

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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, Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: AJ Prusa and Leasa Huck

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

AJ Prusa told the council, as a member of the Coldwater Recreation Board, she has had people for the last couple of years wanting to utilize the ballfields after the Rec ball season was over. She said as much work that has been done to the ballfields in the last few years she would like to see them utilized as much as possible and asked the council to prepare a City policy to use the ballfields. She suggested charging a fee of \$50.00 per day to use the ballfields, comparing it to the \$50.00 per day to use the Veteran's Building, she said it costs approximately \$40.00 per day for the utilities. She also said the city shouldn't be worried about liability, "insurance should be covered just like your city parks". AJ also told the council she would like to see a policy put into place about city employees not paying their property taxes and owing back taxes, said it doesn't look good. She also told the council she finds it "really hard to stomach" that the council gets paid to serve on the city council, pointing out the school board members all serve without pay and wondered whether people served on the city council because they wanted to serve the community or because they wanted the pay.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council the backhoe needs 2 new tires and he can get two new ones from K & S Tire in Alva/Woodward for \$3,040.00 plus mounting. He said he checked with Jeff Blundell and he can not get them. Robert made a motion to purchase 2 new backhoe tires for \$3,040.00 plus mounting, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. Danny gave an update on the water basin, saying they have spent 2 days jackhammering the concrete and is hoping to have it up and running in a couple days. Danny also reminded the council there was trouble with the heater at the lake entrance building last year and may have trouble with it again this year. Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton said the guy that came and fixed it last year would be available if we needed him to look at it. Danny also told the council he would like for them to consider pulling John Zielke's name from leasing a pasture from the City in the future since finding out he has been subleasing the pasture he currently rents, which states in the lease agreement it is not allowed.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton reported that he has had trouble with one of the cabin heat/air conditioning units and it was recommended that the unit be replaced. He said all the units in the cabins are about the same age and should all be replaced, he said he was going to look into the mini splits saying they would be more efficient. The council asked Don to get prices and report back. Don also reported he has been able to get one of the trail cams activated, he said he has not been able to get any help from former police officer Devon Duffield after trying to contact him numerous times, but he has contacted the trail cam company himself. Don also reported he is working on six new picnic tables for the lake.

Mayor Ceballos reported there has been complaints about the traffic speed on the east end of Main Street and is recommending the City post 30 mph speed limit signs at Max Williams going east and at the City limits going west. After discussion, Robert made a motion to post 25 mph speed limit signs going east from Max Williams and at the City limits going west, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council if they thought the pasture leases should be an annual lease, every 3 or 5 years? After discussion, the council agreed to make the pasture leases an annual lease, with them coming up for bid every year.

Mike and Britt, as the lake committee, told the council they met with Don, Debbie & Danny on October 4th and reported on changes suggested to be made for the 2024 seasonal camper lease: the lease will need to be in lessee's name, with no subleasing allowed, campers are spraying weeds too close to the water, a designated space for cargo trailer parking. Kristal said she would see City Attorney, Skip Herd tomorrow and would have him make the changes so the lease agreement can be approved at the December meeting. There was also a discussion about how few campsites there are for "weekend campers" since most of the campsites are reserved and rented by monthly, seasonal campers. The lake committee also suggested a raise in camper rates for 2024 and after discussion, Britt made a motion to decrease the tent rate from \$18.00 to \$10.00, to increase the monthly camping rates from \$300.00 water/electric & \$325.00 water/electric/sewer, plus electric used to \$325.00 water/electric & \$350.00 water/sewer/electric, plus electric used, seconded by Cleta and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos reported there are currently 16 applications for the Chief of Police position, but they are from 12 other states besides Kansas. The council asked Kristal to scan & email the applications so they can be reviewed outside the meeting. Robert asked that copies be made for him.

Bills in the amount of \$186,145.16 were presented for payment. Robert made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Under New Business Kristal told the council she had ordered lights for the tree to be decorated for Christmas in Heritage Park, they asked her to order more since they didn't think that 300 feet would be enough. It was also mentioned the school needed to be contacted to ask if the students wanted to make ornaments for the tree.

Mike said he would like to see the pay of \$400.00 per month for the council and \$500.00 per month for the mayor be lowered. Kristal said the question on council/mayor pay goes around on her city clerk's email and we are one of the highest paid council & mayor around. The council agreed to table the discussion until the three new council members begin in January.

Britt told the council she doesn't think we should sell any more lots at Comanche Estates until a larger water line can be installed to provide more water. Agreed to wait and see after the new engineer gives his report.

With no other business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.