

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

Monday March 8, 2021, 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, Robert Cardoza, Cleta Lampe, and Ashta Rosson, City Attorney Charley Herd, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Chief of Police Devon Duffield, Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Larry, Sarah and Parker Woodrum, Aaron Koehn and Chris Bruckner.

Mayor Bruckner called the council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call, council member Mike Bushnell was absent. Minutes from the February meeting were approved as written, motion by Robert, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Parker Woodrum asked the council for permission to have a bucket calf for a few months at his residence at 505 N. Boston for a 4H project for the county fair. Renee made a motion to allow Parker Woodrum to have a bucket calf through the county fair (the month of July) at 505 N. Boston, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council that because of the February cold snap the water tower right now has a “band aid” on it to keep going, he said there is a need to upgrade the scada system further to include the water tower. Danny said with all the water department expenses needed, he has talked to Mike Younger who is an engineer with EBH Engineering and he said that a KDHE low interest loan may be a better way to go instead of another water bond. He said the current interest rate is 1.3% and doesn’t think the fees will be near as much, but there may be a little more paperwork involved. The council asked Danny to ask Mike Younger to come to the next council meeting so they can discuss the water projects and funding with him. Danny reported he has had problems with the showers at the pool and asked to change them out to the “pull chains” like they have at the lake, he said they don’t have near as many problems with those showers, the council agreed. Danny also reported he would like to see about trading in the 1997/98 brush hog and the ditch witch vac machine for new equipment to add in the 2022 budget. He said a new 10 foot brush hog is \$25,000.00.

Aaron Koehn with the accounting firm of Vonfeldt, Bauer and Vonfeldt, presented the 2020 audit report. He went through the report with the council and reported there were no statutory violations in 2020 and reported 2020 was a good year.

City Attorney Charley Herd asked the council to go into executive session for 30 minutes. Renee made a motion the council go into executive session for 30 minutes to confer with the city attorney, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes. After returning to open session, no decisions were made.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton reported he is wanting to get signs to put in the lake bathrooms regarding the new toilets with a number to call if there is a problem with them, the council agreed. He also said he’s going to rebuild a picnic table to make it more sturdy and bring it to a council meeting for the council for review before he moves forward. He said it would cost \$175.00 per table and wants to do 4 or 5 each year.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield reported the property on North Leonard is ready for Danny to clean-up. Devon also reported the seat belt safety period ended March 5<sup>th</sup> and he only wrote 1 ticket. Also, the new speed zone by the school is working well, and he will be adjusting his hours for the lake season soon. Devon said he has been asked if he will be doing a ride-along program, he said most that ask are thinking about going into law enforcement, and they would have to be 18 to qualify. He said he hasn’t decided if he is going to move forward with the ride-along program or not. Devon asked the council for permission to carry Narcan which could save his life or the lives of others in case of an accidental exposure to a lethal dose of a drug, he said it will give you 15 minutes to get to the ER. The kits are \$75.00, the council agreed.

Mayor Bruckner told the council we have had no applicants for the pool manager position, after discussion, it was agreed to advertise a couple more weeks for the position.

Mayor Bruckner told the council that after discussing the City's insurance policy with Peoples Insurance agent Leasa Huck, she said we need to keep the present policy because of the low deductible and price of the policy itself. Leasa did say, however, she could be reassigned as the agent of our current policy by signing a "transfer of agent" form. The council agreed to the transfer of Leasa Huck as our insurance agent.

Mayor Bruckner presented the employee evaluations to the council for their review and said this is the time we review the employees pay as well. Renee said it seems when we have employee evaluations, the employees are always wanting a "hand-out" and wondered about doing a longevity or merit bonus at the end of the year instead of raises this year. Cleta said they at least need to give Chief of Police Devon Duffield a raise for graduating from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. After discussion, Cleta made a motion to give Devon Duffield a raise from \$32,000.00 per year to \$35,000.00 per year, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes. After a lengthy discussion regarding the remainder of the employees, Ashta made a motion to give a 50 cent per hour raise to Charlie Austin and Kristal Sherman, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes. Cleta made a motion to give Danny Shaw a raise from his monthly salary of \$4,820.20 to \$4,900.00 per month, seconded by Renee and all voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$91,844.41 were presented for payment. After discussion of the Ashland Veterinary Bill of \$1,086.00, it will be subtracted from the total and Kristal will ask the city attorney at court tomorrow whether to pay it or not. Robert made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$89,791.65, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes.

With no other business presented, Ashta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.