

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025

1. Meeting called to order 7:02 PM
2. Roll call.

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

Absent: Alderman Jessica Sewell & Alderman Kyle Currie

Visitors: Judi Benestante Ph.D., Sheila Cannon-Red Cross, Judge Harris Blanchette, Laurie McMurrey, Marsha Strickland-City Municipal Judge, TJ Strickland, Tenley Strickland, Jim McMurrey, Shawna Holman-Coldspring Vol. Fire Dept., Michelle Haylock-Coldspring Vol. Fire Dept. Chief, Linda & Gerald Deeter, Barbara Justice, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Betty Magee, Brenda Meadows, Charlie Ganz, Jocelyn Goffney, Calandra Johnson, Philip Wisiackas

3. Laurie McMurrey spoke over her concern on the Entergy project proposed lines. She is asking for any additional help to keep this line away from Coldspring and more North of the Lake.
4. Agenda: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Nichole Gatewood 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 February 3, 2025, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular called February 3, 2025, meeting, was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith 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 26 percent capacity for the month of February and flowed an average of 0.53 MGD. Rain Total was three inches. Josh updated on Lift Stations 1& 2; We are waiting for the new injector pumps to be delivered. The new Pump and overload were installed, and everything is up and operational. Lift station 3,4,5, & 6 had no issues. The onsite lift station gaskets on

both pumps had blown out and have been replaced by Allied Utility. Also had Hydroclear do a bottom clean on the lift station to remove the sand, sludge, and trash. No sampling issues for January. We are getting quotes to see the cost of replacing the line under the highway at Weaver and State Highway 150.

- 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 recommends council have a vape ordinance on city property.
- 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 February. Amanda also briefed Council that there were two customer accounts that were cut off for non-pay and one has since paid, and the other is still locked.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Briefing on Visit Coldspring, Texas- Marsha Strickland updated everyone on the progress of Visit Coldspring. At the past Women’s League Luncheon, they gave a presentation and had lots of support. Visit Coldspring’s goal is to enhance the city and bring more tourism.
- B. Discussion and possible action on potential changes to Public Event Ordinance 92-1 and 2023-03- Mayor Benestante briefed council on potential changes to Public Event Ordinance 92-1 and 2023-03. He expressed the need to limit who can use ATVs at public events and protection barriers needed to protect the citizens who are inside the perimeter of the events. No action was taken at this time.
- C. Discussion and possible action to consider a resolution regarding TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Permit No 2406- After a brief discussion from Mayor Benestante to consider a resolution regarding TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Permit No 2406, it was determined that this does not affect the city, and this is a county issue.

- D. Briefing on new permits filed for in the City of Coldspring- Mayor Benestante briefed on new developments that are inside the city limits. A permit was filed for 280 State Highway 150 for a possible office building space to be built. The current old automotive tin building will be demolished.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action to appoint Honorable Judge Red Blanchette as City of Coldspring Municipal Court Associate Judge- After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Manuel to appoint Honorable Judge Red Blanchette as City of Coldspring Municipal Associate Judge. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor. After the motion was approved, City Municipal Judge Marsha Strickland swore in Judge Red Blanchette as City of Coldspring Municipal Court Associate Judge.
- B. Discussion and possible action on issuing a proclamation for declaring the month of March as Red Cross Month- Mayor Benestante read out loud the proclamation for declaring the month of March as Red Cross Month, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to declare the month of March as Red Cross Month. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action authorizing the certification of unopposed candidates for other political subdivisions for the election scheduled May 3,2025-A motion was made by Nichole Gatewood authorizing the certification of unopposed candidates for other political subdivisions for the election scheduled for May 3, 2025. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action to approve 2025 Emergency Operating plan in coordination with San Jacinto County- Michelle Haylock spoke over the Emergency Operating Plan. After this brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to approve the 2025 Emergency Operating Plan in coordination with San Jacinto County. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding Entergy Intervention-After a general discussion was made by concerned citizens and with council regarding Entergy Intervention, this action was tabled.
- F. Discussion and possible action regarding approving fence required in Ordinance 88-4 (Salvage and Junk Yard) at 301 State Highway 150 Coldspring, Texas 77331- After a general discussion from Mayor Benestante, a motion from Jennifer Manuel was made to approve the all-around 8 ft R Panel fence required in Ordinance 88-4

(Salvage and Junk Yard) at 301 State Highway 150 Coldspring, Texas 77331. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.

- G. Discussion and possible action on public event application for the San Jacinto County Master Gardeners plant sale on April 26, 2025-After a general discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to approve the public event application for the San Jacinto County Master Gardeners plant sale on April 26, 2025, with Cedar Ave Road closure from Prigmores property to stop sign only, pending security arrangements. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

- H. Discussion and possible action on public event application for Harvest Reach International Christian Motorcycle Rally event on May 17, 2025-After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to approve the public event application for Harvest Reach International Christian Motorcycle Rally event on May 17, 2025, pending security arrangements. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

- I. Consideration, discussion and possible action concerning the award of the management/administration services contract for the preparation of the City's 2025 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Downtown Revitalization application and subsequent administration contract if funded-After a general discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to approve the award of the management/administration services contract for the preparation of the City's 2025 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Downtown Revitalization application and subsequent administration contract if funded. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Dianne Griffith at 8:31PM and was seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:

Jody Barr, City Secretary