

COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 2024, 6:00 PM  
410 FM 1466  
COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615

**CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM**

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02pm and declared a quorum. All members except alderman Wells Mason were in attendance.

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

Once all council members were given the chance to review the previously held meeting minutes, Alderwoman Morosko moved to accept the minutes from December 2023. All members voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT BY ACCOUNTANT TERRI ROSE.**

Accountant Terri Rose was in attendance for the meeting and provided all council members with two packets: the 2023 Fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30), and End of Fiscal 2023 and 1st quarter of 2024. There was a discussion of a \$9000 (estimation) transfer that should have been made at the end of 2023, and has not come out yet. There has been a transfer of the books from Quicken, to Quickbooks, so the records are still being combed through.

Aside from the awaiting transfer, there was not anything out of the ordinary. Terri Rose gave a breakdown of the packets, including the profit & loss and breakdown of itemizations. There was also a discussion of hiring a CPA/external auditor to perform the city's annual audit for the years 2023, and 2024. There will need to be clarification on whether the audit is performed by calendar or fiscal year.

We will also need to check with TML to see if there is an issue with the current balance that the City is holding, and if it would potentially affect the ad valorem tax rate and need to lower it.

**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; THERE IS A THREE-MINUTE LIMIT.)**

There was one citizen in attendance for the meeting, but no communications were desired.

**UPDATE ON JIMENEZ PROPERTY.**

Due to an unforeseen financial issue, the Jimenez family are requesting an extension deadline of October 2024. Alderman John Roulston-Bates proposed a motion to accept the new extension date on the Jimenez property. Council member Piper seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in agreement. The extension date of October, 2024 was approved.

#### **DISCUSSION ABOUT PERMITTING SYSTEM.**

Mayor Schmidt suggested creating a permitting system, or a clarification system, for citizens to submit all desired plans that they may have to the city first, and then be able to receive a permit. There was also a discussion of creating a "quick-guide" (similar to Taylor or Elgin) for the subdivision ordinances so that they become easier to understand/digest. There is caution that if we do that, we have to respond within 30 days, otherwise it becomes "approved".

Alderman Roulston-Bates suggested that the City Engineer, Tony Prete, come and present both the current and future recommendations for replacing the ordinances. The current recommendation from Mayor Schmidt is for citizens to submit all plans to the city for their requests regarding building/construction, etc.

The city secretary will begin researching a system for individuals making requests for building, and will look to other entities such as Taylor or Elgin for the permitting system.

There was also mention of an addressing issue for the Stephens industrial estate, and an apartment building behind the gas station, both claiming to be 301 Hoxie. Council member Roulston-Bates will follow up with the post office to clarify the issue.

#### **DISCUSSION ABOUT ILLEGAL DUMPING ON CR 458.**

There has been an ongoing issue of illegal dumping of miscellaneous items (tires, roofing, etc.) which results in the city being charged for clean up. There was a discussion of purchasing a solar camera system (estimation of \$375) that will be able to record, focus and span. There was a suggestion of mounting the camera on the "No Thru Truck" sign. The camera system will be coming out of the "Road Maintenance" fund. Passed with unanimous consent.

#### **ROAD MAINTENANCE IN THE CITY OF COUPLAND.**

Discussion of rubber speed bumps and how they are no longer recommended by the City Engineer. The general consensus was that speed bumps are not the ideal solution due to them being a hindrance for traffic, as well as emergency vehicles. The next solutions proposed for the speeding issue was to either place illuminated speed signs, or a 4-way stop sign at Hoxie & Broad and potentially at the intersection of Austin & Hoxie.

Mayor Schmidt will speak to Tony Prete to discuss the option of placing a four-way stop since it is both traffic calming and non-damaging to vehicles. After hearing from Prete, the council will place a vote to address the speeding issue.

#### **COUPLAND ESD10 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY.**

Alderman Roulston-Bates gave the council a breakdown of the Fire department's calls for the year of 2023. The department intends on starting the recruitment process in the next 3 months,

for paid day shift workers. The department will still primarily be volunteer workers, but will include 3-person crews stationed between Coupland and Thrall, in a fast response vehicle.

The Fire Department will be doing their chili supper again this year for the community. They are also presenting at the statewide conference for Emergency Service Districts next month in Dallas. They will be presenting on effectively growing from a volunteer fire department to a traditional ESD, and working with & for the community.

#### **COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION**

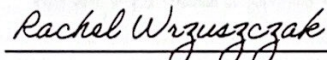
CCO will be having its monthly meeting on January 29th, 2024 and will be serving chili and cornbread. They will be giving a state of the city, and state of the CCO. The Fire department, the Superintendent, along with Mayor Schmidt will be there, and are encouraging the community to come and participate.

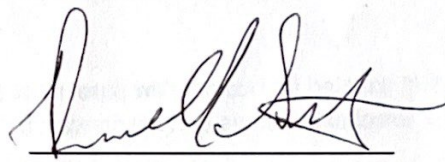
It was also discussed that the Texas Municipal League said that the city of Coupland can contract with a city that joins our ETJ to do inspections. The city attorney will be looking into this to give us clarification.

There was a proposal to have the sewer board come and update the city council on what they are doing, and what their future plans are, so that we can be informed.

**THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024.**

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Rachel Wrzuszcak, City Secretary

  
Russell Schmidt, Mayor