

Coldwater History

The city of Coldwater (from the Indian “Chuck-sey-ya-bish”, meaning cold water) was first settled in 1822 and incorporated as a city in 1861. In its early days, the community was known as Lyons. Pottawatomie Indians originally inhabited the area. In 1960 the charter was amended providing for a council-manager form of government with a mayor and eight council members, two each from four wards. The first manager was Godfrey W. Collins.

The present municipal building opened in June, 2002. The 30,000 square foot complex houses the city’s administrative and code enforcement offices. The building climate is controlled by a geothermal heating and cooling system through a system of 50 wells drilled 300 feet under the parking lot at the west entrance to the building.

Form of Government

Coldwater’s council-manager form of government is based on two underlying principles of public administration:

- the separation of politics and administration; and
- the promotion of economy and efficiency in government.

The council-manager form of government consists of:

- an eight-member city council elected by ward on a non-partisan ballot, responsible for legislation and policy;
- a mayor elected at-large who presides over council meetings and executes

the ceremonial responsibilities of mayor; and

- a city manager who is a full-time executive responsible for implementing council policies and programs, and administering the day-to-day operations of the city.

City Council Elections

The city council members are elected to four-year staggered terms, with elections held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in every odd numbered year.

To hold elective office, a person must be a resident and qualified voter. In the case of a council member, the person must also reside in the ward in which he/she is running for office.

Welcome to Your City Council Meeting



Henry L. Brown Municipal Building



Council Chamber



City of Coldwater
One Grand Street
Coldwater, Michigan 49036
www.coldwater.org

Welcome

Coldwater's city council and administration are pleased to welcome you to your city council meeting. Your attendance is appreciated. It demonstrates your sincere interest in the city's operations, programs, services and policy decisions.

This brochure is provided to help you participate in the meeting and to acquaint you with Coldwater's form of government. Thank you for joining us, and please come again.

Council Responsibilities

The city council:

1. Exercises all legislative powers of the city, establishes city policies by adopting ordinances, resolutions and the city budget, and by approving agreements and appropriations.
2. Appoints, directs and, if necessary, removes the city manager.
3. Exercises responsible leadership by:
 - critically and regularly reviewing city policies
 - participating in the life of the community
 - generating public support for city programs and services

Additionally, the city council appoints citizens to advisory boards and commissions.

Council Meetings

The regular city council meetings are held the second and fourth Monday evening of every month at 5:30 p.m., unless scheduled otherwise, in the council chamber on the second floor of the Henry L. Brown Municipal Building, One Grand Street. From time to time, special meetings may be called with appropriate notice being provided. All regular and special meetings are open to the public.

State law permits the council to discuss salaries, collective bargaining, land acquisition, pending and threatened litigation and matters pertaining to employment in closed session. However, the city council is not allowed to take any action in closed session.

Council members receive copies of the agenda and related material on the Friday prior to the meeting, allowing time for review of issues before making a decision. A copy of the agenda is available in the city clerk's office, published in the local newspaper and posted on the city's website. Past agendas are also available in the city clerk's office and on the website. A copy of the agenda is also available in the council chamber.

The consent portion of the agenda consists of items considered routine by the council and the administration. The council acts on these items without discussion by a single vote. However, at the request of any council member or citizen present, any item may be removed from the consent agenda and considered and acted upon by separate motion.

All council meetings are taped for later showing. Consult your local cable provider for the dates and times the meetings are rebroadcast.

Citizen Participation

The city council encourages citizens to attend council meetings and express their opinions and concerns.

The city manager suggests bringing problems to the attention of the appropriate administrative official(s) whenever possible. If the city official(s) cannot resolve the problem satisfactorily, you are encouraged to bring it to the city council in any of the following ways:

- Written questions or comments may be submitted to the city clerk no later than noon on the Thursday of the week prior to the meeting so that they may be reviewed by the administration prior to placement on the agenda. This will enable the city council to review the item prior to the council meeting.
- During any meeting, you may question or comment on any matter that is not covered under a specific agenda item at the time the city council considers that item.
- You may also question or comment on any matter not covered under a specific agenda item during the period(s) identified as public comments.

Citizens are respectfully requested to await recognition from the mayor before beginning their question or comment. Once recognized, you are asked to go to the microphone at the podium, state your name, whether you are a Coldwater resident, and address your comments or questions to the mayor.