

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



July 10, 2023
5:30 p.m.
(517) 279-9501
www.coldwater.org

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Kramer called the meeting to order with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember Emily Rissman representing the 1st Ward; Councilmembers Chad Johnson and Jim Knaack representing the 2nd Ward; Councilmembers Michael Beckwith and John Petzko, representing the 3rd Ward; and Councilmembers Randall Hazelbaker and Scott Houtz representing the 4th Ward.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Knaack, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to excuse the absence of, Councilmember Travis Machan, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

OTHERS PRESENT: Megan Angell, Joe Scheid, Pat Beeman, Tom Eldridge, Jake VanBoxel, Paul Jakubczak, Elijah Quinn, Shauna Chávez; Don Reid, John C. Pollack, Amy Duff, Hector Soliman Valdez (via Zoom), Bill Flickinger plus one more.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sheriff John Pollack presented a report on Branch County Sheriff's Department activities and gave an update on the new jail.

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 June 26, 2023.

2. Coldwater Public Library Advisory Board Regular Minutes of June 5, 2023.
3. Board of Public Utilities' Regular Minutes of June 7, 2023.
4. Michigan South Central Power Agency Board Regular Minutes of May 4, 2023.
5. Michigan South Central Power Agency Board Work Session Minutes of May 23, 2023.
6. Board of Public Utilities' Reports and Financial Statements for May, 2023.
7. City of Coldwater monthly Financial Report for May, 2023.

ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Hazelbaker, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-7, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Kramer opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

8. Letter from Megan Angell, City Attorney, regarding proposed vacation of the westerly portion of Washington Street – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 23-55.

Public Comments:

- None.

Mayor Kramer closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Rissman, to adopt Resolution No. 23-55 (attached in Addendum A), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

9. Bills and Accounts: \$208,270.50.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Petzko, seconded by Councilmember Houtz, to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$208,270.50, as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

10. City Manager's Report.

Board of Review

The July Board of Review is scheduled for Tuesday July 18, 2023 - This session of the Board of Review is held for mistakes of fact, which includes disabled veterans' exemptions, principal residence exemptions, and similar changes to the 2023 assessment roll. Persons can contact City Assessor Samantha Albright in the Neighborhood Services Dept. at 517-279-6932.

Property Maintenance Reminders

Residents and property owners are asked to follow these simple property maintenance ordinances:

1. Mow grass and trim weeds to six inches or less.
2. Clean up junk in and around houses, garages and commercial properties.
3. Park vehicles on improved surfaces and not in the front yard.
4. Keep indoor furniture and other household items indoors and off of front porches or yards.
5. Residents wanting to schedule a large item pick up can call Customer Service at 279-9501.

This information is available on the City's website, the annual City calendar, public service announcements on WTVB radio and social media posts each year. Please be a good neighbor and help keep the City of Coldwater an attractive place to live and work.

Community Events

Downtown Farmers Market – The Farmers Market continues Saturday mornings 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through September. The market is located on the NW corner of the Four Corners Park. Parking is available in the adjacent Randall Plaza parking lot. Come enjoy a morning out and pick up your fruits, vegetables, homemade baked goods and other products.

Hops on Monroe – Hops on Monroe is well underway and continues Thursday nights through August 31, 2023. Come downtown for food trucks, craft beers, musical entertainment and outdoor games on South Monroe Street. The hours are from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Entertainment Under the Stars – Come out and enjoy musical entertainment Tuesday evenings beginning July 18, 2023 and continuing through August. For the fourth year, the concerts will be held in Heritage Park and begin at 7 p.m. Heritage Park provides plenty of shade, room to spread out, public restrooms and beautiful surroundings. Come down and enjoy a night of great (and free!) music. We want to thank our numerous sponsors who help present EUTS.

Construction Updates

2023 Street Milling and Paving Project - Work began on Thursday July 6, 2023. Milling and concrete repairs are underway. Chestnut, Northshore, Candlewood, Arapaho, Appaloosa, Shoshoni Pass, Western Ave., S. Sprague, W. Pearl St. (US-12 to Jay) and Sauk River Drive are all planned to be milled and paved over the course of a few weeks.

Downtown Restrooms - Work continues on the new downtown restrooms in the alley located between S. Monroe Street and Tibbits Plaza parking lot. The roof is going on and concrete work is underway. Project completion has been delayed to later in July.

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

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

11. **PRESENTATION:** Amy Duff, Executive Director, Branch County Commission on Aging.

Council Action: None — Presentation only.

12. Letter from Joseph Scheid, Director of Public Safety, regarding proposed purchase of Flock Camera System – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 23-64.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to adopt Resolution No. 23-64 (attached in Addendum B), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

13. Letter from Audrey Tappenden, Economic Development Coordinator, regarding amendment to Historic District Ordinance – Consider adoption of Ordinance No. 860.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Hazelbaker, seconded by Councilmember Beckwith, to adopt Ordinance No. 860 (attached in Addendum C), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

14. Memo from Paul Jakubczak PE, Utility Director, regarding electric rate adjustments – Consider adoption of Resolution No. 23-60.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Beckwith, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adopt Resolution No. 23-60 (attached in Addendum D), as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

15. 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 Petzko, to enter into Closed session pursuant to Section 8(c) of PA 267 of 1976 to discuss collective bargaining agreement, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried. (6:39 p.m.)

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Petzko, to reconvene to Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023 as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried. (6:39 p.m.)

16. Consider approval of the proposed changes to the CBPU/DMS Employees Union Contract.

Council Action: Motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Knaack, to approve the tentative labor agreement between the United Steelworkers for the CBPU/DMS allowing the Mayor and the Clerk to enter into that agreement.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no other business to come before Council, Mayor Kramer adjourned the regular meeting at 6:39 p.m.



Shauna Chávez
City Clerk, CMC