

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday January 8, 2024, 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, Makenzie Dunn, Gary Haulmark, Leasa Huck and Britt Lenertz, Public Works Director Danny Shaw and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Andrew Hess

Before the meeting was called to order, newly elected City Council members Makenzie Dunn, Gary Haulmark and Leasa Huck were sworn into office by City Clerk, Kristal Sherman.

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

Andrew Hess asked the council for a zoning variance for a carport in his driveway at his home at 500 N. New York. Danny said he is 9 feet over the setback, but it still leaves 11 feet and is not going to be an obstruction to traffic. After discussion, Makenzie made a motion to grant Andrew the zoning variance at 500 N. New York, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council he has had to call Foley again about the loader because it wouldn't start again, the mechanic was going to send parts and Danny will install them to save another service call. Danny reported there are a number of veteran's building tables and chairs being abused and it's getting to where they can't be fixed, he said he's had to do away with about a dozen tables in the past year. After discussion, Gary made a motion the city clerk start charging a \$50.00 deposit for use of the building, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. Danny asked the council to review the proposals for engineering fees from Earls Engineering, there is one for the lake dam safety inspection for \$3,900.00 and one for the water project for \$82,125.00. The two projects were discussed, Danny said the lake dam inspection needed to be decided on since it is due in April. Makenzie made a motion to approve the engineering fees of \$3,900.00 from Earls Engineering for the lake dam inspection, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. The water project was discussed further, Gary said he wants to have the engineer get us an overall cost of all the water improvements needed and a plan to set them out for the next 5 to 10 years before approving any of them, he would also like to research any grants that may be available for the project. Danny will ask Pete Earle with Earls Engineering to come to the next meeting.

Mayor Ceballos said every two years after new council members are elected, the council needs to elect a new President of the council, the responsibility of the President is to reside over the city council meetings in the absence of the Mayor; and if something would happen to the mayor, the President would step into that role. The President of the council is also the President of the Coldwater Housing Authority and resides over their meetings. Leasa made a motion to nominate Britt Lenertz as President of the Council, Makenzie seconded the nomination and Britt was voted as the new President of the City Council.

Mayor Ceballos explained the council committees work with the various departments of the city and report back with recommendations to the council, no decisions are made by committees alone. Everyone agreed they would like to continue the committees which they chose as follows:

Police & Code Enforcement: Makenzie & Gary

Lake & Comanche Estates: Leasa & Britt

Parks & Pool: Mike & Leasa

Streets, Water & Sewer: Gary & Britt

City Clerk, Kristal Sherman passed around the Peoples Bank signature card for the Mayor and City Council to sign.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council to review the annual appointments as follows:

Official banks: Peoples Bank and Bank of Coldwater

Official paper: The Western Star

Municipal Judge: Rustin Martin

City Treasurer: Johnita Stalcup

City Clerk: Kristal Sherman

Clerk of the Municipal Court: Kristal Sherman

City Attorney: Skip Herd

Building inspector: Danny Shaw

Chief of Police: N/A

Code Enforcement/Public Officer: (Chief of Police) & Danny Shaw

Animal Control Officer: Danny Shaw

Meeting time: second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the City Building

Mileage reimbursement rate: 67 cents per business mile (IRS Rate)

Gary made a motion to approve the appointments listed, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council to discuss the Mayor/Council pay and to review the spreadsheet Kristal had compiled of what other cities pay their Mayor and Council. Mike said he's tried to lower the pay ever since he's been on the council and has not been able to get that done, he would really like to see it done away with or at least be lowered. Gary said that looking and comparing to other cities, we are one of the highest paid cities on the list and thinks the pay should probably change, but would like to wait a few months and see how much time is required of the position before he makes any decision. Makenzie said she didn't realize it was a paid position until just recently and Leasa said she feels the same as Mike, that it should be a service to the community and didn't expect to be paid.

Mayor Ceballos presented Resolution No. 2024-1 which waives the Generally Accepted Accounting Principals to prepare financial statements and reports for the City of Coldwater for the year 2024. Britt made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-1, seconded by Gary and all voted Yes.

City Clerk, Kristal Sherman asked the council if they wanted to offer the lake permits at a discount as they have done in years' past. After discussion, Gary made a motion to only discount the vehicle permits, the vehicle permits will be \$10 per permit from January 22 thru February 2, seconded by Leasa and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos presented a CMB renewal application from Dollar General. Mike made a motion to approve the application for the Dollar General CMB renewal license, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos presented an animal permit application for Ericka Shanniak, she is asking to put 3 foals and 2 calves of Danny Huck's that need weaned, in their pasture. After discussion, Britt made the motion to approve the animal permit application for six months, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$60,095.42 were presented for payment. Mike made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.

Under new business, Gary passed around a Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) guide and asked if it would be ok to ask Julie Lyons with the Department of Housing to come speak at the next council meeting regarding the housing needs in Coldwater and possibly finding grant funds to help with those needs, the council agreed.

With no other business presented, Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Leasa and all voted Yes.