

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



August 23 2021
5:30 p.m.
(517) 279-9501
www.coldwater.org

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

This meeting will be an in-person meeting for all Councilpersons and members of the public except that Councilperson Rissman will attend by telephone or video conferencing due to current military duty. She may be contacted regarding any business that will come before the Council at the meeting by email at erissman@coldwater.org up to 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting or by contacting City Manager Keith Baker at kbaker@coldwater.org. This meeting is also 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 Kramer called the meeting to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Emily Rissman (attending via telephone or video conferencing due to current military duty) and Travis Machan, representing the 1st Ward; Councilmember Jim Knaack, representing the 2nd Ward; Councilmembers Michael Beckwith and John Petzko, representing the 3rd Ward; Councilmembers Randall Hazelbaker and Scott Houtz, representing the 4th Ward. Councilmember Rissman had received no email comments before 3:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Hazelbaker, to excuse the absence of Councilmember Chad Johnson, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Baker, Tom Eldridge, Megan Angell, Jeff Budd, Craig Figueroa, Dean Walrack, Susan Heath, Joe Scheid, Kathi Holt, Nicki Luce, Harold Jenkins, Jim Odneal; Courtney Dirschell and Don Reid.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Courtney Dirschell, of 2nd Story Marketing, presented an update on Hops on Monroe.

CONSENT AGENDA (Item Numbers 1-7):

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 August 9, 2021.
2. Coldwater Public Library Advisory Board Regular Minutes of July 12, 2021.
3. Coldwater Housing Commission Regular Minutes of July 13, 2021.
4. Planning Commission Regular Minutes of July 19, 2021.
5. Zoning Board of Appeals' Regular Minutes of July 21, 2021.
6. Recreation Department Fall Activity Guide 2021.
7. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding returning the traffic flow on N. Hanchett St. to two-way – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 21-68.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Hazelbaker, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-7 (Item 7 attached in Addendum A), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

8. Bills and Accounts: \$321,654.09.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$321,654.09, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

*Councilmember Chad Johnson joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

9. City Manager's Report.

- **2020 Census Data Released** – The City of Coldwater's total population as of the 2020 Census is **13,822**. This is an approximately 13% increase from the 2019 US Census Bureau estimate. It is a 26% increase from the 2010 Census which didn't include the inmate population of the Lakeland Correctional Facility. Branch County had a slight (less than 1%) decrease in population to 44,862. The city's gain in population will have a positive effect on state and federal revenue sharing over the course of the next decade.
- **November Election** – Applications for absentee ballots for the November election were mailed to current registered voters and are also available through the City Clerk's office. You may contact City Clerk Susan Heath at 279-6928 if you would like to apply to vote via absentee. The election date is Tuesday, November 2, 2021.
- **City Projects**
 1. Western Ave./State Street – Paving completed and the street has been reopened.
 2. Sauk River Drive – Paving scheduled for the week of August 23, 2021.
 3. Four Corners Park – Brick paver installation and concrete work ongoing. Estimated completion is mid-October.
 4. N. Hanchett St. – Reopening to two-way is scheduled for the week of August 23, 2021. Please use caution and observe the traffic signs and markings in place until the conversion is complete.
- **Household Hazardous Waste** – The CBPU's annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Branch County Fairgrounds. A list of items that will be accepted and participating communities and townships can be found on the City's website at www.coldwater.org.
- **Hops on Monroe** – The popular weekly event continues for two more weeks until September 2, 2021. Come down on Thursday nights from 5 to 9 p.m. to enjoy music, beverages, food and games under the lights of S. Monroe Street.
- **Haunted Forest** – Mark your calendars for the City's annual Haunted Forest (\$5/person) to be held Friday October 15 and Saturday October 16, 2021 at Rotary Park. An early "less scary" session will be held each night from 5 to 7:30 p.m. with the scarier version running from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

- **August 12th Storm Response** – I would like to extend my appreciation to the employees of the City of Coldwater and Coldwater Board of Public Utilities that worked in any number of capacities (emergency response, power restoration, debris cleanup, crew hospitality, public information, resident and customer communication and damage assessment) in response to the severe thunderstorm that hit the community on Thursday August 12, 2021.

I would also like to thank the communities that sent electrical crews for power restoration (Bowling Green, OH; Marshall, MI; Bryan, OH; Napoleon, OH; Hillsdale, MI) and crews that helped with debris cleanup (City of Marshall, City of Bronson, Asplund Tree Service, Thunder Bay, and Thompson Excavating). We were without power for significantly less time and have cleaned up the community much more quickly as a result of their efforts.

In addition, I would like to thank Tim Miner, Branch County Emergency Manager for his tireless efforts over the course of the last two weeks in coordinating the County's resources and assisting the individual municipalities in their time of need.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents and customers of the City of Coldwater and Coldwater Board of Public Utilities for coming together to assist each other. There have been many stories of neighbors helping neighbors clean up or providing assistance after the storm. That's what makes this a great community in which to live.

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

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

10. Memo from Debra Sikorski, NSD Director/Assessor, regarding amendment to application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) tax exemption certificate for 8 S. Monroe Street – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 21-67.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Houtz, to adopt Resolution No. 21-67 (attached in Addendum B), as presented.

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

11. Letter from Jeffrey Budd, CBPU Director, regarding proposed lease of vacant land at 231 S. Angola Road – Consider introduction of Agreement No. A21-15.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Machan, seconded by Councilmember Houtz, to introduce for first reading Agreement No. A21-15, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: Councilmembers: None.

Motion carried.

12. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding proposed sale of vacant lot at 69 Thompson Blvd. – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 21-65 and approval of Agreement No. A21-09.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Houtz, to adopt Resolution No. 21-65 and approve Agreement No. A21-09, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Johnson, Knaack, Hazelbaker and Houtz.

Nays: Councilmembers: Machan, Beckwith, Petzko, Rissman and Mayor Kramer.

Motion failed. Item not adopted.

13. Letter from Keith Baker, City Manager, regarding sale of a portion of Carriage Circle Drive – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 21-69 and approval of Sales Agreement No. A21-12.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to adopt Resolution No. 21-69 and approve Agreement No. A21-12 (attached in Addendum C), as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: Councilmembers: None.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Councilmember Petzko noted Shelter House will be holding an open house this Sunday 2 to 6 p.m.
15. Attorney Megan Angell read the resignation letter of CBPU Director Jeff Budd (attached in Addendum D).

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no other business to come before Council, Mayor Kramer adjourned the regular meeting at 6:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SEHeath".

Susan E. Heath, CMC, MiPMC
City Clerk