

**City of Coldspring, Texas**  
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting  
Monday, February 2, 2026

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

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: Judi Benestante PhD, Michelle Haylock-CYFD/Fire Marshal, Shawna Holman-CYFD, Ray McCoppin-SJC TV, Linda Deeter, Marsha Brown, Roger Samoff, Derren Hall-SJNT, Debra Thomas, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Kris Eastham-TDEM, Luke Sweeny Marsha Brown, Ray McCoppin-SJC TV, Shawna Holman & Michelle Haylock-CVFD, Derren Hall-SJNT, Luke Sweeney-Pct.1 Commissioner

3. NO PUBLIC COMMENT
4. AGENDA: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda for the meeting with an agenda change to move General Land Office-MIT MOD- Grant Project (SH 150 W/FM 2020 Sewer Project to New Business line-item J. Alderman Nichole Gatewood made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. MINUTES: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular called January 5, 2026, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular called January 5, 2026, meeting, was made by Alderman Jessica Sewell and seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. 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 Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Nichole Gatewood. 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 24 percent capacity for the month of January and flowed an average of .048 MGD. Rain Total was 2.25 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 November.
  - 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 January. 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), 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: None

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 locked off for non-pay.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible action on public event application for the Annual SJC Master Gardeners plant sale on March 28, 2026. After a brief discussion, Dianne Griffith made a motion to approve the public event application for the Annual SJC Master Gardeners plant sale on March 28, 2026, pending email from Fire Department. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.

B. Briefing on 2026-2027 grant proposals. Mayor Benestante briefed council on the 2026-2027 grant proposals.

C. Discussion and possible action giving Mayor permission to establish an office for the City of Coldspring Fire Marshal. After a brief discussion, Nichole Gatewood gave a motion to give permission for Mayor John Benestante to establish an office for the City of Coldspring Fire Marshal. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.

D. Briefing on the City's Memorandum of understanding with the Coldspring Youth League. Mayor Benestante briefed council on the City's Memorandum of Understanding with the Coldspring Youth League.

E. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Mayor to develop City Ordinance for City Permit Office including site preparation, demolition, and requirements for residential and commercial construction. After a brief discussion, Kyle Currie made a motion to authorize the Mayor to develop a City Ordinance for a City Permit Office including site preparation, demolition, and requirements for residential and commercial construction. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.

- F. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the SJC Master Gardeners to relocate their demonstration gardens from the Community Center to City Park #2. After a brief discussion, Nichole Gatewood made a motion to authorize Mayor John Benestante to enter into an agreement with the SJC Master Gardeners to relocate their demonstration gardens from the Community Center to City Park #2. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.
- G. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Mayor to forward the new interlocal agreement between the City and the San Jacinto County Emergency Services District (ESD) for the use of the Fire Department building to the chair of the ESD Board. After a brief discussion, Jennifer Manuel made a motion to authorize Mayor John Benestante to forward the new interlocal agreement between the City and the San Jacinto County Emergency Services District (ESD) for the use of the Fire Department building to the chair of the ESD Board. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
- H. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Mayor to draft an ordinance for the establishment of the City Fire Marshal Office. After a brief discussion, Kyle Currie made a motion to authorize Mayor John Benestante to draft an ordinance for the establishment of the City Fire Marshal Office. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
- I. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Mayor to review the Coldspring Area Library's proposed contract. After a brief discussion, Nichole Gatewood made a motion to authorize Mayor John Benestante to review the Coldspring Area Library's proposed contract. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

Mayor Benestante requested City Council to go into executive session under code: SECTION 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION OR ABOUT SETTLEMENT OFFERS. SECTION 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Council came out of session at 8:17 PM

- J. Briefing on General Land Office-MIT MOD- Grant Project (SH 150 W/FM 2025 Sewer Project) No action was taken during executive session until further notice.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 8:22 PM and was seconded by Alderman Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

Attest:

  
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Jody Barr, City Secretary

  
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John Benestante, Mayor