

**City of Coldspring, Texas**  
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting  
Monday, June 5, 2023

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call.

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

Absent: none

Visitors: Kris Eastham-TDEM, Josh Taylor & Harley Permenter-Inframark, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Linda & Gerald Deeter, Linda Almaguer, Greg Capers- San Jacinto County Sheriff

3. Public Comment: Linda Almaguer was inquiring if the City had any updates from TxDot reducing the speed limits inside the City limits. She was concerned about the wrecks that had occurred. Linda also gave her appreciation to the city for the help of the fire suppression system that was put in at the Senior Citizens Center and the vehicle that was purchased for meal delivery. San Jacinto County Sheriff, Greg Cappars, spoke on Texas border security and issues that affecting the county and thus having impact on the City of Coldspring along with sex trafficking that is happening which is a major concern.
4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to adopt the agenda, Alderman Dianne Griffith seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called May 1, 2023, meeting and the minutes from the special called meeting on May 9, 2023. A motion to accept the minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting was made by Alderman Kyle Currie and seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. All in favor. A motion to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2023, special called meeting was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood and seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
6. Approval of Bills: The list of bills paid and to be paid were reviewed by the Council for approval. A motion to pay the bills was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
7. Reports:
- A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Hunter M. from Inframark stated the charges for the month were \$5,109.30 for operating fees. The bill was a little more due to a few maintenance items. There was one violation regarding a reading that had to be reported to the State but was quickly corrected. There were no excursions incurred for the month of May. The plant operated at 29 percent of capacity for the month of May and flowed an average of 58,000 MGD.

- B. Financial Reports – Mayor John Benestante briefed the Council with the current financial profit and loss statements for the General account, Sewer & Maintenance, Hotel/Motel, Covid Fund, Capital Projects and MIT-Mod Grant Fund. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. The City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr, briefed Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of May.
- C. Briefing on sewer cut offs – City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr briefed Council that there was one customer account on cut off day for May and they have since paid and service has been restored.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Briefing on Restroom/Concession Stand Building. Mayor John Benestante briefed the council on the Restroom/Concession Stand Building at CDYL Park. The contractors have started working and in the next few weeks plan to start pouring concrete.
- B. Discussion and possible action on complaint from L.P. Runge on 832 Highway 150 property regarding violation of City Ordinance 2021-3. Mayor John Benestante briefed Council that the owner has cleaned up the property. No action by city Council at this time.
- C. Discussion and possible action on TMRS: Texas Municipal Retirement System actuary study results. Mayor John Benestante presented the Council with TMRS actuary study results. After a general discussion a motion was made by Kyle Currie to present a resolution for the next meeting with an employee contribution of 7% and the city doing a 1:1 match for each employee through the TMRS. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action on abandoned right of way on Anglo Dutch property sold to Vivian Briggs. After a general discussion by Mayor John Benestante, a motion was made by Jessica Sewell to approve the ordinance for the City of Coldspring to abandon the right of way on Anglo Dutch property belonging to Vivian Briggs. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- E. Briefing on purchase of Park #1 Parking Lot. Mayor Benestante briefed the Council on the potential property purchase for expanding parking for the ballpark. The council would like to draft a standing offer to a property owner with land near the park and go from there. The city will revisit this matter when more information is available after researching the owner of the property.
- F. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 92-1 (Public Event) and adopting amendment to ordinance 92-1 with Attorney Greg Magee's changes. After a general discussion it was suggested by City Attorney Greg Magee to amend ordinance 92-1. City attorney Greg Magee will revise the proposed Public Event Ordinance with Council's changes and council will present the revised version at the next city council meeting.

Motion made by Jessica Sewell to table until City Attorney Greg Magee amends ordinance 92-1 for next meeting approval. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

- G. Briefing on completion of Park #2 fencing. Mayor John Benestante briefed the council over the completion of the fencing at Park #2 that was finished by TDCJ.

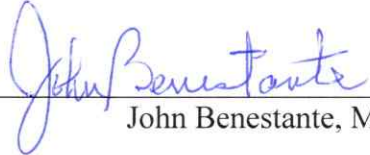
9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Briefing on support of SJC Coldspring Senior Citizens Center regarding fire suppression system. Mayor Benestante briefed the City Council on the Coldspring Senior Citizens Center new fire suppression system that was installed. The electrical part will be completed next week.
- B. Briefing on City of Coldspring record retention building. Mayor Benestante briefed council on the record retention building with a possibility of the slab being poured at the end of this year if not the start of the next year.
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding Parker Street closure. This item was tabled, no action was taken at this time.
- D. Discussion and possible action reviewing City Ordinances 88-4, 90-1 (Junk and salvage), and 2021-3 (Public nuisance). The council had a general discussion about the ordinances. No action was taken at this time.
- E. Discussion and possible action on violation of ordinance 2021-3 (Public nuisance) at 210 Slade Street. After a general discussion, Mayor Benestante said that the owners are still cleaning up property and no action at this time is needed. Alderman Sewell will brief Council on clean up done at the July City Council meeting.
- F. Discussion and possible action on potential violation of ordinances 2021-3 (Public nuisance), 88-4 (Junk and salvage) at 301 Highway 150. After a general discussion with the City Attorney Greg Magee, he advised serving the owners at 301 State Hwy 150 with violations of Ordinance 88-4.
- G. Discussion and possible action on City of Coldspring tow away zones. This item was tabled, no action at this time.
- H. Discussion and possible action on banning future car lots, salvage yards, impound yards, etc. regarding City Ordinance 88-4 (Junk and salvage) and 90-1 (Junk and salvage). After general discussion no action was taken.
- I. Discussion and possible action on instituting a system of business permits. Attorney Greg Magee is going to do some research on instituting a system of business permits. No action was taken at this time.

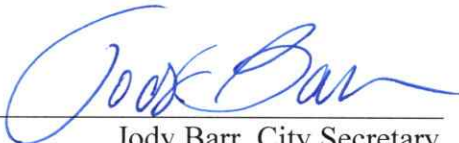
- J. Alderman Dianne Griffith briefing on Texas Municipal League small town conference. Alderman Griffith briefed council on her trip to the Texas Municipal League's small-town conference in Bastrop, Texas. She provided copies of the handouts from the conference to the Mayor and all council members. Ultimately, the conference stressed that working together will accomplish the most and have the greatest impact.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell at 9:24 PM and was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.

  
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John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Jody Barr, City Secretary