

**City of Coldspring, Texas**  
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting  
Monday, November 7, 2022

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call

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

Absent: None

Visitors: Philip Matticks, Todd Threlkeld, Linda & Gerald Deeter, Chris Wallace, Marsha Brown, Greg Magee, Barbara Justice, C. Doughery, Paul Shelton, and Albert Trevino

3. Public Comment: Paul Shelton stated he would like the City to investigate the drainage problem in the downtown area that is affecting his commercial property

4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes for the meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Kyle Currie to adopt the agenda, Alderman Jessica Sewell seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the October 3, 2022, meeting was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor. Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the special called October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the October 25, 2022, meeting was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell and seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. All in favor.

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

7. Reports:

A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Todd Thredkeld from Inframark stated the charges for the month were \$4,700.00 and \$129.20 for some administrative compliance reporting. There were no excursions incurred for the month of October.

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. In addition, he stated that line-item adjustments would be brought to Council at the next meeting along with a proposed 2023 calendar year budget. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions. There were no

questions asked. City Secretary, Jody Barr, briefed council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of October.

C. Briefing on sewer cut offs: No report given.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Briefing on Park 1 Restroom / Concession Stand: Mayor Benestante explained to Council that he and Alderman Kyle Currie met with a contractor to review the specs for the facility. They determined that the specs had several unnecessary items and items that could be changed to lower the cost of the project. The contractor will write up the changes discussed, and Mayor Benestante will take them to Goodwin, Lasiter, Strong for revisions to be made in order to rebid the project with the updated specs.

B. Briefing on City Street Work: Mayor Benestante informed Council that all planned street work for the 2022 calendar year had been completed and at the next council meeting he will seek discussion about target areas for the upcoming 2023 calendar year. Mayor Benestante stated he had had requests for Brumley street and some areas downtown and will be seeking additional funding to help with flooding and drainage issues.

C. Briefing on Mary Elizabeth Reynold warranty deed dated June 21, 2000: After in depth research of City records, the property does show to have been sold to the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District. Mayor Benestante will meet with the school district's attorns before the next City Council meeting and discuss their proposed negotiation of an agreement with the City for the use of some additional property owned by the school district.

D. Discussion and possible action on RV park ordinance: City attorney Greg Magee reviewed the changes, additions, and deletions that he received from Mayor Benestante, Alderman Kyle Currie, and Alderman Nichole Gatewood. There was a general discussion regarding these comments and changes. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to move forward and accept the new RV Ordinance with the changes that were discussed. This motion was seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible action on supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program for the Coldspring Area Library. Marsha Brown, Vice President of the Coldspring Area Public Library Board explained the program is a book gifting program that mails free, age-appropriate, high-quality books to registered, qualified children from birth through month of the child's fifth birthday. Each month a child receives a personalized (mailing label) book mailed directly to their home. There is no cost to the parents or caregivers and no income stipulations. After a general discussion, Mayor Benestante recommended a \$10,000 commitment of support in the upcoming 2023 City budget. Alderman Dianne Griffith made to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. This motion was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.

B. Discuss and possible action to adopt the 2023 City Holidays/ City Council Meeting Dates

Schedule. The upcoming 2023 holidays and meeting dates were reviewed by Council. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to approve and adopt 2023 City holiday and meeting date schedule. Alderman Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion. All in favor.

C. Briefing on Opioid Abatement Settlement – Notice to subdivisions: Mayor Benestante explained the Opioid abatement settlement notice to subdivisions received by the State of Texas. As part of Senate Bill 1827 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2021, the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund (“the Trust Fund”) was established to receive opioid abatement litigation settlement proceeds and to make distributions to Trust Fund recipients. The Trust Fund is made up of payments received by the state from settlements against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other parties subject to a civil action for an opioid-related harm associated with the marketing, promotion, distribution, dispensation, or sale of opioids. The City replied to the notice received by the state and will await further information.

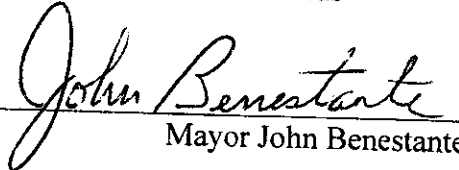
D. Review City Ordinance 92-1: Public Event Ordinance: Mayor Benestante and City Council reviewed the current ordinance and after a general discussion determined items needed to be updated to reflect a more stream lined and defined process and decided that the Mayor Pro Tem, currently Dianne Griffith would be designated as chairperson to handle requests and would meet with applicants in person to facilitate future public event applications. City Attorney Greg Magee noted the discussed changes and will provide Council with a draft of the updated Public Event Ordinance.

E. Leticia Matticks to request approval of the City to close Cedar Steet between the San Jacinto County Courthouse and the San Jacinto County Annex for a street dance from 7:00 - 10:00 PM after the Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 26, 2022. Phillip Matticks, husband of Leticia Matticks, asked City Council for approval to close E. Cedar Avenue between Highway 150 and Butler Street for a street dance after the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Mr. Matticks, who is Vice President of the Coldspring Area Business Merchants Association (CABMA) would be voting on approving the dance on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. He is seeking advance approval from the City for the street closure. Mayor Benestante stated that the public event fees would need to be paid and proper insurance obtained before approval could be given. Mr. Matticks said after the CABMA vote, if approved, he would be back in touch with the required fees and insurance verification.

F. Discussion and possible action on City of Coldspring Resolution 2022-7 for the City of Coldspring to authorize the State of Texas to close Highway 150 and FM 1514 for the purpose of the Annual Christmas on the Square Activities. Mayor Benestante presented the resolution to Council. Alderman Jessica Sewell made a motion to approve and adopt the City of Coldspring Resolution 2022-7 for the Christmas on the Square festivities. Alderman Dianne Griffith seconded he motion. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 8:23 PM and was seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. All in favor.

  
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Mayor John Benestante

Attest:

  
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Jody Barr City Secretary