

Council Chamber
Henry L. Brown Municipal Bldg.
One Grand Street
Coldwater, Michigan



February 14, 2022
5:30 p.m.
(517) 279-9501
www.coldwater.org

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting is live-streamed on YouTube at, bit.ly/ColdwaterVideo or on Skitter channel 61.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Randall Hazelbaker called the meeting to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Emily Rissman and Travis Machan, representing the 1st Ward; Councilmember Jim Knaack, representing the 2nd Ward; Councilmembers Michael Beckwith and John Petzko, representing the 3rd Ward.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to excuse the absence of Councilmembers Chad Johnson, Scott Houtz and Mayor Kramer, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Baker, Tom Eldridge, Megan Angell, Jeff Budd, Dean Walrack, Joe Scheid, Deb Sikorski-Bernath, Sam Albright, Audrey Tappenden, Katie Higgs, Julie Santure, Susan Heath; Don Reid, Sheriff John Pollack, Kim Hemker, Karen Klein-Ludwick and three others.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sheriff John Pollack presented a report on Branch County Sheriff's Department activities.
- Karen Klein-Ludwick addressed the Council regarding access to MSHDA housing and buildable lots on Thompson Blvd.

CONSENT AGENDA (Item Numbers 1-11):

The items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and the City Manager and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember or citizen. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and Council action will be taken separately on said item. Those items so approved under the heading "Consent Agenda" will appear in the Council minutes in their proper form.

1. City Council Regular Minutes of January 24, 2022.
 - Closed Session Minutes of January 24, 2022.
2. Coldwater Public Library Advisory Board Regular Minutes of January 3, 2022.
3. Planning Commission Regular Minutes of January 3, 2022.
4. Recreation Board Regular Minutes of December 1, 2021.
5. Board of Public Utilities' Regular Minutes of January 11, 2022.
6. Board of Public Utilities' Special Minutes of January 17, 2022.
7. Board of Public Utilities' Reports and Financial Statements for December, 2021.
8. City of Coldwater monthly Financial Report for December, 2021.
9. City of Coldwater Investment Report for December 31, 2021.
10. Police Department Activity Report for 4th Quarter, 2021.
11. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding proposed closure of South Monroe Street on April 30, 2022 from 6am until Noon for the 12th Annual Walk A Mile in Their Shoes Event – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-05.

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-11 (item 11 attached in Addendum A), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

12. Bills and Accounts: \$161,886.78.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$161,886.78, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

13. City Manager's Report.

- **Final Call for Board of Review Appeals** – The March Board of Review is Monday March 14, Tuesday March 15, & Wednesday March 16, 2022. Appeals will be accepted by letter if postmarked on or before Wednesday March 9, 2022. Questions can be made to City Assessor Deb Sikorski-Bernath or Deputy Assessor Samantha Albright at 279-6929.
- **School Bond Proposal Election May 3, 2022** – The Coldwater Community Schools will hold a Bond Proposal Election on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. City Clerk Susan Heath will prepare Absentee Voter Ballot Applications for mailing in early March, to be sent to City of Coldwater voters on the Permanent Absentee Voter Listing. As a reminder, voters must complete, sign and return the application before a ballot can be sent to them. Ballots are expected to arrive mid-April to be mailed out to voters who have returned completed applications. To register to vote, to be added to the Permanent Absentee Voter Listing, or for those wanting a ballot for this election only, please contact the clerk at 517-279-6928.
- **CBPU Fiber Optic Network** – The CPBU's fiber optic network continues to expand. Node 7 (the Downtown district) was recently released for eligibility to upgrade or sign up for Business Fiber Service. This business rate is 1 Gig symmetrical for \$79.99/mo. Contact the CBPU's customer service staff at 517-279-9531 to schedule installation or for more information.
- **Coldwater PD/FD Scholarship** – The Coldwater Police Dept. and Coldwater Fire Dept. are establishing a local college scholarship fund. Scholarships will be eligible to graduating seniors from Coldwater High School or Pansophia Academy. The goal of the fund is to provide financial assistance to students who are looking to continue their education in the areas of criminal justice or fire science. This is an employee led effort with funding for the scholarship coming directly from employees of the Coldwater Police and Fire departments. The City would like to thank Century Bank and Trust for their assistance in helping set up the fund.
- **Snow Storm Response** – Winter had been relatively mild until recently and the 10 inches of snow that fell last Wednesday morning (2/2) into Thursday (2/3) was the largest event yet this

year. The Department of Municipal Services crews worked throughout the day and overnight to keep roads safe and clear and was able to substantially clean up the City's streets, sidewalks and parking lots by Friday afternoon. The quick response and cleanup of town were noticed by our residents and businesses. I wanted to acknowledge the staff's dedicated efforts during the recent snowstorm. Thank you!

- **Tree City USA** – The City received notification from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating us on earning recognition as a 2021 Tree City, USA. Residents of our community should be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority. This is the 16th year that the City has received the designation. A formal press release and additional information will be forthcoming this Spring.
- **Family Fun Night** – Enjoy a fun evening out filled with activities for the whole family. There will be games, inflatables, pictures, snacks, and more. This event is open for kids from Coldwater and the surrounding area. The event is scheduled for Saturday March 12, 2022, 5 to 8 pm. Cost is \$35 per “couple” (parent and child) and \$17/additional person. Sign up at www.recdesk.com or by calling 517-278-8566 for assistance.
- **Main Street Community Presentation** – A community presentation will be held on February 23, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in partnership with the National Main Street Program. The results of the recent downtown survey will be shared, new community signage will be displayed and transformation strategies for the downtown will be unveiled. The DDA will meet the following morning to begin putting the strategies into action. The public is encouraged to view the meeting live via the City's YouTube page.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Machan, to approve and place on file the City Manager's Report, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

14. Presentation regarding the Child Advocacy Center by Kimberly Hemker, Executive Director, Branch County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Following the presentation, Ms. Hemker requested the Council consider a \$25,860.61 contribution toward a proposed new Child Advocacy Center for Branch County.

Council Action: None – Presentation only.

15. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding farm leases - Consider introduction of:
 - a. Agreement No. A22-02; (Sexton Farms Lease: N. Willowbrook Rd. & Newton Rd.); and

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to introduce for first reading Agreement No. A22-02, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

b. Agreement No. A22-03; (Sexton Farms Lease: Rumsey-Western Ave.)

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Machan, to introduce for first reading Agreement No. A22-03, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

16. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding Police Officers Labor Council, Coldwater Police Unit-Command – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-07, and approval of Agreement No. A22-04.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Rissman, to adopt Resolution No. 22-07 and approve Agreement No. A22-04 (attached in Addendum B), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

17. Letter from Debra Sikorski regarding OPRA transfer for 41-47 W. Chicago Street – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-06.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to adopt Resolution No. 22-06 (attached in Addendum C), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

18. Letter from Katie Higgs, Community Development Fellow, regarding Boards & Commissions Recruitment and Appointment Policy No. P22-01 - Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-03.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to adopt Resolution No. 22-03 (attached in Addendum D), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

19. Letter from Audrey Tappenden, Economic Development Coordinator, regarding amendment of the Social District boundary of the Downtown Social District – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-09.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Machan, to adopt Resolution No. 22-09 (attached in Addendum E), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

20. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding roof repair bids for the Public Safety Building – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-04.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to adopt Resolution No. 22-04 (attached in Addendum F), as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

21. Presentation of the 2021 Annual Recreation Department Report by Julie Santure, Community Enrichment Director.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Rissman, to accept and place on file the 2021 Annual Recreation Department Report, as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public Safety Director Joe Scheid added his support to the Child Advocacy Center request for funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no other business to come before Council, Mayor Pro Tem Hazelbaker adjourned the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m.



Susan E. Heath, CMC, MiPMC
City Clerk