

**COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST, 2024, 6:00PM**  
**ESD 10 (COUPLAND) FIRE STATION**  
**410 FM 1466**  
**COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615**

**1. CALL BUDGET MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM.**

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and declared a quorum. All members of council, except Alderman Wells Mason, were in attendance.

**2. FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JULY 31, 2024**

Mayor Schmidt motioned to approve the minutes as currently presented, with Alderwoman Piper moving the motion forward, and Haverland seconding the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. 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 citizen communications at this meeting.

**4. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Accountant Terri Rose generated a copy of the city's current budget, accounting for what we have spent so far. In regards to ad valorem tax, if we chose a tax rate of 0.222678, we would purportedly collect in ad valorem taxes \$99,010. On the other hand, if we chose a tax rate of 0.211487, we would collect \$94,035. Neither one of these percentages would be cause for an election. Our previous projection was \$92,670, and we have currently collected around that total. As of right now, we have made the decision to adopt the ad valorem tax rate of 0.222678.

We would also need to collect franchise fees, which would be around \$10,000-11,000. Our current tax rate is one of the lowest around, and unfortunately we did have to raise it last year to account for additional expenses.

When looking at the previous year's budget, we are over our expected incoming sales tax revenue. We had projected \$40,000, and have collected just over \$76,000. In lieu of transparency, the city is also going to have a financial audit in the upcoming year. We expect to bring in around \$1500 for liquor tax revenue, around \$70,000 for sales tax revenue, and \$1200 for the interest on our cash reserve fund, bringing our total estimated revenue to \$182,210.

For the city's estimated expenses for the upcoming budget, we expect to spend \$133,400 on contract services fund, \$26,010 on General Operating Fund, \$500 for Tax Fund, and \$20,000 for Cash Reserve Fund, bringing the total estimated expenses to

\$179,910. This would bring our estimated net operating income/loss to \$2300 for the 2024-2025 budget.

**5. DISCUSS RIGHT OF WAY FRANCHISE**

We currently have the ability to enforce a franchise tax on anyone who uses our right of ways. We have made the decision to NOT enforce this on the water and sewer company, since they are non-profit, as well as to help lower the burden on our community. However, Spectrum is wanting to come into town, and they WILL have to pay a franchise tax.

Currently, we only collect a franchise fee from ONCOR. In the future, any commercial business coming into town will need to pay the franchise tax.

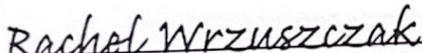
**6. COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION**

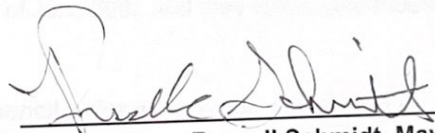
There were no updates at this meeting.

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

**8. ADJOURN MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10pm.

  
Rachel Wrzuszcak, City Secretary

  
Russell Schmidt, Mayor