

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

Monday August 12, 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, Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton, Public Works Director Danny Shaw and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Carol Slovacek and Grant Dunn

Mayor Ceballos announced first there would be 2025 budget hearing, City Clerk noted there was a quorum present, and with no citizens appearing for public comment on the proposed 2025 budget, Britt made a motion to approve the 2025 budget as published, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos called the regular council meeting to order. Minutes from the July meeting were approved as written, motion by Gary, seconded by Leasa and all voted Yes.

Grant Dunn and Carol Slovacek both were there to ask the council to forgive the mowing charges on property they had purchased at the county's tax sale last week. Grant Dunn's property had mowing charges of \$3,600.00; Carol Slovacek's property had mowing charges of \$1,125.00 and the property formerly owned by Nancy Graham's estate had mowing charges of \$750.00. After discussion, Mike made a motion to forgive all three properties of their mowing charges, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes, except for Makenzie who abstained from the vote.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council that employee Rodney Keith is going to be off work for a while since he's having surgery on his shoulder this coming Friday. Danny also reported he had fired one of his mowers a couple weeks ago for mowing too fast, tearing up the mower, and not paying attention to what he's doing. Danny said, if it's okay with the council, Riley Martin would like to keep working on Fridays after school starts. Danny also said he would like to advertise for a part-time city employee to cover while Rodney is gone. The council agreed. Danny also reported himself, Gary and Britt had met and discussed the water project, he had a list of cost estimates on the water and sewer system upgrades the engineer had put together with total cost of it all would be about \$4.5 million. Danny said the lake is a must to get done and wants to also replace some water and sewer lines, and with those three projects the cost would be over \$2 million, the next step will be making a decision as to the project we want to go forward with so the engineer can design the project and then applications can be made for funding. Mayor Ceballos said water wells #3 and #4 are pressing as well to be replaced.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton said it was the time of year he asks the council for a job evaluation and see if they want him back next year, he also asked if they want him to work over the winter as in years' past. He explained he does maintenance in the winter to catch up from the summer, at 20 hours a week. The council agreed they would like him and Debbie both to come back if they were willing and would like him to work over the winter time at 20 hours a week. Don did say he wasn't going to work on picnic tables this winter, he wants to replace the 55 gallon plastic trash barrels out there, he said they are getting in bad shape and thought the cost would be about \$45 per barrel, the council agreed. Mike said CMS goes through a 55 gallon drum of DEF in a month and they will start holding back the empty ones to give to the lake free of charge. Don also reported he had to replace an air conditioning unit in Locust Cabin.

Under Administration: City Clerk Kristal Sherman said Hamm Auction asked if they could block the first block of North Philadelphia on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> because of the auction they are having at Jim Stiles building. Gary made a motion to allow Hamm Auction to block off the first block of North Philadelphia on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. Gary said Tanner Maas, applicant for Chief of Police, has signed the letter of intent to be hired, has passed the drug test and psychological evaluation and would like to make a motion the Mayor give

him a call and offer him the job to possibly start on August 28<sup>th</sup> before Labor Day weekend, the motion was seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. Mayor Ceballos said he will give him a call tomorrow. Gary also reported that Jacob Bruckner said the police taser we currently have is out of compliance and we should go ahead and order a new taser. It was discussed that it had been approved last year and the former Chief of Police Devon Duffield never got it ordered. Britt said she will get with the Sheriff's office and get it ordered. Gary said some people around town have asked if the City would sponsor a "doggy splash, swim" at the lake. Council members discussed and expressed their concerns of the city's liability if the city sponsored this event, but said they would support another group that wanted to sponsor the event. Gary asked the council to review a proposed press release that was required by the South Central Community Foundation as part of the application process for their grant the council is applying for to repair and renovate the baseball fields. The council agreed it looked good.

Bills in the amount of \$126,166.57 were presented for payment. Gary made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business, Mayor Ceballos reported on prices for new flags on main street. He said the old flags are 3 feet by 5 feet, and wants to change to smaller flags 2 feet by 3 feet, needs to get 14 for the main street poles, but would like to get 16 to have a couple spares which would total \$480.00. Britt made a motion to have Joe purchase new flags for \$480.00, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes.

Under new business, Makenzie asked the council if they have heard of "Mindy's Murals", she's out of Junction City and does murals in various cities and thought it would be good if we could do one here somewhere. She said she's doing research for grants for rural Kansas and was wondering what doing one would cost. Leasa Huck said she had a request from someone to put an event "barndominium" somewhere out by the lake for weddings, concerts etc. After discussing the possibility of an event center like that, the council was unsure if the lake would be a good location for it and thought of some other possibilities. The matter was tabled to a later meeting.

With no other business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Leasa and everyone voted Yes