

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, October 2, 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: Hunter Maze, Herbert Lyons, Terra Williams (all from Inframark), Linda & Gerald Deeter, Kris Eastham-TDEM, Marsha Brown-Coldspring Library, Linda Almaguer

3. Public Comment: Gerald Deeter wanted to express his sentiments regarding Council voting no against placing stop signs at Brookshire Brothers and The Hop since not all council members were in attendance for last month's meeting. He briefly spoke about the disappointment he felt for the council members who voted no for the stop signs as he felt they would help reduce accidents in those areas.

Marsha Brown spoke on behalf of the Coldspring Library, thanking Mayor Benestante and Mayor Pro Tem Dianne Griffith for attending the Dolly Parton Imagination Library One Year Anniversary party. She said it was a success. They now have over 200 kids under 5 years old that participate in the program.

Linda Almaguer spoke on her concerns over the speed limits inside the city limits. She understands that it is a State Highway but the city still has a town and people to protect inside it. She also briefly spoke over loud noise concerns and wanted to see if the city had a noise ordinance to help control it.

Dianne Griffith invited all to attend the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department Fire Fest that will be held on Saturday, November 4th from 10am to 6pm, located at 111 FM 1514. They will have a Chili Cook-Off, food and sweet treats, silent auction, music, dancing, kids' games, and raffles. All proceeds support tools, gear, and training for local fire fighters.

Dianne also invited all to attend on the same day from 9am to 2pm, the 175th Birthday of Coldspring Methodist Church. They will have a BBQ lunch, music, hymns, message, kids activities, raffle, prizes, arts and crafts, cake walk, photo booth and snow cones. It will be a day of fun and games at either location, please come out and bring your friends and enjoy.

4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to adopt the agenda, Alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called September 11, 2023, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the September 11, 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 Jennifer Manuel and seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
7. Reports:
 - A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Hunter Maze, from Inframark stated the charges for the month of August were \$4846.36 for operating fees. There were no excursions incurred for the month of August. The plant operated at 51 percent of capacity for the month of August and flowed an average of 0.35 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, Opioid Abatement Fund and TML Legislative Update. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. The City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr, briefed the Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of September.
 - 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 September 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 they are putting the final finishing touches on the construction at the new park restrooms and concession stand.
 - 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, still need council approval for fence and need to get a permit for salvage yard. City will send one more final notice and then this will go to municipal court.

Ordinance 2007-08 violations 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 off premise sign application for Stephen Parker with GW Wrecker. This item was tabled and will be revisited when Mr. Stephen Parker is in attendance.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action for the City to approve contract for municipal judge. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante, this item will be tabled until the city has a contract in hand.
- B. Discussion and possible action for accepting revised TML coverage for the addition of insurance coverage for City Park #1. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Kyle Currie to accept the revised TML coverage for the addition of insurance coverage for City Park #1. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on City of Coldspring Resolution 2023-07 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 on Saturday, December 9, 2023. After a brief discussion on Resolution 2023-07, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to authorize the State of Texas to close Highway 150 and FM 1514 for the purpose of the Annual Christmas on the Square Activities on Saturday, December 9, 2023 pending insurance coverage with the City listed as an additional insured. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action on reviewing Inframark contract. This discussion was moved to the Executive Session. A motion was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell to authorize the Mayor to terminate the contract with Inframark and to advertise for a plant operator, hire a new operator and purchase or lease the needed vehicle and equipment needed. Alderman Jennifer Manuel seconded the motion. All in favor.

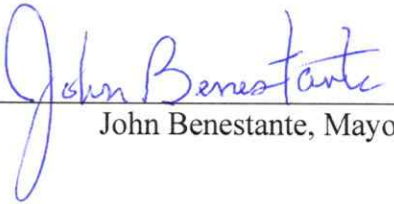
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 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

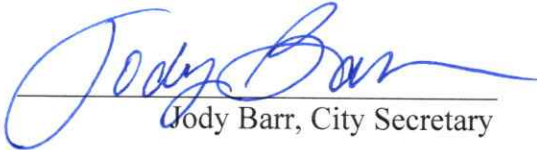
12. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 8:25PM and was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie . All in favor.



John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:



Jody Barr, City Secretary