

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

Monday October 14, 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, Chief of Police Tanner Maas, Lake Co-Managers Don and Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: AJ Prusa and Roy Hoffman

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

AJ Prusa asked the council for permission to hold the Santa Fun Run on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., she said they would use the same route as they did last year with the start being at Stick It Signs and also, with weather permitting, would like to set off some fireworks. AJ also asked if she could do a rough draft of a ballfield's rent policy and bring it back to the council. Council member Leasa Huck told AJ that she and Makenzie Dunn have a rough draft of the policy and will be bringing it before the council soon. Mayor Ceballos told AJ the council will discuss the Santa Fun Run toward the end of the meeting and Kristal will let her know their decision.

Roy Hoffman told the council that he, Jene Allen and a few other guys go on a mission trip to Mexico every year to construct homes for people in need. He said it costs about \$4,000.00 to build a small home in Mexico, and they make it possible by having fundraiser breakfasts. Roy said they would like to hold the fundraiser here at the veteran's building next Monday and possibly once a month through February. After discussion, Gary made a motion to allow Roy to use the veteran's building monthly free of charge for their fundraiser breakfasts, seconded by Makenzie and everyone voted Yes.

Council member Britt Lenertz called Javon Baker, from the Kansas Rural Water Association, for a teleconference with the council to explain the results from a water rate study he had been working on for the City. He proposed two different rate structures, which were based on the number of water customers and the water usage from 2023. The first one would maintain the \$35 monthly base rate, and raise the per-unit charge to \$4.56 (from \$2.50). The second one would actually lower the base rate to \$30 and raise the per-unit charge to \$5.48, which would benefit the lower-volume customers, while the higher-volume users would notice a higher bill. He also said he recommends the council remove the 1,000 gallons water "included" from the minimum charge, no matter what they decide to do with the rates, he said in 2023 the city "included" 5.88 million gallons of water which would have been worth \$14,700.00. After hearing from Javon, the council tabled the matter until the November meeting.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council that Circle C Paving has been here and finished chip sealing the streets in the City and at the Lake. Danny asked the council for permission to put up a sign to keep trucks off the South Washington Street (the back way to the lake) that has been newly paved. After discussion, Gary made a motion to allow Danny to install "No Commercial Trucks" signs on Washington Street to the lake, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. Britt asked about Rodney and what he was doing about his time since he was only allowed sick pool time through September. Danny said he has come back to work, mainly helping them with the lead and copper surveys around town, and is not allowing him to do any physical labor.

Chief of Police Tanner Maas reported he has received the vehicle unlock kit and actually used it the other day. He also reported he needs a new vest, the one that fits him is set to expire in January. He has contacted Baysingers Uniforms and Equipment in Wichita and passed around prices of the different body armor, the lighter the body armor the more expensive it is. After discussion, Britt made a motion to allow Tanner to purchase the Hardwire 68 Level vest in the amount of \$1,350.00

and the Oregon City Carrier for \$300.00, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. Tanner said he has looked into replacing his handheld radio because it has been working off and on. He said new radio prices ranged from \$2,531.67 to \$6,559.59 and after discussion, the council agreed to have Tanner check into repairing the existing radio since it hadn't been that long ago it was purchased. The council also asked that his schedule be emailed to them every month.

Lake Co-Manager Debbie Dutton said she had a problem out at the lake with seasonal campers wanting to stay after September 30<sup>th</sup> and expecting to pay the "prorated" price instead of the daily rate. She said the lease agreement clearly states the season begins April 1, 2024, and ends on September 30, 2024, they may not occupy the Site before April 1, 2024 and must vacate the site on or before September 30, 2024. After discussion, the council agreed to review the lease agreement between now and the November meeting and discuss any changes that need to be made. Debbie also told the council that several campers have not paid their lake fees on time. Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton asked the council "why don't we start charging the campers if they want to leave their cargo trailers at the lake". He told the council there is getting to be quite a few cargo trailers and someone even hooked theirs up to electricity. He said some of them use the trailers to watch TV, they have furniture set up in them and some use them as storage, some of the campers have more than one at their campsite. After discussion, the council agreed to table to the next meeting.

Under Administration: Mayor Ceballos told the council the November 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting falls on Veteran's Day and asked if they would change the meeting because of the holiday. After discussion, the council agreed to change the November 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting to Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and the Coldwater Housing Authority meeting will stay on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bills in the amount of \$235,036.83 were presented for payment. Mike made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Britt and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business, Gary presented a Charter Ordinance he had asked City Attorney Skip Herd to draft regarding the transient guest tax. Kristal told Gary that Skip had mentioned to her that the council shouldn't approve the transient guest tax until he can research whether or not the City will have to do a bond issue. The council agreed to table the matter.

Under new business, Mayor Ceballos asked the council if they want to approve the Santa Fun Run presented by AJ Prusa. After discussion, Mike made a motion to approve the Santa Fun Run on December 7<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes. Gary gave the council an update on the plans for new tennis courts. He said the school board is interested in moving forward and will talk to the county commissioners tomorrow, but he said we now qualify for the Community Development Block Grant which will fund 75% of the \$400,000.00 project with 25% coming from local funds, also the grant funds would not be able to cover the engineering fee. Gary said he would like to have 2 members each from the city council, county commissioners and school board to make up a committee for this project. He will report back after speaking with the county commissioners tomorrow. Mayor Ceballos told Gary the JEO Consulting Group he received the grant from to help Danny with the Lead & Copper rule survey, came by his house and he refused to let them survey his water line for the mandated EPA survey and said it didn't make him look very good since he is the one that got this group to come help, Gary said he didn't think it made him look bad at all....he said people can refuse and that's what he did. Mayor Ceballos also told the council that if there is texting or calling city employees after hours, they are going to start charging over time for that. Leasa reported that Mike Jellison had asked her what the ballfield budget was going to look like next year since the grant that Gary had applied for had not come through. Kristal said Mike had asked for \$22,000.00 to be budgeted in 2025, but the budget was left at \$14,000.00 since a grant had been applied for.

With no other business presented, Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., seconded by Leasa and everyone voted Yes