

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday January 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The governing body of the City of Coldwater met in regular session, with the following present: Mayor Britt Lenertz presiding at the beginning of the meeting, Council members Paul Alvarez, Devon Duffield, Makenzie Dunn and Leasa Huck, Public Works Director Charlie Austin, Chief of Police Tanner Maas, Lake Co-Managers Don & Debbie Dutton and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Visitors: Lorinda Duffield and kids, Vanita Blundell, Faith Woodrum and Bella Cervantes

Before the meeting was called to order, newly elected City Council members Paul Alvarez and Devon Duffield were sworn into office by City Clerk, Kristal Sherman.

Mayor Lenertz called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call, Council member Gary Haulmark was physically absent, but he joined the meeting by phone for most of the meeting (until 8:25pm). Mayor Lenertz explained a President of the council needs to be nominated and approved by the city council, and that person will move into the Mayor position for the next four years. She asked for nominations for city council president. Gary made a motion to nominate Paul Alvarez for President of the Council, seconded by Devon and everyone voted yes. Paul was then sworn into the office of Mayor by City Clerk Kristal Sherman and led the meeting as Mayor from that point on. Minutes from the December meetings were approved as written, motion by Leasa, seconded by Devon and all voted Yes.

Vanita Blundell told the council she has sold a Comanche Estates lot, she said Joe Ceballos had signed the contract but had never let the council know. She said she didn't come to the council for approval because the buyer paid the asking price for the lot, and said he plans to build on the lot.

Public Works Director Charlie Austin gave his report on the different departments: 1. Water: he reported the water line to Clark Bibb's and Phillip Underwood's houses is laid and connected, he will have to disinfect the line for 24 hours, pressurize for 24 hours, then will have to take 2 samples for KDHE within 24 hours at all 3 branches of the line, but said Underwood's still need to do the backflow preventer before they can go online. Charlie also reported the electrical contact to the valve at the water basin is bad. He had Chris Pike with Wildcat Electric order the part to repair it, also Skip Herd's water well is not pumping, he had Chris Pike test power to it and the power is good. Skip is going to have Jacob Unruh check the well. 2. Sewer: he reported Mayer Specialty Services from Goddard was supposed to camera the sewer line that runs under the hospital, which is a lined sewer line but just to camera that line was going to be \$12,000.00, so he said he told them to just tie their new line south of the man hole south of the hospital. 3. Lake: there is an electrical problem in the "D" section from D-1 to D-6, Chris Pike will most likely have to put in a new wire. Charlie also reported he's had a couple kids for community service hours and has had them paint the unpainted sucker rod fences at the lake. 4. Streets: Charlie said since we've finally had moisture, they will work on grading the dirt streets.

Lake Co-Manager Don Dutton reported while he was off, the transmission went out on the lake pickup and he is estimating the cost to replace will be \$3,500.00 to \$5,000.00. Don said he could contact Jeremy Dunn to see how much the transmission will cost. Don said his physical therapy for his ankle will be over at the end of this month and he has another surgery scheduled sometime in February. He did say it would probably be this fall before he is fully recovered from his ankle surgery and he will be moving slower this summer, but thought he could still do the job. Don asked if they want him to work on the west bathroom to get it fixed, the council agreed....he also said some posts on the Comanche Estates fence need replaced which he estimated to cost \$150.00, the council agreed. Don also said with raising some of the lake fees, Danny Bruckner will need to update the prices on the signs at the lake.

Chief of Police Tanner Maas said he doesn't have a lot since he was gone for 3 weeks. The council asked him if the newer patrol car got fixed while he was off work. He said Tyson Uhl put a new battery in and it works fine now. Mayor Alvarez said he didn't see any sense in having two police cars for just one employee, he said the second car could be sold to help with the public works vehicles or the lake pickup repairs. Charlie said the City would probably never again use the oil truck and chat spreader for paving streets, so they could be sold and the funds could be used elsewhere as well.

Under Administration: Mayor Alvarez said the next item on the agenda was to elect a president of the council. He asked if anyone was willing to be nominated, both Leasa and Gary said they would. Devon made a motion to nominate Leasa as council president, the motion died for lack of a second. The matter will be tabled to the February meeting. Council committees were discussed and since there was not a full council, were tabled to the February meeting. City Clerk, Kristal Sherman passed around the City and Prairie Plaza Apartments Peoples Bank signature cards for the Mayor and City Council to sign. Mayor Alvarez asked the council to review the annual appointments as follows:

Official banks: Peoples Bank and Bank of Coldwater

Official paper: The Western Star

Municipal Judge: Rustin Martin

City Clerk: Kristal Sherman

Clerk of the Municipal Court: Kristal Sherman

City Treasurer: Johnita Stalcup

City Attorney: Skip Herd

Building inspector: Charlie Austin

Animal Control Officer: Charlie Austin

Chief of Police: Tanner Maas

Code Enforcement/Public Officer: Tanner Maas & Charlie Austin

Meeting time: second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the City Building

Mileage reimbursement rate: 72.5 cents per business mile (IRS Rate)

Gary made a motion to approve the appointments listed, seconded by Makenzie and all voted Yes.

Mayor Alvarez presented Resolution No. 2026-1 which waives the Generally Accepted Accounting Principals to prepare financial statements and reports for the City of Coldwater for the year 2026. Gary made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-1, seconded by Devon and all voted Yes.

Gary said he added FEMA Disaster Assistance July, 2025 to the agenda just to make the council aware there was 12 to 15 Kansas counties declared a disaster area (with Comanche County being one of the counties included) for a wind storm in July, 2025 with FEMA funds out there for this disaster, and the public works director made the decision not to pursue the City's share of those funds. He asked the council to be more diligent about pursuing those funds in the future.

Reviewed an animal permit application made by Faith Woodrum to allow her to have chickens on her property. Mayor Alvarez said after reviewing the city code for chickens, it is a decision to be made by the city's animal control officer.

Mayor Alvarez said he wanted to discuss the 2026 lake seasonal lease agreement since it hasn't been posted yet. He said he would like to see doing away with the campsite boundary markers and have the campers take care of their entire camping area defined by "your neighbor, roadway and waterway, but not to exceed 85 x 45 feet." After discussion, Makenzie made a motion to add to paragraph #7 of the 2026 lease agreement that it is the campers' responsibility to mow their entire camping area which is defined by neighbors, roadways and waterways, but not to exceed 85 x 45 feet, the motion was seconded by Devon and all voted Yes. Makenzie made a motion to add to paragraph #8 of the 2026 lease agreement that all personal property must be within the lot boundaries

of the campsite and a minimum of 3 feet from the electric meter pedestals and water hydrants, seconded by Leasa and all voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$64,522.99 were presented for payment. Leasa made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Devon and all voted Yes.

Gary left the meeting at 8:25p.m.

Under unfinished business, Leasa said she has been asking AJ Prusa for a cost estimate on the damage done by the July 2025 wind storm to the dugouts and fence at the ballfields, she said there is probably enough to make a claim but she needs to get the claim filed soon.

With no other business presented, Devon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Makenzie and all voted Yes.