



7019 Pleasant Ridge Road CR 4217 * Coffee City, TX 75763 Phone: (903) 876-3414 * Fax: (903) 873-2433

CITY OF COFFEE CITY
City Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023 @ 6 pm
7019 Pleasant Ridge Rd
Coffee City, TX 75763

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COFFEE CITY. TO BE HELD ON **MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM AT THE COFFEE CITY, CITY HALL, 7019 PLEASANT RIDGE RD, COFFEE CITY, TEXAS.** FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS. THE CITY COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MEET IN A CLOSED SESSION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD THE NEED ARISE AND APPLICABLE PURSANT TO AUTHORIZATION BY TITLE 5, CHAPTER 551, OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.

Council Members

Jeff Blackstone – Mayor (A)

Carrie Ousley - Place 3 (A)

Ruthie Seward - Place 1 (P)

Keith Skender - Place 4 (P)

Marquis Castleberry – Mayor Pro-Tem (P)

Ollie Harmon - Place 5 (P)

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Mayor Pro-Tem, Marquis Castleberry, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announce if quorum is present:

Mary McDonald announced roll call. Mayor, Jeff Blackstone and Alderman Carrie Ousley were not present. A quorum was present.

3. Opening remarks:

Mr. Castleberry thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the Mayor had a prior engagement and couldn't make it so he would be carrying out the meeting.

4. Consider and Act upon approving items 5 & 6.

Keith Skender made a motion to approve the November 2023 city financials and the minutes for the November 13, 2023 meeting and the October 23, 2023 town hall meeting. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries.

5. Approving City financials for November 2023.

Mrs. Seward asked about the fuel charge and if it included anything for the police department. Mary McDonald stated that it had nothing with the police department and was only fire department charges.

6. Approving meeting minutes for the October 23, 2023 Town Hall Meeting & November 13, 2023 council meeting.

7. Fire Dept. Report:

Fire Chief, Chris Moore gave the fire report. He listed the number of calls for service and what they were for. He discussed the number of members on with the department and that they have recently picked up two more that will be probationary for a while. He discussed upcoming trainings. Mr. Moore stated that he

had been talking with the Mayor in regards to the fire department using the slick top Tahoe. Stated that they thought about the chief using it and his car be used for medical calls due to it being better on fuel and those are the majority of their calls. Mr. Moore stated that they haven't lit their propane tank yet but will eventually have to and the council will notice a rise in the propane charge. He stated that he hopes to modernize the heating system and that he had put in a grant for it.

8. Municipal Court Report:

Mary McDonald gave the court report and discussed the total amount of collections of \$13,750.32 and the distribution of those funds.

9. EDC Report:

Vicki Castleberry gave the EDC report. She stated that they approved to add another signer to their bank accounts due to the need of having another person available. She stated that the board voted to donate some funds to the Lake Palestine Resort for the January 2024 firework show. She stated that they reviewed the city ordinance pertaining to the height of the grass and will ask for council to review it. She stated that they were still working on the welcome signs and received a bid for \$7,500.00 each so they were still looking for other bids in hopes of getting a better price. Mrs. Castleberry stated that they are still looking to move forward with the gifted property and waiting response from the city attorney once he reviews the contract and they are able to move forward. She also discussed that the EDC received a reimbursement check from Kilos liquor because their contract timeframe had passed and they had not finalized the project that grant funds were issued for. She stated that the Christmas vendors market was canceled due to not having anyone sign up for the event.

Mr. Castleberry asked if they were just looking to donate funds to the firework show or if it had already been done, Mrs. Castleberry stated that it had already been voted on and approved to donate. Mrs. Seward asked how much was donated and Mrs. Castleberry stated they agreed on \$1,500.00 for the January firework show at the Lake Palestine Resort.

10. Consider and Act upon approving the name selection of the property on the corner of Highsaw Trail and FM 3506 as "Coffee City Multi-Purpose Park". (Item was not acted on in the November meeting)

Mr. Castleberry asked Mrs. Castleberry if she could explain the reason behind the name of Coffee City Multi-Purpose Park and she stated that the idea came from a couple of guest at their meeting and the fact that they intend to use the area for more than just one thing and would like to see if host several different events. Mrs. Seward asked what they plan to charge someone that wanted to bring their service truck in for an event and Mrs. Castleberry stated that they have not gotten that far yet and they would be looking into what others charge for something like this. Mrs. Castleberry stated they have thought of placing a bench and table out in the area for the citizens can use to grill. Mrs. Seward stated that during the summer months that would be a great idea and maybe add a pavilion. Mrs. Castleberry stated that maybe instead of using the word park in the name use pavilion instead. Mr. Castleberry suggested that maybe this item be tabled again to give the EDC and the council more time to think on other options and Mrs. Castleberry stated that would be great and their next meeting will be the 22nd and council should attend so put in their opinions on the naming of the property. Ruthie Seward made a motion to table selecting the name for the EDC property located on the corner of Highsaw trail and FM 3506. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries.

11. Consider and Act upon the EDC & City moving forward with the gifted property located at the corner of HWY 155 and FM 3506. (Item was not acted on in the November meeting)

Mr. Castleberry stated this item will be skipped for now and will be discussed after item 12 and 13.

Mr. Castleberry stated that this item would be discussed in an executive session based on Government code 551.071, deliberation about gifts and donations. Time 6:44 PM.

Resumed open session at 7:11 PM. Mr. Castleberry stated that they will now act on item 11 of the EDC and city moving forward with a gifted property located on the corner of Hwy 155 and FM 3506. Mrs. Seward made a motion to act upon the EDC and City moving forward with the gifted property located on

the corner of Hwy 155 and FM 3506 with amending items 1,2 & 3 in the contract. Keith Skender seconds the motion. Motion carries.

12. Discuss, Consider & Act upon amending City Ordinance #20170911. Allowing Weeds to Grow Prohibited: Reduce the current height of 3 feet.

Mr. Castleberry asked what they were looking to reduce it to and she stated maybe one and a half or two feet. She stated that they would like it lower but for now those would work and that it's scary to walk in the neighborhood with abandoned buildings and tall grass and not being able to see what is in there. Mrs. Seward stated that she would suggest that they table it for now due to the fact that they wouldn't have anyone to enforce it and she asked Mrs. Castleberry if there was a certain area she was concerned with. Mrs. Castleberry stated that it would be her neighborhood along with a few other surrounding areas that she has noticed. Mrs. Castleberry stated that they had discussed possibly reaching out to Henderson County Sheriff's department and see if that was something that someone could help oversee bi weekly or monthly. Mrs. Seward stated that at a meeting the Sheriff stated that they were stretched and short on the manpower. Mr. Skender stated that he would also suggest that it be tabled until the city is able to actually enforce it because at this time there is no way to do that. Keith Skender made a motion to table amending the city ordinance allowing weeds to grow higher than three feet. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries.

13. Open Forum:

- Open Forum is limited to items currently on the agenda.
- Speakers must sign in 5 minutes before the beginning of the meeting.
- Speakers will be given 3 minutes to speak.

Any person that is unable to attend and wishes to submit questions to the council can e-mail the questions to the City Secretary at citysecretary@cityofcoffeecity.com

No one spoke during open forum.

14. Adjournment:

Ruthie Seward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries and meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

The City Council of the City of Coffee City reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matters listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, including, but not limited to, Section 551.071 (Deliberation about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), 551.087 (Economic Development), 418.175-183 (Deliberations about Homeland Security Issues) and as authorized by the Texas Tax Cod, including, but not limited to, Section 321.3022 (Sales Tax Information).

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA BY THE COFFEE CITY, CITY COUNCIL WAS POSTED AT THE CITY HALL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD AND THE CITY WEBSITE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 BY 5:00 PM.



JEFF BLACKSTONE
MAYOR



MARY McDONALD
CITY SECRETARY