

**City of Coldspring, Texas**  
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2022

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call

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

Absent: Jennifer Manuel

Visitors: Mike Brown, Rob Gupta, Linda & Gerald Deeter, Doug Whitmire, Josh Gipson

3. Public Comment: NONE

4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante asked that Agenda Item "M" be moved up and addressed first. Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to adopt the September 12, 2022, agenda with agenda item "M" being heard first under old business. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. All in favor.

5. Minutes: Motion to accept minutes from August 1, 2022, meeting was made by Alderman Kyle Currie and seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. 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 Dianne Griffith. 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 \$5,162.00. The operator charges were \$4,700.00 and \$462.00 for general repair of a water system asset and renewal for fleet zoom service per district. There were no excursions incurred for the month of August.

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 four sewer cutoffs for the month of August; however, the two of the accounts had been paid and service restored and the remaining two were scheduled for meters to be pulled on September 13, 2022.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Briefing on Park 1 Restroom / Concession stand and FM 2025 Sewer Project: Goodwin Lasiter Strong is going to manage the bids for the Park 1 Restrooms and will post the required

bid solicitations accordingly. When the bid advertisements are published there will also be a copy of the bid solicitation at City Hall for interested parties. Once the allotted bid time has expired, Mayor Benestante will be present to oversee the bid opening at Goodwin Lasiter Strong. Once a bid is accepted, Mayor Benestante may call a special meeting for the announcement of the winning bid. Regarding the FM 2025 Sewer Project, Goodwin Lasiter Strong has looked at the elevations and is now doing the actual design on the system.

B. Briefing on grease trap sampling: Mayor Benestante stated that he will be visiting each site that grease samples are taken from in the coming weeks and requesting that all sights have a sampling tube that is painted green for easy identification. When the City resumes grease testing each entity will be notified in advance on the date the sample will be taken.

C. Discussion and possible action of a resolution identifying three entities that support the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Coldspring: Council reviewed the resolution prepared by City Attorney Greg Magee and determined the resolution 2022-2 resolved that the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department, the Coldspring Area Public Library, and the Senior Citizens of San Jacinto County would be three non-profit organizations within the city that promoted the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Coldspring, providing services which the City of Coldspring could, but does not provide at this time. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to approve the resolution and alderman, Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion. All in favor.

D. Briefing on meeting with the Texas Department of Transportation (TX Dot): Mayor Benestante stated that his meeting with TxDot went well and was productive. TxDot agreed to do a study on the speed limits in the City limits and especially the school zones in addition to looking at the State Highway 156 intersection regarding the right on red. Mayor Benestante also spoke with them regarding putting “no parking” signs along the shoulder area across from the Paradise Grill restaurant and they agreed the signs could be placed there. The mayor will be meeting with Paul Shelton, owner of the Paradise Grill regarding this matter to discuss alternative parking for larger vehicles and trucks with trailers. In regard to the TxDot contractors that mow hitting the sewer manhole covers, Mayor Benestante will be meeting with the local foreman from the Shepherd TxDot office as there are plans to paint the manhole covers green and put cones on them before mowing is done in the future to eliminate damage from the mowers to the manhole covers.

E. Discuss, consider, and select administration/project delivery service provider(s) to complete application and project implementation for the City of Coldspring’s 2023-2024 Texas Community Development Block Grant funded and administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Mayor Benestante stated that there were three administrative proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would be awarded to Grantworks. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept the Grantworks proposal and alderman Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion.

F. Discuss, consider, and select engineering/architectural/surveying service provider(s) to complete application and project implementation for the City of Coldspring’s 2023-2024 Texas

Community Development Block Grant funded and administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Mayor Benestante stated that there were three engineering proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would be awarded to Goodwin Lasiter Strong. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept the Goodwin Lasiter Strong proposal and alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

G. Discuss, consider, and select administration/project delivery service provider(s) to complete application and project implementation for the CDBG MIT-MOD funding administered by the Texas General Land Office. Mayor Benestante stated that there were four administrative proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the CDBG MIT-MOD would be awarded to Grantworks. Alderman Jessica Sewell made a motion to accept the Grantworks proposal and alderman Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion. All in favor.

H. Discuss, consider, and select engineering/architectural service provider(s) to complete application and project implementation for the CDBG MIT-MOD funding administered by the Texas General Land Office. Mayor Benestante stated that there was only one (1) engineering proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the CDBG MIT-MOD would be awarded to Goodwin Lasiter Strong. Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to accept the Goodwin Lasiter Strong proposal and alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

I. Discuss, consider, and select administration/project delivery service provider(s) to complete project implementation for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Act) funding administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, other Federal or State Agency. Mayor Benestante stated that there were two administrative proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the American Rescue Plan Act administration would be awarded to Grantworks. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept the Grantworks proposal and alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

J. Discuss, consider, and select engineering service provider(s) to complete project implementation for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Act) funding administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, other Federal or State Agency. Mayor Benestante stated that there were four engineering proposals received and after the review committee scored the submissions that the American Rescue Plan Act engineering services would be awarded to Goodwin Lasiter Strong. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept the Goodwin Lasiter Strong proposal and alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

K. Discussion and possible action on City street work. Mayor Benestante stated that he is getting quotes from Commissioner McAnally on repaving Pine Street and Reese Street, repairing some areas of erosion on Parker Loop and Cemetery Road and repainting and repairing the delineation concrete speed bumps on Patrick Street.

L. Briefing on Mary Elizabeth Reynold warranty deed dated June 21, 2000. Mayor Benestante said he spoke to the current assistant superintendent of business and finance, Adam Jenke, regarding the matter and that Mr. Jenke would try to get the matter on the agenda.

M. Discussion and possible action on 2020 and 2021 City Financial Audits. Molly Abele from Axle and Rode reviewed the 2020 audit report findings were comparable to the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 audit findings. She stated that with the corrective actions that have already put in place with the previous audit findings that she was confident that the 2021 City would be able to be completed in October. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept the 2020 audit report and the motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible action of a resolution #2022-1 for the purpose of closing Highway 150 and FM 1514 for the Annual San Jacinto County Fair & Rodeo Parade. Council reviewed resolution 2022-1 for the Annual San Jacinto County Fair & Rodeo Parade. Alderman Jessica Sewell made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.

B. Discussion and possible action on RV park ordinance. City Attorney, Greg Magee provided a sample RV park ordinance to council. Mayor Benestante asked Council to review the ordinance for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

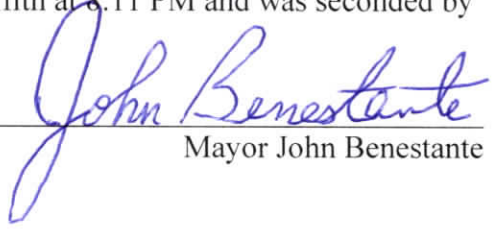
C. Discussion and possible action on line item move of funds in the General Fund and Sewer Fund. Mayor Benestante stated that this matter would be tabled until November.

D. Local business owner, Rob Gu, of the Coldspring Inn to speak on future upgrades to his Inn dependent upon expansion of the City Sewer system and inquiry of the blue bird houses on Park 2 walking path. Mayor Benestante explained to Mr. Gu that the blue bird houses previously discussed at an earlier council meeting was not being placed in City Park 2 by the City. The City had just given permission for the bird houses to be placed there by the Piney Wood Lakes Mater Naturalists. Mr. Gu explained he planned to install or open a formal "Washateria" at the front of his motel if the City would in its planned sewer expansion plans extend sewer services to his hotel as it would free up land now being used by his aerobic sewer system. In addition, Mr. Gu stated that he is currently working with Tesla motors to get a car charging station at his motel in hopes that this convenience for electric car owners would bring them to the City of Coldspring. Mayor Benestante stated the City does plan to extend sewer services in the area of his location.

E. Proclamation for World Teacher's Day. Mayor Benestante presented a City of Coldspring, Texas, Teachers' Day Proclamation proclaiming October 5, 2022, to the City of Coldspring, Texas Teachers' Day. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept this proclamation and alderman Jessica Sewell seconded the motion. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by alderman Dianne Griffith at 8:11 PM and was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

  
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Mayor John Benestante

Attest:

  
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Jody Barr, City Secretary