

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, August 1, 2022

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call

Present: Aldermen Kyle Currie, Nichole Gatewood, Jessica Sewell, Jennifer Manuel, and Mayor John Benestante

Absent: Dianne Griffith

Visitors: Hunter Maze, Greg Magee, Marsha Brown, Rob Gupta, Linda & Gerald Deeter, Barbara Justice, Christina Mallett, Kraig Erwin

3. Public Comment:

Gerald Deter: Mr. Deter wanted the city to know that a tree fell on Cemetery Road and that a Precinct One work crew came out and removed the tree but left debris. Mr. Deter stated that he called Precinct One about the remaining debris and was told the City of Coldspring would have to contact the Commissioner's office regarding approval to remove the debris. Mayor Benestante stated he would call Precinct One and have the remaining debris removed.

Barbara Justice: Ms. Justice, President of the Coldspring Chamber of Commerce wanted to announce the date for the upcoming Christmas on the Square which will be Saturday, December 10, 2022.

Christina Mallet: Ms. Christina Mallet, Treasurer of the Coldspring Chamber of Commerce asked Mayor Benestante if he would be the Grand Marshall of the 2022 Christmas on the Square annual parade. Mayor Benestante agreed.

Marsha Brown: Ms. Brown inquired on how the City of Coldspring would enforce the lowered speed limits if the City Council moves forward with lowering the speed limit in the city limits when the Texas Department of Transportation concludes their study. Mayor Benestante said he anticipated cooperation with the Texas Department of Public Safety state troopers and the local San Jacinto County Sheriff's department.

4. Agenda: A motion was made by Alderman Kyle Currie to adopt the August 1, 2022, agenda and the motion was seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

5. Minutes: Motion to accept minutes from July 11, 2022, meeting was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell and seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.

6. Approval of Bills: The list of bills paid and to be paid were reviewed for approval. A motion to the pay bills was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell and seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

7. Reports:

A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Hunter Maze from Inframark stated the charges for the current invoice as \$6,763.35. The operator charges were \$4,700.00 and \$2,063.35 for general and preventative maintenance costs. There were no excursions incurred for the month of July.

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. Briefing on sewer cut offs: City Secretary, Jody Barr, reported there was one sewer cutoff for the month of July; however, the account had been paid and service restored.

D. Briefing on street maintenance: Mayor Benestante reported that he had given a list of potholes to the Precinct One's office for repair and was looking at a section of East Pine Avenue near the San Jacinto County Appraisal District for repair and widening. In addition, the City is looking at doing cosmetic work on a section of Parker Street where the creek had caused damage, and also looking at some repairs on Reese Street, Cemetery Road and repainting the speedbumps.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Briefing on Park 1 Restroom / Concession stand and FM 2025 Sewer Project: The design and planning on the Park 1 Restroom / Concession stand is progressing on time. The two control panels have been installed at the baseball park lift station. In regard to the sewer project, flagging and elevation studies are being done for the City.

B. Briefing on grease trap sampling: Mayor Benestante spoke with Eastex Environmental Labs and all testing will be suspended until each testing location sampling tube has been properly located and marked. Each business owner will be met with to determine if a sampling tube is available and its location. This will ensure accurate samples will be taken in the future. When quarterly sampling is resumed, all testing dates will be announced.

C. Status on RFP for administrative services: Mayor Benestante informed council that the request for RFP administration services had been advertised for and solicited from firms. The due date for receipt of proposals is August 10, 2022.

D. Briefing on meeting with the Texas Department of Transportation (TX Dot): Mayor Benestante stated he had not had the meeting with Tx Dot as of this date, but expects to meet with them before the next city council meeting September 11, 2022.

E. Briefing on allocation under Deep East Texas Council of Governments Hurricane Harvey CDBG Mitigation Method of Distribution (DETCOG MIT MOD) funding award allocation for the city of Coldspring is \$631,000: Mayor Benestante advised council that he had attended the

DETCOG meeting in Hemphill, Texas on July 28, 2022, and the City of Coldspring would be receiving \$631,000 which can be used for sewer expansion. He also stated that local Precinct 4 commissioner, Mark Nettuno is now on the DETCOG board representing San Jacinto County.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

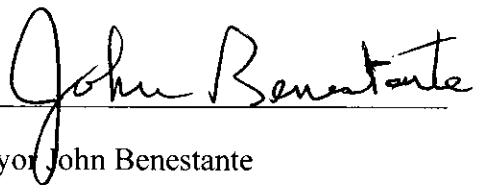
A. Discussion and possible action on of a resolution identifying three entities that support the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Coldspring. City Attorney Greg Magee provided a sample resolution to implement a donation policy for the City of Coldspring, Texas. The resolution delineated that the three entities supporting the welfare of the citizens of the City of Coldspring that would qualify under Texas Local Government Code Sections 51.001 and 51.012 would be the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department, the Coldspring Area Public Library, and the Senior Citizens of San Jacinto County. Each entity is providing services for the citizens of Coldspring and is a cost saving, since the City itself is not funding the total operations of these entities. Council will review this resolution draft before the next city council meeting and contact City Attorney Greg Magee with any questions or comments.

B. Briefing on Mary Elizabeth Reynold's warranty deed dated June 21, 2000. Mayor Benestante briefed council on his meeting with the Coldspring-Oakhurst Independent School District Superintendent, Dr. Bryan Taulton and Business Manager, Adam Jenke asking the school district to deed back to the City of Coldspring the property under Mary Elizabeth Reynold's warranty deed . The Superintendent agreed to speak to his legal council and board members regarding this request.

C. Discussion and possible action on the office layout for the office assistant position: Mayor Benestante presented the Texas Correction Industries (TCI) quote and drawings for the modular furniture for the office assistant position. The project would include a counter to receive sewer payments and a workstation with file drawers and under counter lighting. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to accept the TCI quote and drawings. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by alderman Jessica Sewell at 7:51 PM and was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.



Mayor John Benestante