property will need to be moved. Mike said that has happened to CMS before and the State will pay for all costs of moving the line. Danny also reminded the council that the pasture leases were going to go up for bids next month, after discussion, the council set the deadline for all pasture lease bids to be due into City Hall by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 8th and to make sure to add in the advertisement that the “City reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.” The council asked Danny if all city maintenance employees knew how to run each piece of equipment, after discussing the matter, the council told him they all need to be able and willing to run each piece of equipment.

Mayor Ceballos presented an animal permit application for Ericka Shanniak, she is asking to put 3 foals of Danny Huck’s that need weaned, in their pasture. After discussion, Britt made the motion to approve the animal permit application for three months, seconded by Robert and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos told the council that in order to move forward with the water project, the city needs to hire an engineering firm and asked them to discuss the two candidates that introduced themselves at prior meetings. After discussion, Britt made a motion the City hire Earl’s Engineering & Inspection from Liberal, KS, seconded by Ashta and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos presented a bid from Mark Kirk of Kirk’s Painting of \$25,340.00 to paint the Veteran’s Building which includes caulking as needed, crack fill as needed and stucco repair as needed. Kristal told the council Mark is from Ohio, but his brother is a pastor in Alva, OK and had seen the ad in the Western Star and told Mark about it. Britt made a motion to accept the bid from

Mark Kirk of Kirk's Painting for \$25,340.00 to paint & repair the Veteran's Building, seconded by Clea and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos told the council Devon was asked for an inventory when he left and he told Kristal it was on an "external hard drive" which is down at the Sheriff's Office. Clea said she didn't know anything about an inventory being there, but would check into it. Joe said he thought the police committee, which is Ashta and Clea, should get together and go through all the items in the police department and make an inventory if one can't be found. Clea and Ashta said they will work on putting together an inventory.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council to go into executive session for park maintenance personnel reasons. Clea made a motion to go into executive session for park maintenance personnel reasons with the City Clerk present for 15 minutes, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. After returning to open session, no decisions were made.

Bills in the amount of \$252,414.37 were presented for payment. Robert made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Clea and all voted Yes.

Under New Business Mayor Ceballos asked the council members to let Kristal or him know as soon as they know they are going to be absent to a meeting, telling them there was barely a quorum at the September meeting to approve the 2024 budget which was important it be done that night.

Britt said she would like to see the council get a big Christmas tree to put downtown and have the elementary school kids make ornaments to put on the tree. It was discussed that years ago the City used to cut down a tree and put it on the west side of main street and the kids would make ornaments for it, but the tree in Heritage Park has taken the place of doing that the past few years. Kristal said she would order lights for the Heritage Park tree and the City will make sure they get put up and taken down, then stored after Christmas so we're not purchasing lights every year, someone will contact the school to see if the elementary kids will make ornaments for the tree.

Mike made a motion the council go into executive session to discuss legal issues within the City for 15 minutes, seconded by Clea and everyone voted Yes. After returning to open session, the council wants Danny to talk to City Attorney Skip Herd and Sheriff Mike Lehl regarding Robin Keith living in Steve Pierce's house without his permission.

With no other business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.