

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, July 1, 2024

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

Visitors: Linda & Gerald Deeter, Jamie Shaw, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Barbara Justice & Calandra Johnson- Coldspring Community Center, Michelle Haylock & Shawna Holman- Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department.

3. No Public Comment
4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to adopt the agenda, Alderman Jessica Sewell seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. Minutes: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called June 3, 2024, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the June 3, 2024, meeting was made by Alderman Kyle Currie 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 – 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 19 percent of capacity for the month of June and flowed an average of .062 MGD.

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, Mayor Benestante. Mayor Benestante signed the deed and Attorney Greg Magee will be filing it at the San Jacinto County Courthouse.
- E. Briefing on sewer adjustments & sewer cut offs –City Executive Administrator, Jody Barr briefed Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of June. Ms. Barr also briefed the Council that there were no cut-offs.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on the City of Coldspring accepting the donation of the Coldspring Community Center property and building. Mayor Benestante signed the gift deed and accepted the donation after Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to accept the gift deed and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding accepting a 20-foot right-of-way at the end of Perry Drive at no cost to the City from the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District. Mayor Benestante and Attorney Greg Magee briefly discussed the issue of the 20-foot right-of-way at the end of Perry Drive. Alderman Dianne Griffith, Kyle Currie, Jennifer Manuel, Jessica Sewell, and Nichole Gatewood all stated they do not want to accept the 20-foot right-of-way. All agreed to decline the offer.
- C. Briefing on City storm damage and clean up. Mayor Benestante briefed council that the City had one report of a house flooding and one mobile home washed from its blocks. The City itself had the chlorinator building washed away in the flood, however a new building on a cement slab is in the process of being built.

- D. Discussion and possible action on proposed Entergy Texas transmission line. Mayor Benestante stated that the date for comments had been pushed back and that City Attorney Greg Magee was working on a resolution. No action was taken.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on Peoples State Bank Depository Bid Form for the privilege of acting as the depository for the City of Coldspring. After a brief discussion Alderman Kyle Currie made a motion to accept the Peoples State Bank Depository Bid Form and this motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
- B. Discussion and possible action on implementing Drug-Free Workplace Policy and Employee Testing Consent into the City's policies and procedures. After a brief discussion, Dianne Griffith made a motion to accept and approve these policies and procedures and the motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on acceptance of the 2023 Axley and Rode Audit report. Mayor Benestante went over the audit and said there were no findings. There were no deficiencies in internal control or instances of noncompliance. Alderman Jessica Sewell made a motion to accept the 2023 audit results and this motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell at 7:53 PM and was seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.


John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:


Jody Barr, City Secretary