

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025

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: Judi Benestante Ph.D., Calandra Johnson, Ray McCoppin, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Christine McGee-Precinct 1 JP and Michael McGee, Marsha Strickland-City Municipal Judge, TJ, Tripp and Tenley Strickland, Michelle Haylock-Coldspring Vol. Fire Dept., Shawna Holman-Coldspring Vol. Fire Dept., Marsha Brown-Coldspring Library, Randy Ellisor-Precinct 3 JP, Luke Sweeney-Precinct 1 Commissioner, Linda and Gerald Deeter, Linda Almaguer

3. Marsha Brown spoke on behalf of the Coldspring Library informing everyone that this year the library will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Marsha is asking the public to stop by the library and help them in identifying people in pictures taken over the past years.
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 January 6, 2025, meeting and the Special called January 27, 2025 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular called January 6, 2025, meeting, was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor. A motion to accept the minutes from the Special called January 27, 2025, 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 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. The plant operated at 27 percent capacity for the month of January and flowed an average of 0.55 MGD. Rain Total was 2.75 inches. Josh updated on Lift Stations 1 & 2; the contractor is currently working on the Generator.

Pump #2 and the overload for the pump has burnt. Allied Utility was the lowest quote at \$10,215. They have ordered the pump and the overload. Lift station 3,4,5, & 6 had no issues. No sampling issues for December. We had the line that crosses under State Highway 150 at Weaver Street TV'd with a camera and it did find a dip in the sewer line and the initial part of the pipe itself is cracked.

- 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, Investment Report, Community Center, Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department. 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/Zoning), Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TxDOT \$3,000,000-Sidewalks), Texas Parks and Wildlife (\$300,000 City Park 2) Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding reports. There were none.
- D. City Attorney Reports- City Attorney Greg Magee informed council that Resolution #2025-01 in opposition to the construction of proposed transmission line routes by Entergy Texas, Inc. has been sent to Austin.
- E. Sewer Reports: Briefing on sewer adjustments & sewer cutoffs – Assistant City Executive Administrator, Amanda Villa briefed Council on the sewer adjustments made to customer accounts in the month of January. Amanda also briefed Council that there were no customer accounts that were cut off for non-pay.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Briefing on Visit Coldspring, Texas- Judy Benestante and Marsha Strickland briefly updated on Visit Coldspring, Texas. They visited the city of Lukfin and was able to get many ideas for the future focus group meetings to find ways on keeping the authenticity in Coldspring while capturing economic development.
- B. Discussion and possible action on potential changes to Public Event Ordinances 92-1 and 2023-03- Mayor Benestante briefly discussed potential changes to Public Event Ordinances 92-1 and 2023-03. Regarding recent tragedies around public event gatherings, the need to protect the pedestrians inside closed streets is something that needs to be looked into further.

- C. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2025-02 designating an official newspaper for the City of Coldspring for fiscal year 2025- After a general discussion, Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 designating The San Jacinto News Times as the official newspaper for the City of Coldspring for fiscal year 2025. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action to consider a resolution regarding TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Permit No. 2406. Mayor Benestante briefly discussed the consideration of a resolution regarding TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Permit No. 2406.
- E. Briefing on new permits filed for in the City of Coldspring. Mayor Benestante briefly reviewed the new permits that have been filed at the San Jacinto Permitting Office that are inside city limits.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 7:45PM and was seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.


John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:


Jody Barr, City Secretary