

City of Coldspring, Texas
Minutes of the Regular Called Council Meeting
Monday, April 6, 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: Luke Sweeny-Precinct 1 Commissioner, Gerald Deeter, Shawna Holman-CVFD, Michelle Haylock-CVFD, Ray McCoppin-SJC TV, Derren Hall-SJNT, Debra Thomas, Marsha Brown, Tony Sewell, Judie Benestante-SJC Master Gardeners, Karla Fratt-SJC Master Gardeners, Mark & Sherry Mears-Harvest Reach, Marsha & TJ Strickland, Roger & Dianne Samoff, Ty Dolney, Greg Magee-City Attorney, Harris Red Blanchette-Judge, Kris Eastham-TDEM, Chris Lee- Harvest Reach

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Luke Sweeney expressed his appreciation for all the work Mayor John Benestante has been doing for the city. Gerald Deeter wanted everyone to know that The Corral is close to opening. They have many job openings available. Anyone interested can apply at either location from 11am-9pm in Willis and 12pm-2pm in Coldspring.
4. AGENDA: Mayor Benestante presented the agenda with a line-item change to move 9a to after line-item 6. Alderman Dianne Griffith made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented with a line-item change to move 9a to after line-item 6. Alderman Kyle Currie seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. MINUTES: Mayor Benestante presented the minutes from the regular meeting called March 9, 2026. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular called March 9, 2026, meeting was made by Alderman Jennifer Manuel 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 Dianne Griffith and seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
9. A: Discussion and possible action appointing Judge Red Blanchett as primary municipal judge and Marsha Strickland as associate judge for the City of Coldspring. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to appoint Judge Red Blanchett as primary municipal judge and Marsha Strickland as associate judge for the City of Coldspring. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.

7. REPORTS:

- A. Mayor's Updates: Mayor pointed out that the Visit Coldspring meeting information was in the Council's meeting packets so that aldermen could see what was covered. He also mentioned the need for an ordinance to regulate game rooms/vape shops.
- B. 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 March and flowed an average of .049 MGD. Rain Total was 2.25 inches. The Onsite Lift Station, located at 211 Jones Road, had pump one burn up. Due to unauthorized items being placed in the sewer system from the SJC Jail both on-site lift stations were ragged up. We received two quotes and 1 no bid on replacing the bad pump. The new pump should be installed on Thursday 4/09/26. Josh updated on Lift Stations 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 having no issues. No sampling issues for the month of February.
- C. 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 March. Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding the profit and loss statements. He noted that the updates would start to be quarterly unless there were specific needs to address. There were no questions.
- D. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORTS: Mayor John Benestante briefed Council with the current Capital Project Reports for the Texas Parks and Wildlife City Park #2, TX Dot Sidewalk Projects, Department of Agriculture-CDBG-TDA Grant Project (Faulkner), General Land Office-MIT MOD- Grant Project (SH 150 W/FM 2025 Sewer Project). Mayor Benestante asked for any comments or questions regarding reports. There were none.
- E. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: City Attorney Greg Magee discussed the permits for the gaming machines. He is still looking into it and is waiting for the Attorney General to see what will take place.
- F. 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 March. Amanda also briefed Council that there were 2 customer accounts that were locked off for non-pay. Both have since paid and have been unlocked.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and possible action on SJC Master Gardeners memorandum of understanding to relocate their demonstration garden(s) from the Coldspring Community Center to City Park #2. After a brief discussion, a motion from Jennifer Manuel was made on SJC Master Gardeners memorandum of understanding to

relocate their demonstration garden(s) from the Coldspring Community Center to City Park #2. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.

- B. Discussion and possible action on the Coldspring Area Library's memorandum of understanding/contract. Greg Magee will specify which category of items will be eligible. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to approve the Coldspring Area Library's memorandum of understanding/contract with Greg Magee's changes. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on Interlocal Agreement between the City of Coldspring and the San Jacinto County Emergency Services District. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jessica Sewell to approve the original Interlocal Agreement between the City of Coldspring and the San Jacinto County Emergency Services District. This motion was seconded by Dianne Griffith. All in favor.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Moved after line item 6
- B. Discussion and possible action on public event application for Harvest Reach International Christian Motorcycle Rally event on May 16, 2026. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Manuel to approve the public event application for Harvest Reach International Christian Motorcycle Rally event on May 16, 2026, except for not approving closure of State Highway 150. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
- C. Discussion and possible action on Faulkner Street complaint on racing vehicles and requested signs to be placed in area of complainant. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Nichole Gatewood to install 25MPH speed limit signs with Radar enforced written on them, to try and control the racing vehicles down Faulkner Street. City Attorney Greg Magee stated that we do need to create an ordinance for this before it can be enforced but we can go ahead and make a motion on it. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sewell. All in favor.
- D. Discussion and possible action on Reese Street property complaint. Mayor Benestante briefly discussed the Reese Street property complaint. This property is located outside of the city limits and falls on the county's jurisdiction.
- E. Discussion and possible action on amending Ordinance 2007-08 and adopting Ordinance 2026-03 adding obscene signs to the prohibited signs in the City of Coldspring. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith to amend the Ordinance 2027-08 and adopt Ordinance 2026-03, adding obscene signs to the

prohibited signs in the City of Coldspring. This motion was seconded by Nichole Gatewood. All in favor.

- F. Discussion and possible action for the City to engage Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Certified Public Accountants for the 2025 City of Coldspring financial audit. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dianne Griffith for the City to engage Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Certified Public Accountants for the 2025 City of Coldspring financial audit. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Manuel. All in favor.
- G. Discussion and possible action accepting the 2024 City of Coldspring audit prepared by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Certified Public Accountants. The audit was clean with no findings. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Manuel to accept the 2024 City of Coldspring audit prepared by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Certified Public Accountants. This motion was seconded by Kyle Currie. All in favor.
- H. Briefing on proposed development of 5-acre track on Donkey Trail. Mayor John Benestante briefly spoke on the proposed development of the 5-acre track on Donkey Trail.

10. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Nichole Gatewood at 8:19 PM and was seconded by Alderman Jessica Sewell. All in favor.



John Benestante, Mayor

Attest:



Jody Barr, City Secretary