

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

Monday June 10, 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: Tanner Maas, A.J. Prusa and Wade Sherman.

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

The council held a teleconference with Andy Koenigs with the Kansas Association Health Plan. He explained KMIT started a pool for smaller cities with 9 cities in 2021 and 150 members and right now there are 19 cities and 358 members, with 800 members all together. Andy said the city would have to join KMIT, but there's no fee to join just some paperwork to fill out. The average age range is 31 and he's confident he could save the city money on health insurance, but they do not offer dental or vision insurance with it. Andy said the employees will have to fill out a health profile and he will call City Clerk, Kristal Sherman and give her that information tomorrow.

Tanner Maas, who is currently a police officer for the City of Liberal and a prospective Chief of Police for Coldwater introduced himself to the council and said his mother, brother and grandmother all live here and he would like to become our Chief of Police to be closer to his family. He said he currently lives in Meade and that August 18<sup>th</sup> is his 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary date of graduating from the academy. Tanner said he has been an officer for 10 months now and has been married for 6 years. The council thanked Tanner for coming to the meeting.

A.J. Prusa told the council she was there to ask permission for selling and discharging fireworks. She said for the past many years the cheerleaders have been doing the fundraiser and this is the first year they haven't wanted to do it, so the football team is going to take it over as a fundraiser. She said they would like to open the stand on June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup> and on the 28, 29 & 30 shoot time to be 8am to midnight and 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> 8am to 10pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> 8am to midnight. She said the cost for the fireworks show at the lake this year is \$4,496.20 and asked if the City would want to consider helping with the finances for that, she reminded the council that last year they donated \$1,000.00 toward the show and although she didn't expect them to pay for the entire show, she asked if they would like to donate again. AJ also reminded the council she was at the council meeting back in November and asked to have a policy written for people that want to use the ballfields, she said she realizes that they wanted to wait for the new council to start, and said for 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. The council thanked AJ for coming in and said they will take the fireworks and ballfields into consideration and discuss them further toward the end of the meeting.

Wade Sherman told the council he understands having the city pick up limbs after a storm, whether it is an ice or wind storm, but feels they shouldn't just have a random limb pick up day every year, he sees people taking advantage of it and especially this year when the wind storm hadn't even happened and a date hadn't been set yet, but people were cutting down limbs and whole trees and expecting the city to pick them up. He said he didn't feel that it should be a cost to the tax payers to do this year after year. Danny said he agrees that if someone has a tree cut down randomly, they should pay to have the tree and limbs hauled off, he said he sees people start trimming their trees in January and letting them sit until the City does limb pickup day in the spring or summer. Several

council members said they agreed, that it should be in emergency situations only that the City go around and pick up limbs. After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to table the matter till next meeting and make a new policy at that time.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council he was going to schedule limb pickup next Monday and Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with the requirement of citizens needing limbs picked up to call City Hall by this Friday to get on the list, the council agreed. Danny reported the pool slide pump broke down and is going to take it to be fixed.

President of the Council Britt Lenertz reported as the Coldwater Housing Authority Board and said it has been told the City is ultimately financially responsible for the Prairie Plaza Apartments, and asked to what extent the city would back the financial needs of Prairie Plaza. She said she has talked to Kristal about taking over the Plaza financial books again so they will be able to determine the financial state of the Plaza. Joe said the bank had him sign a guarantee for the loan Prairie Plaza took out last year. Joe asked several questions as to the financial state of Prairie Plaza and the council agreed Kristal will take over doing the financial books. The council set a meeting with Edwin tomorrow evening to discuss the finances with him and let him know.

City Clerk Kristal Sherman asked the council to set a meeting to work on the 2025 budget with the City's auditor Aaron Koehn, she said it will be an all day meeting. Gary, Britt, Joe and Kristal will meet with the auditor on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> for the 2025 budget meeting.

A letter from Katee Underwood was read by the council, she said she wants to put together an Artisan Market on the sidewalk in front of her new business in the 100 block of East Main street every Saturday morning from July to September and asked the council for permission to block just the parking spots on the north side of the 100 block of East Main street for safety reasons. After discussion, Gary made a motion to approve the request from Katee to just block the parking spots, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$109,714.36 were presented for payment. Gary made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Mike and all voted Yes.

Under new business, Joe asked the council if they want to pursue the health insurance from KMIT. Gary said he would like to see what it does for the City to compare the plan KMIT offers and what we currently have. The council agreed to have Andy Koenigs call Kristal. Joe asked the council to discuss AJ Prusa's request for ballfields rules and regulation policy. After discussion, the council agreed that Makenzie and Leasa, as the park committee, will meet and put together a policy for the ballfields to present to the council. Fireworks were also discussed and after discussion, Gary made a motion the City donate \$1,500.00 toward the lake fireworks show, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. The council also discussed dates and times to allow fireworks to be sold and discharged. After discussion, Mike made a motion fireworks can be sold Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and can be discharged from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and from 8:00 a.m. to Midnight on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the motion was seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes.

Gary said he put Economic Development on the agenda to start a conversation, he said to have growth we need to figure out what it is we are and what we want to be to diversify our tax base and what kind of businesses we want to attract, then develop a plan. Mike said "those wheels are already in motion by the economic development committee and Julie Lyon will be going to the county commissioners later this month to meet with them about it". The council also discussed the Chief of Police position – Britt said she thinks Tanner is the best candidate for the position. Makenzie wants to see his psych evaluation and make sure references have been contacted before he is hired. After discussion, the matter was tabled to the next meeting.

With no other business presented, Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Leasa and everyone voted Yes.