

# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY -- JULY 11, 2013 -- 7:00 PM

COUPLAND FIRE STATION

410 FM 1466

COUPLAND, TEXAS

## 1. Call to Order

Mayor Jack Piper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following members:

Jack Piper, Mayor

Susan Garry, Alderman

Barbara Piper, Alderman

Karen Marosko, Alderman

Eldridge Tidwell, Alderman

Susan Schmidt, Alderman, was away on vacation.

## 2. Review and approve minutes of regular meeting held on June 11, 2013

Mayor Piper made reference to minutes from the meeting held on June 11, 2013, which were included in the City Council Meeting Packet that the City Secretary sent by email to all of the Aldermen in advance of the meeting. Barbara Piper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Karen Marosko seconded her motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

## 3. Discussion and action regarding a resolution to establish the fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 for the City of Coupland, Resolution No. 2013-7-11-01

Mayor Piper referred the Aldermen to the resolution, which was included in the Meeting Packet. After a brief discussion, Eldridge Tidwell made a motion to approve the resolution. Barbara Piper seconded his motion. The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

## 4. Discussion and action regarding a resolution to purchase liability/errors and omissions insurance through Texas Municipal League's Risk Pool, Resolution No. 2013-7-11-02

Mayor Piper introduced Linda Orrick, Senior Field Services Representative, from the Texas Municipal League (TML) Intergovernmental Risk Pool. He referred the Alderman to the TML proposal for coverage as well as the resolution, which was included in the Meeting Packet. Ms. Orrick told the council that this proposal was specifically designed for new, small municipalities. She reviewed each line item and answered questions from the Aldermen. In light of the City's fiscal year, Ms. Orrick said the the initial coverage could be prorated to cover the period from today up until September 30 and that a new annual coverage period could begin on October 1 at the same rate. Payments may be made in quarterly installments with a discount for an annual payment. After discussion, Barbara Piper made a motion to accept the entire package. Susan Garry seconded her motion. The Aldermen voted unanimously to accept the resolution. There was some follow-up

discussion to clarify that the coverage was to begin immediately. Mayor Piper called for a short recess to take care of paperwork while Ms. Orrick was present. The recess began at 7:37 PM. Mayor Piper called the meeting to order again at 7:46 PM.

**5. Discussion and possible action on results of research into which entities in the Coupland area are subject to a city franchise tax**

Karen Marosko reported that she and Susan Schmidt had contacted various local utilities. Mayor Piper said that we needed contact names and addresses so the City can move the process forward. The Mayor is waiting for a response from Oncore. Ms. Marosko is getting information from the City of Weir. Ms. Piper reported that she has some information from Weir. Further action is pending additional information.

**6. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from the City Secretary regarding the establishment of a city website and city email addresses**

Mayor Piper referred the Aldermen to the email in the Meeting Packet from the City Secretary regarding website domain names. The City Secretary made a presentation to inform the Council of how a city website could be utilized to establish city email addresses, to allow City officials to separate public and private emails, and to access other online resources. After some discussion, Karen Marosko made a motion to authorize the City Secretary to proceed with the setup of a website using the domain name "cityofcouplandtx.us". Her motion was seconded by Barbara Piper. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote and will be numbered 2013-7-11-06.

**7. Discussion of development of the initial city budget, including anticipated expenses as well as sources of revenue such as sales tax, ad valorem tax, franchise tax, and liquor tax**

Mayor Piper guided a discussion regarding revenue sources. He noted that the deadline for a special election for sales tax is August 26 and would cost the City approximately \$1,000. Mayor Piper reported that the City will begin getting its allocation of the liquor tax beginning this month. He also noted that ad valorem tax rates are due to the county by mid-September and that assessed values in Coupland city limits at this time totals \$13,804,421. He called for volunteers to serve on a committee to make recommendations to the Council. Aldermen B. Piper, Marosko, and Tidwell volunteered to serve on a committee to work on a budget. The City Secretary noted that the Open Meetings Act will apply to meetings of the Budget Committee.

**8. Discussion and action regarding a resolution to authorize the Mayor to purchase necessary office supplies and equipment, not to exceed \$300, Resolution No. 2013-7-11-04**

After a brief discussion Karen Marosko made a motion to approve the resolution. Her motion was seconded by Eldridge Tidwell. The resolution was approved by

unanimous vote. Mr. Tidwell said he would donate a filing cabinet but that it would need a lock installed.

**9. Discussion and action regarding a resolution authorizing reimbursement for the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the City Secretary for reasonable expenses related to attending and successfully completing the Texas Municipal League's 2013 Newly Elected Officials' Orientation, Resolution No. 2013-7-11-05**

Mayor Piper referred the Aldermen to the resolution, which was included in the Meeting Packet. Barbara Piper pointed out that the city has not yet established a budget and that the current balance in the city's checking account was \$1,935.64, with outstanding obligations of \$1,355 for the TML coverage plus \$123 for checks that have been ordered. She recapitulated anticipated revenue sources and potential expenses such as a special election for sales tax. She pointed out that statutory requirements generally prohibit deficit financing. There was a brief discussion about options for attending future trainings and TML workshops at the annual TML meeting. It was noted that people may attend the training at their own cost. Karen Marosko made a motion that the resolution should not be approved. Barbara Piper seconded the motion. The motion to not approve the resolution passed by unanimous vote.

**10. Citizen(s) Communications. (Citizens who wish to speak at a council meeting must complete an "Appearance Before City Council" form at the meeting.)**

No citizens signed up to appear before the Council.

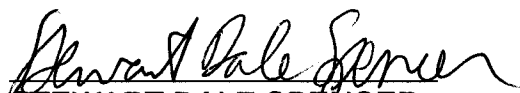
**11. The next City Council meeting will be determined at meeting**


Mayor Piper called for the next meeting to be held on July 25 at the fire station at 7 PM. If there is no business that cannot wait until the next regular meeting, the Mayor will cancel the meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Barbara Piper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eldridge Tidwell seconded her motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

ATTEST:

  
STEWART DALE SPENCER  
City Secretary

  
JACK PIPER  
Mayor