

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 8, 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, Britt Lenertz and Ashta Rosson, Lake Co-Managers Don and Debbie Dutton, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Chief of Police Devon Duffield and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Robin Allen, Beverly Clark, Norine Fry, Marilyn Huck, Katee & Phillip Underwood, Greg & Jaylen Delaney, Leasa Huck, Terri Hubbard, Pat Dunn, Kayla Snyder, Lorena Valesquez, Dalen & Melinda Thompson, Slade Underwood, Tonia Miller, Mackenzie Dunn and Chris Mills

Mayor Ceballos called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call, council member Cleeta Lampe was absent. Minutes from the April meeting were approved as written, motion by Mike, seconded by Ashta and all voted Yes.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council he really didn't have anything on the agenda, he said they were working on another water leak at the lake and he's still waiting on more bids for the water basin. Mayor Ceballos asked Danny and the council to talk about the pool since that's why the citizens were here. Joe gave an update on the pool to the citizens: We had a company, American Leak Detectors out of Tulsa, OK, come the middle of April that looked at the pool, he said he would meet with his supervisor and devise a plan to come back, they have since contacted Danny and said he needs to take some pipes out of the bottom drains, then fill the pool and they would come back and do some testing to try to find the leak, but they wouldn't be able to come back until sometime in June. Joe said he and the council want to open the pool, but it's not a matter of the cost of the water loss, it's a matter of safety to determine if there are voids underneath and/or around the pool. Danny said he had talked to KC Gunite, the contractor who built the pool in 2012, they were not going to be available until the middle of June to come look at the pool, but did say with as much water loss that was happening in 2022, something catastrophic could happen, meaning there could be a void underneath or in the walls of the pool. Danny did say it has been determined it's not leaking until it gets to the skimmers, but the water makes it to the bottom pipe through the sump pump. Joe said most of the water we're losing is draining out and ending up in the east ditch. Mike said from 2020 to 2021, the water usage went up 30% and from 2021 to 2022 it went up 37%, Dennies asked how much water was used in gallons, 2022 - 2.2 million; 2021 - 1.6 million and 2020, 1.2 million. Joe said with that much water loss there could possibly be a void somewhere underneath the pool or in the walls. Leasa Huck, as our insurance agent, told the council that she doesn't want to see the pool close, but she doesn't want to see a major issue happen either, she said it was hard to find the insurance we currently have and if something catastrophic were to happen, the City would not be insurable in the future. Danny said he started calling around in January trying to find someone to come help find this leak and he couldn't get people to call him back until he found the American Leak Detectors, some of the citizens were saying we need to be more aggressive about calling them back and keep calling them back until we get an answer from them. Ashta said her biggest fear is that if we keep it open and keep filling it with the big loss of water then we're going to start punishing the people of the City because we have to raise our water rates and there are those that can't afford higher water bills, she said she doesn't want to punish our citizens, especially those who do not use the pool, it was a huge cost to run it last year with the water loss and doesn't want to see the water rates raise because of it and is also afraid of making the leak worse by not fixing it. Britt agreed that if we keep "sitting on the leak" and not fixing it how much worse is it going to get. Jerry Lenertz asked how much is it leaking? Mike responded "in July of 2021 it used 346 thousand gallons and in July of 2022, it used 652 thousand gallons." Greg Delaney proposed we find a company with

seismograph equipment to see if they could find a void. Jerry Lenertz said everyone should call our state representatives and tell them we need some help with our pool. Mike asked Danny if we could put a meter on the pipe as the water leaves the pool and see how much water is actually leaking out. Danny said it was beyond him, he really doesn't know since the blueprints are not the "as built" prints we have, changes were made by the contractor and no one, neither the contractor nor the engineer, says they have the "as built" plans. Don Dutton said that the pool in Medicine Lodge had been built by the same contractor, they had a leak and contracted with American Leak Detectors, who found their leak outside of their pool and they were able to fix it themselves. After more discussion, Mayor Ceballos said we will call the American Leak Detectors back and see if they can possibly come out any sooner than June and also search for any other company that could help. It was also discussed as a possibility, if our pool cannot open this summer, to bus kids either to the Greensburg or Protection pool. Kayla Snyder asked about the lifeguards, they are set to go to training the 20th & 21st of this month, the council instructed Kayla to go ahead with training and will let her know as soon as they know anything, it was also mentioned to pay the pool manager, assistant manager and lifeguards no matter what since they were planning on the pool being their summer job. Britt said they will work at keeping everyone updated and they are all welcome to come to a meeting anytime, as well as call or email council members anytime, their numbers and addresses are on the website. Mike also said "please don't hesitate to contact us during this whole process, I know social media is a great way to communicate, but stories get taken from a mountain to a volcano and stuff gets misconstrued, if you want answers come to the source here, we will be happy to work with everyone because we're in the same boat and fight with you" Mayor Ceballos thanked everyone for coming, he said "I realize everyone is concerned, I'm concerned and the council is concerned that it's a safety issue, and hopefully we've answered some of your questions, you can stay as long as you'd like."

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton told the council Cleta's daughter wants to work on the holidays and whenever needed to clean the bathrooms, she is 16. The council agreed. Don also reported our new mower employee went inside the markers, hit a camper with the mower and did some damage to the camper. The council agreed to have the owner of the camper get it fixed and send the bill to the City.

Lake Co-Manager Debbie Dutton reported she had checked with other lakes and they do not open their bathrooms until May 1st. She also said there were about 10 campers that hadn't brought their campers out yet. After discussion, the council agreed to have Debbie call them and let them know they have until the 21st of May to get their campers to the lake or their campsite will be forfeited and rented to someone on the waiting list. Debbie also asked the council if next year the golf cart tag permit application could stipulate that the tags are to be attached on the back of the golf carts so they can be easily seen. Don also reported there are a lot of kids that are illegally driving out at the lake on farm permits and he had talked with Devon about the matter.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield reported since the last meeting he has written 6 tickets and given 1 warning. The cameras at the lake are catching a lot of movement, nothing bad so far, he will keep moving them around to different spots. Devon reported after talking to Skip, the next step to condemning the property at 200 N. Washington is to have a meeting with Teresa Brooks and the health officer at a special meeting. Devon also reported he had major issues with the patrol car over the weekend, it was misfiring where he couldn't get above 30 mph, so he called SERV (Superior Emergency Response Vehicles) to see how close the new car was to being ready, the car Devon ordered isn't ready yet, but he has 2 vehicles on his lot that match what Devon had ordered and he was going to see about giving the City one of those since Devon is having problems with the current patrol car. Devon also reported he is having issues with his handheld radio, he got a quote from TBS for a new radio \$2,176.00, but it doesn't come with the fire frequency, it would be \$1,116.00 for a

separate fire radio. After discussion, the council asked Devon to get a quote for a multiple frequency radio that will include everything he needs in one radio.

Mayor Ceballos said he had put spring limb pickup on the agenda, saying it was a good service the City provides the citizens and after discussion, the council set June 12th as the date for the limb pickup with everyone needing to be signed up by 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 9th.

Mayor Ceballos said he has been receiving complaints about how some people are parking in the middle of Main Street, and on busy days it's hard to get down those streets as long as some vehicles are and the way they are parking. He suggested to Danny to paint lines in the middle of the street to give people a space to park in.

Mayor Ceballos told the council it was the time of year to review the employee Blue Cross and Blue Shield health/dental insurance rates which Kristal had given them a copy of. The rates have gone up anywhere from 10% to 14% depending on how much the insurance was used the following year. Britt made a motion to renew the new Blue Cross and Blue Shield rates that will go into effect July 1, 2023, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council to read the letter from A. J. Prusa regarding firework sales, she couldn't be at the meeting tonight, but is asking permission to add an extra day to sell at the stand and allow for one extra day to discharge fireworks in town. She is asking to sell fireworks from Friday, June 30th thru Tuesday, July 4th and asking for discharge of fireworks dates and times as follows: Friday, June 30th & Saturday, July 1st from 8:00 a.m. to Midnight; Sunday, July 2nd & Monday, July 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 4th from 8:00 a.m. to Midnight. She also said the fireworks show at the lake will be on Tuesday, July 4th with no "backup" rain date set, so if by chance they cannot be discharged because of rain, she will store the whole 2023 order in the ATF approved magazine container at her house until next year. Mike made a motion to accept and agree to A.J.'s letter, seconded by Robert and everyone voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$106,266.03 were presented for payment. Ashta made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business the council discussed paying the pool manager, assistant manager and lifeguards. Ashta made a motion to pay the pool manager, assistant manager and lifeguards for the pool season beginning Memorial Day weekend, whether or not we open the pool, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Under New Business Britt suggested a couple council members help keep the public informed on the City's Facebook page, telling her and Clea had discussed it and would be happy to be the ones to do that. She said if we have better communication with the public, it could cut down on the negative comments that are spread on social media. The council agreed. Kristal will get Britt and Clea added to the City's Facebook page.

With no other business presented, Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.