

**City of Coldspring, Texas**  
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting  
Monday, June 3, 2024

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2. Roll call.

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

Absent: Alderman Jessica Sewell

Visitors: Linda & Gerald Deeter, Linda Almaguer, Greg Magee-City Attorney

3. No Public Comment

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

5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called May 6, 2024, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the May 6, 2024, meeting was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood and seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. 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 Dianne Griffith. 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 May. The plant operated at 66 percent of capacity for the month of May and flowed an average of .133 MGD., with a rain total of 20.5 inches.

Fixed Assets Information- ongoing

B. Financial & Legislative Reports – Mayor John Benestante briefed Council with the current financial profit and loss statements for the General account, Sewer & Maintenance, Hotel/Motel, Capital Projects, Opioid Abatement Fund, Legislative Updates, and Investment Report. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. There were none.

C. GRANT/FUND Reports: Mayor John Benestante briefed Council with the current Grant/Fund Reports for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act-COVID-TDEM), CDBG-MITMOD (GLO-\$631,000-Sewer Expansion), Texas CDBG (TDA

\$500,000-Sewer), RCP-(GLO-\$300,000 Flood Mitigation/Mapping Studies), Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TxDOT \$3,000,000-Sidewalks) Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding reports. There were none.

- D. City Attorney Reports- City Attorney, Greg Magee briefed council over the progress of the Community Center Deed. Mayor Benestante said he did not want the ownership change to take place until the Community Center's fiscal year ended which would be June 30, 2024.
- E. Briefing on sewer adjustments & sewer cut offs – Assistant City Executive Administrator, Amanda Villa briefed Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of May. Amanda also briefed Council that there was one customer account that was locked in the month of May, however, the account has since been paid and services restored.

#### 8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on the City of Coldspring accepting the donation of the Coldspring Community Center property and building. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante and Attorney Greg Magee, a motion was made by Jennifer Manuel to accept the donation of the Coldspring Community Center property and building and have Mayor Benestante sign the paperwork needed when their fiscal year end was complete on June 30, 2024. This was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding adopting interlocal agreement regarding permits issued in the City of Coldspring by the San Jacinto County Permit Office, i.e. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante and Attorney Greg Magee, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to adopt the interlocal agreement regarding permits issued in the City of Coldspring by the San Jacinto County Permit Office, i.e. and have Mayor Benestante sign the memo of understanding. This was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding accepting a 20-foot right-of-way at the end of Perry Drive at no cost to the City. Mayor Benestante and Attorney Greg Magee briefly discussed the issue of the 20-foot right-of-way at the end of Perry Drive. No action was taken at this time.

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on approving resolution 2024-01 authorizing the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, to execute contractual documents and authorizing

the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Secretary to execute all financial documents required for the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBGMIT) Resilient Communities Program (RCP) grant. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante, Kyle Currie made a motion to approve resolution 2024-01 authorizing the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, to execute contractual documents and authorizing the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Secretary to execute all financial documents required for the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBGMIT). This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

- B. Discussion and possible action on how sewer charges at City owned properties will be managed. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante, Jennifer Manuel made a motion to accept how sewer charges at City owned properties will be managed. City owned properties will not have bills generated. This was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on beginning the process of advertising and requesting applications for the assistant to waste water treatment operator/public works. After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante, Kyle Currie made a motion to start the beginning process of advertising and requesting applications for the assistant to waste water treatment operator/public works. This was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- D. Briefing on placing parking place bumper stops in the City right of ways by the First Baptist Church of Coldspring fence. Mayor Benestante briefed council on placing parking place bumper stops in the City right of ways by the First Baptist Church of Coldspring fence. After a discussion, the Alderman asked the Mayor to get speak further with the church as they had concerns about vehicles protruding into the right of way if bumpers were placed by the current fencing.
- E. Briefing on City storm damage and clean up. Mayor Benestante and Josh Taylor briefed the council on City storm damage and clean up. The concrete for the Chlorine Room will be poured this Friday.
- F. Briefing on City streets i.e., measurements of paved and gravel. Mayor Benestante briefed the council on City Street i.e., measurements of paved and gravel. Josh will be using a measuring wheel and recording information on printed maps.
- G. Discussion and possible action proposed Entergy Texas transmission line. After a brief discussion over the proposed Entergy Texas transmission line, from Mayor Benestante, Attorney Greg Magee will create a resolution for with respect to the potential impacts on the city and its community. When the resolution is ready the mayor will call a special called meeting.

H. Briefing on Peach Creek Environmental Park. Mayor Benestante briefed the council on Peach Creek Environmental Park.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 7:50PM 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