

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, June 6, 2022

1. Meeting called to order 7:01 PM

2. Roll call

Present: Aldermen Kyle Currie, Dianne Griffith, Nichole Gatewood, and Mayor John Benestante

Absent: Jessica Sewell

Visitors: Mike Brown, Greg Magee, Linda Deeter, Gerald Deeter, and Marsha Brown

3. Public Comment: NONE

4. Agenda: A motion was made by Alderman Kyle Currie to adopt the agenda with the one change of moving agenda item “A” under “new business” to the end of new business to allow time for Axley & Rode representative to present 2018 audit report as the representative had not arrived at the start of the meeting . Dianne Griffith seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Minutes: Motion to accept minutes from May 13, 2022, meeting was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

6. Approval of Bills: The list of bills paid and to be paid were approved. A motion to the pay bills was made by Alderman Kyle Currie and seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

7. Reports:

A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Mike Brown from Inframark stated the charges for the current invoice as \$4,429.40 for operator charges. There were no extra bills and no excursions incurred for the month of May. Mr. Brown stated the average flow was 45,000 gallons per day and the plant was functioning at 23% of capacity. He also explained he had received three bids for the ballpark lift station control panel and the lowest bid was \$4,800 from Electrical Field Services.

B. Financial Reports – Mayor John Benestante briefed Council with the current financial profit and loss statements for the general account, sewer & maintenance, Hotel/Motel, Covid Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and Capital Projects.. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions. There were no questions asked.

C. Grease Trap Testing Results: City Secretary, Jody Barr, went over the results of the latest grease trap testing results. Taco Express called and expressed concern over their consistently high readings despite the fact they do not do much frying of food, never put grease down the sinks and are on a set quarterly service for clean out. Mayor Benestante stated he would visit the restaurant and determine if the grease trap being tested is correct and make sure that Eastex Environmental Labs are testing appropriately to try to determine the problem with the high readings.

D. Briefing on sewer cut offs: City Secretary, Jody Barr, explained one customer was disconnected and the San Jacinto County MUD would be determining in the coming week whether to pull the meter.

8. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible action on appointing a mayor pro tem: after council discussion regarding the responsibilities of the mayor pro tem Nichole Gatewood made a motion to appoint Dianne Griffith to the position. The motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.

B. Discussion and possible action on hiring a part time office clerk: Mayor John Benestante spoke about the necessity of hiring a part time staff person to assist the City Secretary. Council reviewed the previously approved pay scale for the position. Mayor Benestante is going to work on a list of qualifications that the candidate would need for the position and will present to council at the next meeting.

C. Discussion and possible action of civil drawings for restroom/concession stand: Mayor Benestante went over the civil drawings of the restroom/concession stand. The Aldermen reviewed the drawings and discussed the handicap parking area and general parking area. After contemplation, council members will revisit the drawings with further comments at the next city council meeting.

D. Briefing on the State of the City: Mayor Benestante stated that in his visit with the audit firm they do not audit grants but will audit grant funds and he proposes the city form a policy that when grants are done that the metes and bounds and warranty deed be attached to the grant. From further review of City records a deed was found showing in the year 2000 Mary Elizabeth Reynolds gave the City 25 acres near the current City owned ball park and that the City gave the property to Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD in 2005.

E. Discussion and possible action on filling the vacancy of alderman position 5: Mayor Benestante asked council for suggestions of finding a qualified applicant to apply for the position.

F. Discussion and possible action on Worldwide Power Products preventative maintenance renewal agreements: Aldermen reviewed the renewal contracts received from Worldwide Power Products and determined that they were necessary, and that the City would renew for the maintenance services.

G. Consider acceptance of proposed funding to the city of Coldspring from the DETCOG Method of Distribution (MOD) for the Regional Mitigation Program, part of the State of Texas CDBG Mitigation Action Plan: Mayor Benestante presented the Regional Mitigation Program – [COG] MOD Funding Notification letter to the aldermen. After discussion, a motion was made by alderman Nichole Gatewood to accept the funds allocated through the MOD. This motion was seconded by alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.

H. Discussion and possible action on Request for Qualification (RFQ) for an administrative service firm to assist the City of Coldspring in obtaining funds and grants for future projects that will

benefit the citizens of the city and promote economic growth: Mayor Benestante advised council that it would be beneficial for the City to initiate an RFQ for a grant administrator. A motion was made by alderman Dianne Griffith to move forward on this request and was seconded by Nichole Gatewood.

I. Presentation of 2018 audit report by Axley & Rode, LLP, Certified Public Accountants: This item was tabled until the next city council meeting as the representative from Axley & Rode was not able to attend the meeting and present the report. .

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by alderman Dianne Griffith at 8:04 PM and was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.

Mayor John Benestante