

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Special Called Council Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2025

1. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM
2. Roll call.

Present: Alderman Jessica Sewell, Dianne Griffith, Nichole Gatewood, Kyle Currie, and Mayor John Benestante

Absent: Alderman Jennifer Manuel

Visitors: Roger Samoff, Gerald & Linda Deeter, Ray McCoppin, Michelle Haylock & Shawna Holman-CVFD, Linda Almaguer, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Luke Sweeney-Precinct 1 Commissioner

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Roger Samoff stated that he had attended Emergency Services District (ESD) board meetings and that he felt the approach of the ESD Board was destroying trust among the entire volunteer force. Mr. Samoff further stated that he felt the Chairman of the ESD board was not acting with respect to the volunteers and when running a volunteer force that behavior was very detrimental.
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. OLD BUSINESS: NONE
6. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Briefing on Mayor Benestante's meeting with San Jacinto County Emergency Services District Board Members- Mayor Benestante briefed the City Council that he had a three-hour meeting with two of the emergency services district board members. The meeting was productive, and Mayor Benestante asked for the 60-day notice of termination be removed and further discussion to be had and a formal plan to be created by the ESD that included input from the local volunteer firefighters. The ESD board members proposed that the City lease the building to the ESD, and the Mayor said that could be a consideration.
 - B. Discussion and possible action on Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department Corporation's plan: Mayor Benestante went over the current Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department contract, the amendment, previous payments that was made by the ESD to the USDA for the CVFD from the department's allotted budget. Council also reviewed a letter

dated May 6, 2002 from Allen E. Clark, former Vice President of the SJC ESD outlining the history of how the CVFD purchased the building, the original USDA promissory note, copies of cancelled checks from payments issued by the ESD on behalf of the CVFD's request from their budgeted funds. Council members discussed concerns regarding confusion in the contracts and amendment regarding the termination clauses. There was also concern over the new contract proposed to the CVFD which did not have all sections filled in, so therefore the submitted contract could not be valid because it was not complete. Council will study these documents and prepare for decisions to be made after the next San Jacinto County Commissioner's Court meeting and San Jacinto County Emergency Services District upcoming meeting at the next regular scheduled City of Coldspring Council meeting on July 7, 2025.

C. Discussion and possible action on issuing notices on the following:

1. Vehicle Service Agreement on 2019 GMC Sierra 3500 HD
2. Damage to six-inch gravity line at Lift Station #1 (Pea Patch)
3. Damage to pressure line located at 20 Hill Ave

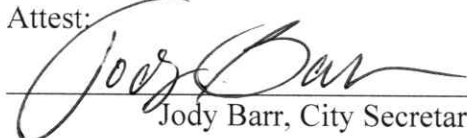
After a brief discussion a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood, to give Mayor John Benestante authorization to issue notices on the Vehicle Service Agreement on 2019 GMC Sierra 3500 HD, Damage to 6" gravity line at Lift Station #1 (Pea Patch), and Damage to pressure line located at 20 Hill Ave. Jessica Sewell seconded this motion. All in favor.

D. Discussion and possible action on adopting Proclamation declaring July 12, 2025 as Coldspring Area Public Library Day in honor of their 40 years of providing quality library services to the citizens of Coldspring and San Jacinto County-After a brief discussion a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to adopt the Proclamation declaring July 12, 2025 as Coldspring Area Public Library Day in honor of their 40 years of providing quality library services to the citizens of Coldspring and San Jacinto County. Jessica Sewell seconded this motion. All in favor.

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell at 8:18 PM and was seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. All in favor.


John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:

Jody Barr, City Secretary