

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday November 13, 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, Gary Haulmark and Leasa Huck, City Attorney Skip Herd, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Chief of Police Tanner Maas, Lake Co-Managers Don and Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Pat Puderbaugh, Penny Bruckner and Debi Sherman

Mayor Ceballos called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call, council members Makenzie Dunn and Britt Lenertz were absent. Minutes from the October meeting were approved as written, motion by Mike, seconded by Gary and all voted Yes.

Pat Puderbaugh told the council that questions have been raised as to why the fence isn't progressing between the drug store and furniture store, Pat has a sketch of the fence and layout that he gave to the council that shows a place for a 4x8 gazebo and a bench in the middle. Pat said he has personally visited with the property owners of both businesses on each side and they are good with the plans. He also said they have \$2,500.00 worth of lumber here for the fence and Klete Hackney has volunteered to put up the fence telling the council just as he got the posts set he has been down in the back and then has been busy with fall harvest, Pat said he's hopeful Klete will be able to work on the fence again soon. Penny Bruckner said she put in a request for a grant for the project and just found out they were awarded the grant. Pat also said he has plans for an all-weather bench for \$1,600.00 and wondered if the city would be interested in paying for some or all of the bench, he asked the council to step outside to see an example of the bench that will be just like the one to be set in the park.

Council member Gary Haulmark called Shannon Praete with the Kansas Infrastructure HUB, she talked with the council about a federal grant funded by the U.S. Department of Interior and the Secure Water Act which will fund water system improvements. She said the grant is due in January and there will be another due in July, the maximum amount that can be applied for is \$250,000.00 with a 50% cost-match requirement. After her phone call, the council discussed the possibility of the grant helping to fund switching out the batteries in the auto-read meters which is what they're having to do at this time. Gary said he will check to see if batteries fall under the grant and, if so, he will then call Julie Lyon to see about writing the grant.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council there is something in the old police car that is constantly draining the battery and wondered if they would be interested in selling it. He said there is a new battery in it and every time they go to move it, it needs jumped and in 3 days it will be dead again. After discussion, the council asked Danny to talk to Jeremy Dunn to see if he would know why the battery is draining and Tanner said he would call around to guys that build patrol cars and see if they have an idea as well.

Chief of Police Tanner Maas reported he got a grant through KDOT for \$1,000.00 to purchase traffic safety equipment for the fiscal year of 2025. Tanner also passed around a ride-along application and waiver form he had drafted for the council to review, Leasa said she will run it by the insurance company to make sure it will be ok to use. Tanner reported since the last meeting he has written 23 citations, with 17 of them for speeding, and also, with the help of Sheriff-elect Bruckner, had some commands put on the car for severe weather alerts.

Lake Co-Manager Debbie Dutton reported that all the seasonal campers have paid their final electric bills and she also proposed a few changes to the seasonal lease agreement. She said she has called 8 different lakes about the cargo trailer situation and most of them make them put their trailers in a designated area and charge \$50.00 per month. She said she feels something needs to be done about the cargo trailers, there is getting to be a lot of them, and some people are even plugging them into the electric meters. After discussion, Gary made a motion to charge campers that bring a cargo

trailer to the lake \$200 a season for non-residents and \$140 for residents, after more discussion, Gary withdrew the motion with the council saying they would like to wait until the other members of the council are there to vote on changes to the lease agreement. The council also discussed paragraph #4 in the lease agreement, which deals with campers only staying from April 1st through September 30th in their specific campsite, and if they want to stay past the September 30th date, they will need to pay the daily rate instead of the rate being prorated or move up to the “D” section for off-season camping. The council will vote on all changes to the lease agreement at the December meeting.

Under Administration: Mayor Ceballos asked the council to review a contract from Pete Earles of Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc. which sets out an hourly rate of \$120.00 for professional services and that rate will increase by 3% per year beginning January, 2025. Gary made a motion to approve the contract with Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc., seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. Leasa Huck told the council the Neighborhood Revitalization contract is up for renewal and she was asked by the Economic Development Committee to present it to the council. Mike made a motion to approve the Comanche County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, seconded by Gary and everyone voted Yes. Mayor Ceballos told the council that Danny Rich, who is one of our lake seasonal campers, has removed \$4,000.00 worth of trees at the lake to trade out for his camper rent, the council agreed it was a good idea to get the trees removed. Gary told the council there was never a decision made on the limb/branch pickup that was brought up a few months ago, he said he would like to just have the city pick up limbs in an “emergency severe weather situation” only instead of citizens expecting it every year. Mike said he would like to keep the annual limb pick up, especially for the older citizens that can’t do it themselves, and he said it cleans up the city when it’s done. It was discussed there are quite a few citizens taking advantage of it when it’s announced the city is going to pick up the limbs. After discussion, Gary made a motion to move away from the scheduled annual time for the city to pick up limbs/branches and only do it after an “emergency severe weather situation” that bring limbs down, the motion was seconded by Leasa and the motion carried, Gary and Leasa voted Yes and Mike voted No. Gary discussed setting aside money every year for the extra \$7,000.00 that is needed every 5 years for the dirt work at the ballfields. The council made no decisions at this time. Gary told the council he would like to have a meeting with 2 members from each entity.....the city council, county commissioners and school board to discuss the possibility of new tennis courts. Mike volunteered to be the other council member to the informal group. Danny Shaw asked why the current tennis courts at the school couldn’t be used, said they would need to dig the concrete out of the drain in the middle of them, but with the huge expense of building new ones, there’s surely a way to rework the ones that are currently there. Gary also reported on a few ways he would like to see funds raised to fund the proposed water/sewer upgrades, he would like to see the 1,000 gallons of water that is currently included in the water base rate of \$35.00 to no longer be included, so a raise of \$2.50 on water rates; Gary passed around a paper with higher fees for non-residents at the lake, which was tabled for discussion to the December meeting.

Bills in the amount of \$231,248.59 were presented for payment. Mike made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Leasa and all voted Yes.

Under unfinished business, Gary again presented a Charter Ordinance he had asked City Attorney Skip Herd to draft regarding the transient guest tax. Mayor Ceballos asked City Attorney Skip Herd if the City would have to do a bond issue if the transient guest tax was approved, Skip said the City wouldn’t have to do the bond issue. Skip told Gary that raising the sales tax by an additional half-cent would raise more funds than all the other ways he has proposed, combined. The transient guest tax proposal was tabled until there was a full council.

With no other business presented, Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes