

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



**March 14, 2022**  
5:30 p.m.  
(517) 279-9501  
[www.coldwater.org](http://www.coldwater.org)

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting is live-streamed on YouTube at, [bit.ly/ColdwaterVideo](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> Ward; Councilmembers Chad Johnson and Jim Knaack, representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward; Councilmembers Michael Beckwith and John Petzko, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward; Councilmember Scott Houtz, representing the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Houtz, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to excuse the absence of Mayor Kramer, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Keith Baker, Tom Eldridge, Megan Angell, Dean Walrack, Deb Sikorski-Bernath, Paul and Kerri Jakubczak, Joe Scheid, Dave Schmaltz, Pat Pool, Todd Mistor, Susan Heath, John Rucker and one other.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Newly appointed Coldwater Board of Public Utilities Director, Paul Jakubczak, introduced himself to the Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Item Number 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 February 28, 2022.
2. Coldwater Public Library Advisory Board Regular Minutes of February 7, 2022.
3. Planning Commission Regular Minutes of February 7, 2022.
4. Board of Public Utilities' Regular Minutes of February 2, 2022.
5. Board of Public Utilities' Workshop Minutes of February 17, 2022.
6. Board of Public Utilities' Reports and Financial Statements for January, 2022.
7. Michigan South Central Power Agency Board Regular Minutes of December 2, 2021.
8. City of Coldwater monthly Financial Report for January, 2022.
9. City of Coldwater annual 2021 MERS DB Statement.
10. Memo from Mayor Kramer regarding board appointment to the Branch District Library.
  - Elizabeth DiDonato – term ending December 31, 2023.
11. Recreation Department Spring/Summer Activity Guide 2022.

**ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-11, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

12. Bills and Accounts: \$124,307.82.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$124,307.82, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

13. City Manager's Report.

- **Spring Recreation Programs** – The new Spring Coldwater Recreation Guide is out! Registration is underway for Spring 4 on 4 adult volleyball, men's, women's and co-ed softball and youth baseball and softball. Details on hours and program registration can be found at the City's website [www.coldwater.org](http://www.coldwater.org), the Coldwater Recreation Department Facebook page or by calling 278-8566.
- **Daylight Savings Time** – Daylight savings time begins this Sunday March 13, 2022. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!
- **Spring Clean Up** – In spite of the recent snow, Spring and warmer weather is on the way! We would like to remind residents to bag yard waste (including leaves) in paper bags for curb side pick-up. Yard waste collection is scheduled to begin on Monday April 4, 2022. Monthly brush pick-up will also begin the first week of April.
- **Front Yard Parking** – Residents are also reminded to not park on grass or in front yards. Front yard parking of vehicles is a violation of the City's property maintenance code and is subject to a ticket and fine.
- **Large Item Pick-Up** – Please take advantage of the City's large item pick-up program. One large item per week per residence can be set at the curb for pick-up by the City's refuse hauler. Items must be called in by 3 p.m. each Thursday for pick-up the following day. Questions can be directed to the City/CBPU at 279-9531.
- **Sidewalk Repair Project** – The City's contractor, Concord Excavating, will begin making sidewalk repairs in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wards in early April. This project was carried over from last year. Property owners with questions can forward them to the City at 279-9501.
- **Railroad Project** – A \$1.25M dollar project is underway to address the deteriorating condition of the rail line and need to increase the weight capacity of rail cars serving local companies. The Branch & St. Joseph Counties Rail Users Association (RUA) completed the upgrade to one bridge last fall and in April will begin upgrading the 10.1 miles of the railroad right of way (track, ties and ballast). To accomplish this project, the RUA was awarded a grant from the Rail Division of the Michigan Department of Transportation for 50% of the project cost (\$625,000). In addition, the freight operator,

Indiana Northeastern Railroad has pledged \$312,500. The City of Coldwater has approved the remaining \$312,500, to maintain freight rail access for our local industries. These are not general tax dollars and are intended to be used for economic development purposes. The RUA was created for the purpose of purchasing the old Conrail Railroad line that served the two counties and the industries located therein. The board of the RUA is currently comprised of representatives from Sekisui Voltek, Panel Processing, Star of the West Milling, the City of Coldwater and Branch County Economic Growth Alliance.

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

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

14. Memo from Paul Jakubczak, CBPU Director, regarding AMP board representation – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-14.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adopt Resolution No. 22-14 (attached in addendum A), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

15. Memo from Debra Sikorski, Neighborhood Services Director/City Assessor, regarding amendment to Rental and Inspection Fee Schedule – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-12.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Houtz, to adopt Resolution No. 22-12 (attached in addendum B), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

16. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding Four Corners Park project bid award – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-15.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to adopt Resolution No. 22-15 (attached in addendum C), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

17. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding Michigan/Washington/Perkins reconstruction project bid award – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-16.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Rissman, to adopt Resolution No. 22-16 (attached in addendum D), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

18. Presentation by Patrick Pool, IT Director, regarding cyber/physical security update.

**Council Action:** None – Presentation only.

19. Presentation of the 2021 Annual Department of Municipal Services Report by Todd Mistor, Director.

**Council Action:** None – Presentation only.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Councilmember Rissman asked about ARPA funding for the Child Advocacy Center as requested by Kimberly Hemker at the February 14, 2022 City Council Meeting; City Attorney Megan Angell informed the board the ARPA Funds could not be utilized for such a project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

20. Closed session pursuant to Section 8(c) of PA 267 of 1976 to discuss collective bargaining agreement.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to enter a Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(c) of PA 267 of 1976 to discuss collective bargaining agreement, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Johnson, Knaack, Beckwith, Petzko, Houtz, Rissman, Machan and Mayor Pro Tem Hazelbaker.

Nays: Councilmembers: None.

Motion carried (6:38 p.m.)

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to reconvene to the regular meeting of March 14, 2022, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Knaack, Beckwith, Petzko, Houtz, Rissman, Machan, Johnson and Mayor Pro Tem Hazelbaker.

Nays: Councilmembers: None.

Motion carried (7:05 p.m.)

21. Consider adoption of Resolution No. 22-13 and approval of Firefighter Union Contract Agreement No. A22-05.

**Council Action:** Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to adopt Resolution No. 22-13 and approve Agreement No. A22-05 (attached in Addendum E), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

22. City Attorney Megan Angell presented information regarding a Freedom of Information Act request from a Royal Oak law firm, Kickham Hanley PLLC, seeking information about our electric rates and the payment in lieu of taxes (also called the PILOT) from the utilities to the City's general fund that is required under the City's 1961 Charter.

**Council Action:** None – Presentation only.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Noting no other business to come before Council, Mayor Pro Tem Hazelbaker adjourned the regular meeting at 7:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SEHeath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan E. Heath, CMC, MiPMC  
City Clerk