

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call.

Present: Alderman Jennifer Manuel, Nichole Gatewood, Kyle Currie, and Mayor John Benestante

Absent: Alderman Jessica Sewell, and Alderman Dianne Griffith

Visitors: Kraig Erwin-Coldspring Dixie Youth League, Gerald & Linda Deeter, Marsha Brown-Coldspring Area Library, Karla Fratt, and Barbara Justice-Coldspring Community Center and Kris Eastham-TDEM

3. Public Comment: Kraig Erwin briefly spoke thanking the City for all they have done at the ball fields. Kraig said 280 kids signed up for ball this year. Opening day for the new ball season will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 10am. Kraig invited all to attend and asked if the Mayor would have the honor of throwing the first pitch to start off the season. Gerald Deeter briefly spoke of his desire to have stop signs when coming out of Brookshire Brothers and The Hop. In addition he would like something done about cars parking on state highway 150 and blocking oncoming traffic views at the intersection of State Highway 150 and Cemetery Road.
4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to adopt the agenda, Alderman Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called January 8, 2024, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the January 8, 2024, meeting was made by Alderman Jennifer Manuel and seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. 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 Kyle Currie. All in favor.
7. Reports:
- A. Operation of Treatment Plant and Collections System – Josh Taylor, the city’s sewer operator, presented the report on the Operation of the Treatment Plant and Collections Systems. There were no excursions incurred for the month of January. The plant operated at 38 percent of capacity for the month of January and flowed an average of .077 MGD.

Fixed Assets Information- None at this time.

- 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 Legislative Updates. 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 January.
- C. Investment Report- Mayor John Benestante briefed Council on the current investments of the City, including the certificate of deposit, the savings account, and the TEX Pool investment account.
- D. Briefing on sewer cut offs – City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr briefed Council that there were no cut offs of customer accounts for the month of January.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Briefing on Ordinance Violations:

Ordinance 2007-08 violations of unauthorized signs within the City of Coldspring. The City will proceed with notifying those in violation of ordinance 2007-08 and begin enforcement. Mayor Benestante, will get with the owner of the signs.

- B. Discussion and possible action on off premise sign application for Stephen Parker with GW Wrecker. This item will be tabled and only revisited when Mr. Stephen Parker is in attendance.
- C. Briefing on electronic sign for City Hall. Mayor John Benestante briefed the council on the electronic sign for City Hall. Extreme Signs has the design of the sign finalized and ready for production. The sign will be 4x8 and a 12 ft tall structure. People's State Bank will fund all the cost of sign.
- D. Discussion and possible action to amend Sewer Ordinance 2021-1 regarding multiple taps, commercial meter. Amanda and Josh spoke briefly regarding some examples of rate changes for customers. No action was taken at this time.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Present HUD Section 3 Presentation for the TXCDBG City of Coldspring Contract CDV23-0071. Angela Sifuentes of Langford Community Management Services,

presented HUD Section 3 presentation by speaker phone for the TXCDBG City of Coldspring Contract CDV23-0071.

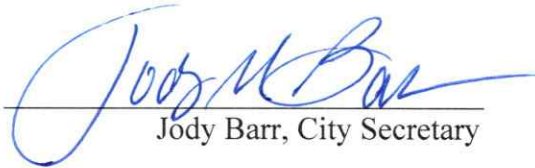
- B. Discussion and possible action for the City to engage Axley & Rode, CPAs for the 2023 City of Coldspring financial audit. After a brief explanation from Mayor Benestante regarding the engagement letter, Jennifer Manuel made a motion for the City to engage Axley & Rode, CPAs for the 2023 City of Coldspring financial audit. This was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action for the City Council to authorize the Mayor to engage in a discussion of property purchase inside the City of Coldspring. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Manuel to authorize Mayor John Benestante to engage in a discussion of a potential property purchase inside the City of Coldspring. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action for City Council to authorize the Mayor to discuss with the Coldspring Area Library the use of City Park #2 for a special event. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Kyle Currie to authorize Mayor John Benestante to discuss with the Coldspring Area Library the use of City Park #2 for a special event. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- E. Briefing on renovation/sale of R44110, A042 Robert Rankin, Tract 180, 3.092 Ac, 201 Hwy 150 Coldspring, TX (former Boles supermarket property). Mayor Benestante briefed the City Council on the renovation/sale of R44110, A042 Robert Rankin, Tract 180, 3.092 Ac, 201 Hwy 150 Coldspring, Tx (former Boles supermarket property). The property has closed and the new owner plans to put in a gas station with a laundry mat and food station. He will also be updating the front of the strip center to keep with the traditional town design of the courthouse square shops and restaurants.
- F. Discussion and possible action for City Council to authorize the Mayor to enter a discussion with the Coldspring Community Center regarding their proposal of possibly deeding the Community Center to the City of Coldspring. After a brief discussion Nichole Gatewood made a motion to authorize Mayor John Benestante to enter a discussion with the Coldspring Community Center. This was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- G. Briefing on TX Dot removal of trees located by the Coldspring Methodist Church affecting the state right of way. Mayor Benestante briefly spoke that TX Dot will be removing the dying trees located by the Coldspring Methodist Church affecting the state right of way and will be moving the no parking signs to help with traffic coming from Cemetery Road. The striping around the Paradise Gardens and beautician shop will also be repainted.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Kyle Currie at 7:58PM and was seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.


John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:


Jody Barr, City Secretary