

**COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024, 6:00PM
ESD 10 (COUPLAND) FIRE STATION
410 FM 1466
COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615**

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM.

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm, and declared a quorum. All members except Wells Mason were present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUSLY HELD COUNCIL MEETING.

Alderwoman Piper moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Marosko seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

Upon reviewing the financial reports, the only concern was that the Ad Valorem tax revenue through March 31st, is down by \$9,209.98. After January 31st, everything was considered delinquent, and the county is responsible for collecting those payments from the individuals. Mayor Schmidt is planning on reaching out to Johnathan Fritz to ask some questions regarding this, and the possibility of him coming to meet with the city council.

There was a question of what total we were at around this time last year, and how was it comparable to this year. We will consult with Terri Rose to obtain that information to see if it is trending that we will eventually get those payments, or if we are in fact, short.

The financial reports were approved unanimously.

4. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS (The city council welcomes public comments on items not listed on the agenda. However, the council cannot respond until the item is posted on a future meeting agenda. Citizens who wish to speak at a council meeting must complete an "Appearance Before City Council" form at the meeting. Three minute limit.)

There were no citizens present at the meeting.

5. MANUEL TORRES JR. Request variance of Zoning ordinance.

Manuel was not able to attend the meeting. There was a slight discussion on Manuel's proposition, however, this item will be moved to next month's agenda.

6. TONY PRETE: UPDATE ON SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

The city engineer, Tony Prete, was in attendance. He discussed that our current subdivision ordinance needs some work because of the difficulty to understand it and what pieces are missing from it. Currently, people are able to send in plans and plat information at any given time, and there are no clear guidelines to how this should be done properly so that he can review it properly and hold it to industry standard.

Prete proposed that we adopt the city of Round Rock's standards, specifications and ordinances. There was a packet provided to council members that showed the items that

he recommends we adopt now, items that we adopt in the future, and items that he needs to discuss with the city attorney. One issue with our current ordinance that needs to be adjusted at a later date is in regards to park land. This needs to be adjusted since we do not have room in our budget to take over and maintain any park land. Although this process may seem like a lot of work, this would cover us and bring us even with our surrounding cities.

Our current ordinance also references a master plan, general plan, etc., which do not currently exist. Adopting some of the recommendations that Tony Prete suggested would protect us from some of the current holes that we have. This will also help us in terms of regulating plat applications, and giving individuals very clear instructions. Right now, people are able to submit things at any given time, whether it be through the appropriate channels, or in general conversation. The new adoptions would include a development calendar that shows when plats would be due to go along with statutory timelines.

There was a concern that single family home owners would be subject to the same ordinance, which may be lengthy in pages, as large subdivision owners. However, Prete assured the council that for the average homeowner, it would be a fairly simple process. The additional information is there to protect the city.

Prete is proposing that we look over and study the items that he recommends we adopt soon, and come up with any questions that we may have. At the next city council meeting, Prete will be able to answer any of those questions or concerns. After that, we may be able to start adopting some of the codes. He will also look into having Round rock's city planner come and speak to the council to help answer our questions and concerns.

7. REMOVE JACK PIPER FROM BANK CARDS, AND ADD BARBARA PIPER.

Former Mayor Piper still has his name on some of the things at the bank, and we need to remove his name, and replace it with Mayor Schmidt. We are also going to add Alderwoman Piper's name onto the signature cards for some of the checks that Mayor Schmidt needs to sign. Alderman Roulston-Bates moved to accept this motion. Marosko seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

8. MOWING

We have found someone to mow the city, and specified areas. The cost will be around \$1500, as needed. Looking ahead, we would like to put money aside in next year's budget specifically for mowing. There was also a discussion about mowing Bastrop, and cutting the trees that are currently growing in the street.

9. ANNEXATION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY ON CR 460

Mayor Schmidt presented to the school board, and they will need to request information so that the city council can eventually give their approval.

10. ALLEYWAY INFORMATION

Mayor Schmidt informed us that anything that was an alleyway prior to city incorporation is still the property of the city. There are a few instances where individuals have built structures on the alleyways, and they will be responsible for moving them if needed.

11. CITY LOGO

Mayor Schmidt and the city secretary have been working on creating a logo for the city that can be used on letter-heads, financial documents, etc. The City secretary provided four examples of possible logos and allowed the council to give their input and vote on which logo they preferred. They have decided on one front runner, and a second logo that could be used as an alternative to use depending on the document.

12. COUPLAND ESD 10 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

The fire department is currently working on putting extra training for the department. All of the drivers are going through an insurance backed driving course. They have also had a policy change from the county, which takes away the "community first responder" level, so they are putting around 16 people through an EMR training. Their call volume so far is trending for what they are expecting for their yearly total. They will likely be hiring in June for paid firefighters, and some will be stationed here and in Thrall.

13. COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION

TML has informed us that the new city office needs to be insured, along with the city secretary to be put on workmans comp insurance.

The next sewer board meeting will be May 6th, and the superintendent will be in attendance.

14. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

15. BREAK INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE MAY 14TH, 2024.

Rachel Wrzuszcak
Rachel Wrzuszcak, City Secretary

Russell Schmidt
Russell Schmidt, Mayor