

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday April 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, Lake Co-Managers Debbie and Don Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitor: Holly Launchbaugh.

Mayor Ceballos called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call. Mayor Ceballos asked for the minutes from the March meeting to be approved—Gary asked who was supposed to paint the tennis and pickleball lines at the park—Mayor Ceballos said one of his co-workers told him he would paint them. Minutes from the March meeting were approved as written, motion by Mike, seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.

Holly Launchbaugh with the South Central Community Foundation based out of Pratt, handed out literature and explained how the foundation works and how to apply for a grant from the foundation. She said that locals Brenda Fry and Stephanie Salisbury are board members and the foundation covers 7 counties. Holly told the council if they had any questions, after reviewing the handouts, to give her a call she would be glad to answer. The council thanked Holly for coming to the meeting.

Lake Co-Manager Debbie Dutton reported that June, July, August & part of September are pretty full and she rented the last seasonal camper spot today, she said the cabins are pretty full as well. Council member Gary Haulmark asked about the costs of installing “jetties” to help with erosion. Danny said he would check with Kansas RC&D (Resource Conservation & Development) about installing jetties and report back.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton asked the council if he could re-hire Sierra Denney to help clean the restrooms this year. Mackenzie made a motion to allow Don to hire Sierra Denney, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw first thanked the council for his and his guys’ raises, he said after talking to Evan Cook, he found out that Randy Unruh had quoted Evan \$3,000.00 to tear his house down at 200 N. Washington Ave., and after putting pen to paper, he thought it might take \$4,500.00 if the City were to tear it down. He said Evan mentioned he may end up doing it himself since he thought \$3,000.00 was too high. Danny reported the new “firetruck” park equipment had made it to the park last week. Gary asked Danny if he has heard from Pete Earles, he said he hadn’t heard from him yet, but he’s talked to the engineer we had before, and he said he would be glad to share his figures with Pete. Danny also reported that Andrew Leeper won the bid to lease the pasture west of the lake, but has not yet turned in a signed lease or paid for it after Kristal has sent him numerous notices. After discussion, Leasa made a motion the City move on to the next highest bidder on that portion of land, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes, except for Makenzie who recused herself from the vote. Danny also reported that he has had one person apply for the mower position at the lake.

Council member Britt Lenertz reported on the status of the police applications--she said on Tanner Maas, in order to fulfill the Kansas Training Act, she is getting shuffled between the Liberal Chief of Police and their HR department, but the HR department finally got a hold of her Thursday and Tanner has been out of the academy since 8/18/2023, but she hasn’t received an answer about what reimbursement costs might be for him. Britt reported the guy from Hays doesn’t have law

enforcement experience, his only law enforcement job has been with Fort Hays State University for a few months.

Council member Gary Haulmark said he wants the city council to be utilized to the fullest and that is why he has had City Attorney, Skip Herd draw up a council committee ordinance. The council reviewed the ordinance and Gary made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-1. Mayor Ceballos told Gary that he would veto the ordinance, saying he thought that committee appointments were up to him and doesn't believe an ordinance needs to be passed, he said he honestly felt decisions were being made within the committees outside of the council meetings and that's why he disbanded them. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Ceballos said he will reinstate the committees, but would again disband them if he feels decisions are again being made outside the council meetings. Gary then withdrew his motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1 and the council agreed to the committees as follows:

Parks & Pool: Leasa & Mackenzie
Police & Code Enforcement – Britt & Gary
Streets, Water & Sewer – Britt & Gary
Lake – Leasa & Mike

Mayor Ceballos told the council that John Shaw has asked the City to buy back the Comanche Estates lots he and his wife Tamara purchased a year ago, saying he couldn't find anyone to get a house built, plus his wife has had some unexpected health issues come up and it isn't feasible for them to build at Comanche Estates. Britt made a motion to purchase the lots back from John and Tamara Shaw for the purchase price of \$10,000.00, seconded by Leasa and everyone voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$151,695.73 were presented for payment. Gary made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Mike and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business, Gary asked the council to put the transient guest tax in effect and made a motion to adopt a transient guest tax of 6%. After discussion, the council agrees the two motels in town should have the opportunity to come to the council meeting to let them know about the proposed tax they would need to add if the tax is approved. Gary said he will talk to the motels and let them know. The matter was tabled to the next meeting. Gary passed around a sheet that showed he had contacted the Kansas Attorney General's office and the League of Municipalities regarding the question of whether members of the public can livestream the council meetings. They both said yes, but also said the person recording the meeting could not move around and distract from or disrupt the meeting. Mayor Ceballos and a few council members again voiced their opposition to having the meetings livestreamed.

Under new business, Mike told the council that after their recent economic development meeting, Julie Lyon would like to have a special meeting with the council to discuss the possibility of setting up a Land Bank and what that could do for the City with the upcoming tax sale of run-down properties. Mike said he would get with Julie to get a date and Kristal will let everyone know. Leasa had a card from Matthew Hanson, who had recently met with the county commissioners regarding available grant money. She said it was recommended by the county commissioners that we meet with him as well.

With no other business presented, Leasa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.