

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2023

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call.

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

Absent: Alderman Jennifer Manuel

Visitors: Linda & Gerald Deeter, Stephen Parker & Desiray Langston -GW Wrecker Service, Josh Taylor, Harley Permenter & Terra Williams-Inframark, Greg Magee-City Attorney

3. Public Comment: Gerald Deeter spoke briefly about the disappointment he had in some of the council members for not coming to an agreement to put stop signs up at Brookshire Brothers and The Hop to try and help reduce accidents.
4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Nichole Gatewood 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 August 7, 2023, and the minutes from the special called meeting August 16, 2023. A motion to accept the minutes from the August 7, 2023, meeting was made by Alderman Kyle Currie and seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. All in favor. A motion to accept the special called minutes from the August 16, 2023, meeting was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. 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 Kyle Currie and seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
7. Reports:
- A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Josh Taylor from Inframark stated the charges for the month were \$4700.00 for operating fees. There were no excursions incurred for the month of July. The plant operated at 14 percent of capacity for the month of July and flowed an average of 0.20 MGD.
 - 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 Fund, Capital Projects, Mit-Mod Grant Fund and Opioid Abatement Fund. Mayor

Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. Council had no comments or questions. The City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr, briefed Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of August.

- C. Briefing on sewer cut offs – City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr briefed Council that there was one customer account on cut off day for the month of August and they have since paid and service has been restored.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Briefing on City Park #1. Mayor John Benestante briefed the council on City Park #1 informing them that the construction on the new park restrooms and concession stand is nearly completed and looking great.

- B. Briefing on Ordinance violations:

Ordinances 2021-3 (Public Nuisance), 88-4 (Junk and Salvage) violations at 301 Highway 150. Mayor John Benestante briefed the council on the violations of Ordinance 2021-3 (Public Nuisance), and Ordinance 88-4 (Junk and Salvage) at 301 Highway 150. Owners are still not in compliance and the City will proceed with ordinance enforcement.

Ordinance 2021-3 (Public Nuisance) violation at 210 Slade Street. After a brief discussion with City Attorney Greg Magee, he has spoken to homeowners at 210 Slade Street and they have cleaned up the yard and fence row, the remaining weeds are on the next property to this location.

Ordinance 2007-08 violation of unauthorized signs within the City of Coldspring. The City will proceed with notifying those in violation of said ordinance and begin enforcement.

- C. Discussion and possible action on City Employee Salary Schedule. After brief discussion Nichole Gatewood made a motion to accept the City Employee Salary Schedule. Alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Stephen Parker with GW Wrecker would like to ask for off premise sign permit approval and to get council clarification on Sign Ordinance 2007-08. City attorney Greg Magee answered Mr. Parker's questions regarding the City's Sign Ordinance. Mr. Parker was given a sign permit application and will get it submitted to the City Secretary so that it can be brought before Council for review and approval.

B. Discussion and possible action approving a City of Coldspring logo. Council discussed several logo options and decided to go with option 1 with the changes submitted.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- SECTION 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION OR ABOUT SETTLEMENT OFFERS. SECTION 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY.
- SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS: TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE; AND
- SECTION 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES AND AUDITS.

11. RECONVENE

12. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Jessice Sewell at 8:15PM and was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.



John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:



Jody Barr, City Secretary