

COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY – MAY 13, 2021, 5:00 PM
COUPLAND FIRE STATION
403 FM 1466
COUPLAND, TEXAS

REGULAR MEETING

1. **Call Regular Meeting to Order and Declare a quorum.**

Mayor Jack Piper called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. and declared a quorum with the following Aldermen present: Susan Garry, Barbara Piper, Karen Marosko, Megan Cargill, and John Ralston-Bates.

2. **Review and approve minutes of Council meeting held on May 13, 2021.**

Barbara Piper made a motion to accept the minutes (with a correction of the spelling of Artisan) for the meeting. Karen Marosko seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes as corrected was unanimous.

3. **Financial Reports as of April 30, 2021.**

The City's net worth as of April, 2021 was \$352,995.33. Mayor Piper stated there were still some ad valorem taxes received in April.

4. **Citizen(s) Communications. (The City Council welcomes public comments on items not listed on the Agenda. However, the Council cannot respond 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).**

Justin Cargill was at the meeting to inquire and suggest the City of Coupland give CR 458 back to Williamson County so they can maintain the road.

5. **Factual information regarding Coupland's incorporation**

Barbara gave informative information regarding the history of Coupland's incorporation to provide factual data in response to a posting on facebook:

Heard/been told not enough money to fix road:

Financial reports are provided to alderman/alderwomen at each monthly meeting. The city's net worth is stated by the Mayor at each meeting. The Budget is posted on the City's website which details funds the city anticipates receiving for the calendar year, October 1 through September 30. The city operates according to law within the constraints of funds received. It is incumbent upon and the responsibility of each alderman/alderwoman to review and understand the reports provided. The reports obviously speak for themselves.

Give 458 to county:

Jack and Barbara Piper met with Commissioner Morrison and asked him to take back CR 458 as the County had in the past taken back a road for Weir. Commissioner Morrison asked us what road we were going to exchange. Coupland did not have a road to exchange. He further acknowledged the state of the road and explained to us that he could not do what he wanted to do. During a later time and after the appointment of Larry Madsen to the Commissioner's position, Commissioner Madsen stated at a Civic Organization Meeting that he had thoughts on helping us with CR 458. His thoughts and ideas were evidently shot down as we never heard any further discussion regarding this.

458 included in city limits so people could be aldermen:

We were privileged to work with an experienced and well-respected attorney, Barney Knight. Mr. Knight recommended this boundary to consider spacing with Pflugerville's ETJ boundary as their ETJ was approaching Manda Carlson Road (from the west). Because of their population, Pflugerville had the ability to annex and subsequently move 3 ½ miles. (Once in an ETJ, it is almost impossible to get the property removed.) One of the

primary reasons for going out 458 was not only for the population count we needed but to protect people from becoming part of Pflugerville, its tax base, etc. We also remembered the Pflugerville City Planner, Autumn Speer, speaking to the Civic Organization and informing those in attendance that we controlled our own destiny, incorporate or become part of a big city. Based upon the foregoing, the decision was made to set our city limits at the Williamson/Travis County line as had been recommended by Mr. Knight, our attorney. Hoping that the incorporation would pass would afford us a ½ mile ETJ, and at the same time give adequate space between Pflugerville's ETJ and Coupland's ETJ.

City could have county repair road and receive tax dollars from the city:

The only method to engage the County to do any type of work with/for the City would be through an Interlocal Agreement. There was never any discussion regarding such an agreement for road repair.

6. Discussion relating to the new Website for the City of Coupland.

The new Website for the City of Coupland has been completed. It is up and running; a few minor changes were made to make it easier to access specific subjects. Additions and/or improvements can be made at any time.

7. Discussion and approval of the ONCOR Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Approval to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor ("Application") being filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

This is an annual request from Oncor and is submitted to the City of Coupland each year. Barbara Piper made a motion to approve the request from ONCOR. Karen Marosko seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

8. Discussion concerning right of ways in the City.

The council discussed the cost of surveying the right of ways and a suggestion was made to send a letter to the citizens asking each citizen to be aware of and move vehicles, trailers, etc. parked in the right of ways. The letter will be sent prior to any tagging of vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. It was also pointed out that it is extremely difficult for the City's contractor to mow these areas when there are vehicles parked in the right of way.

9. Remember that Clean Up day is June 12, 2021.

The city will have four dumpsters this year. A flyer will be posted on the City's website, the Fire Station, Post Office, and Bank advising Coupland citizens of the date.

10. Follow up on Alley-Way project.

The council discussed the cost to survey alley-ways. There was discussion on abandoning some alley ways. Discussion ensued on offering owners the right to purchase part of the alley way adjacent to their property. The City Attorney provided pros and cons relating to this endeavor. It was noted that the city budgeted \$12,100 for this project for the year 2020/2021. It was ultimately discussed to offer residents who were interested in using the alley way adjacent to their property \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of gravel. Each respondent would be responsible for spreading the gravel. Megan Cargill made a motion that the City spend a maximum of \$1,000.00 per request per owner for this calendar year for the maintenance of the alley-way adjacent to their property. John Ralston-Bates seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

11. Discussion regarding road maintenance in the City of Coupland.

The council discussed a proposal that was received from Integrity Paving & Coatings to repair two curves on CR 458. Following a lengthy discussion, other issues were pointed out. There are two culverts on CR 458 which require attention and probably replacement. The city will contact a commercial company out of Elgin to discuss solutions. Mayor Piper will contact John before meeting with the contractor to make certain all issues are covered. Any cost over \$50,000 will require multiple bids. Pot holes will continue to be repaired on an as needed basis as the cost to replace the road is prohibitive.

12. Coupland Volunteer Fire Department activity.

John Ralston-Bates reported the Coupland Fire Department is continuing its training with the New Fire Training Academy for Eastern Williamson County. The academy is operated by Coupland and Thrall volunteers and much of the training will take place at the Coupland Fire Station.

13. Coupland citizens/events/announcements/recognitions.

The Coupland Farmers Market will move from the depot to the Coupland Post Office on **May 16th.**

14. The next Coupland Council meeting will be June 10, 2021.

15. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



LAVERNE ROHLACK, CITY SECRETARY



JACK R. PIPER, MAYOR