

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, December 1, 2025

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

PRESENT: Alderman Dianne Griffith, Nichole Gatewood, Kyle Currie, and Mayor John Benestante

ABSENT: Alderman Jessica Sewell and Jennifer Manuel

VISITORS: Judi Benestante PhD, Shawna Holman & Michelle Haylock-CVFD, Derren Hall-SJNT, Debra Thomas, Roger Samoff, Luke Sweeny-Precinct 1 Commissioner, Greg Magee-City Attorney

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Shawna Holman invited everyone to come out to the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Departments 55th Anniversary Gala this Friday December 5, 2025. All proceeds will go towards the Jr Fire Fighters Program.
4. AGENDA: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to adopt the agenda. Alderman Nichole Gatewood seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. MINUTES: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called November 3, 2025, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular called November 3, 2025, meeting, was made by Alderman Kyle Currie 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 Nichole Gatewood and seconded by Alderman Kyle Currie. 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 19 percent capacity for the month of November and flowed an average of .039 MGD. Rain Total was .50 inches. The Onsite Lift Station located at 211 Jones Road had no issues. Josh updated on Lift Stations 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 having no issues. No sampling issues for the month of October.

- 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. Shawna Holman reported on the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department for the month of November. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. There were none.
 - C. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORTS: Mayor John Benestante briefed Council with the current Capital Project Reports for the Community Center, Fire Department Building, TX Dot Sidewalk Project, Department of Agriculture-CDBG-TDA Grant Project (Faulkner), General Land Office-MIT MOD- Grant Project (SH 150 W/FM 2025 Sewer Project), Texas Parks and Wildlife City Park #2 Project, City Hall Extension and City Record Retention Building/Public Works. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding reports. There were none.
 - D. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: City Attorney Greg Magee
 - 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 November. Amanda also briefed Council that there were three customer accounts that were locked off for non-pay.
8. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Discussion and possible action on City Ordinance 90-2 Hotel Occupancy Tax-Delinquent filers and payments. City Attorney Greg Magee read the updated changes for the City Ordinance 90-2 Hotel Occupancy Tax-Delinquent filers and payments, after a brief discussion this will be put on next meeting for approval with the new changes.
 - B. Discussion and possible action on an interlocal agreement with the San Jacinto County Emergency Services district regarding usage of the city owned Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department building. An Interlocal agreement with the San Jacinto County Emergency Services district regarding usage of the city owned Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department building will be tabled until next meeting.
 - C. Discussion and possible action on approving the City of Coldspring 2026 Budget. After a brief discussion, a motion from Kyle Currie was made to approve the City of Coldspring 2026 Budget as presented. This was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.
 - D. Briefing on memorandum of understanding concerning the San Jacinto County Animal Control officer to service the City of Coldspring and provide City Code Enforcement support. This was tabled until next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on amending ordinance 2019-4 regarding municipal courts. Tabled until next meeting.
- B. Discussion and possible action on appointment of a City Fire Marshall. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to appoint Michelle Haylock as the City Fire Marshall. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Municipal Court Attorney. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to approve the appointment of Greg Magee to be the Municipal Court Attorney. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action on Municipal Court Bailiff. Mayor John Benestante discussed the Municipal Court Bailiff position. This will be tabled until next meeting.
- E. Discussion and possible action on City Assessor/Collector i.e., Hotel Tax. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to approve Jody Barr as the City Assessor/Collector i.e., Hotel Tax. This was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- F. Discussion and possible action on moving Hotel Tax to Tourism Budget. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to approve moving the Hotel Tax to the Tourism Budget. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- G. Discussion and possible action to proclaiming this day as a day of celebration of the 55th anniversary of the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to proclaim this day as a day of celebration of the 55th anniversary of the Coldspring Volunteer Fire Department. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 8:12PM and was seconded by Alderman Dianne Griffith. All in favor.



John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:


Jody Barr, City Secretary