

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Thursday -- September 11, 2014 -- 7:00 PM

COUPLAND FIRE STATION

410 FM 1466

COUPLAND, TEXAS

1. Call regular meeting to order and declare a quorum.

Mayor Jack Piper called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and declared a quorum with the following Aldermen present: Barbara Piper, Susan Garry, Karen Marosko, Susan Schmidt, & Eldridge Tidwell.

2. Review and approve minutes of the Regular meeting held on August 14, 2014.

Ms. Piper made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Ms. Marosko. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

3. Financial report as of August 31, 2014.

Mayor Piper referred the Aldermen to the financial reports showing the status of the budget and a bank balance of \$36,989.34 as of August 31. The Mayor pointed out that the engineering line item was over budget by \$200 because of issues with the Prinz subdivision plat. There were no questions.

4. Citizen(s) Communications.

This agenda item was postponed to the end of the meeting because a citizen presented a sign-in sheet on behalf of a boy scout, Torsten Wabbel, who could not arrive until later in the meeting. Mr. Wabbel told the Council that in the near future he will be working a Boy Scout project which will involve the City Council.

5. Discussion & approval to Order the Cancellation of the requirement for the City of Coupland to participate in the November 4, 2014 election. Three people did file for the three open positions on the City Council therefore no election is required.

Mayor Piper reported that only three persons filed for the three open Alderman positions and that the the previous election order must be formally cancelled. Barbara Piper, Susan Schmidt, and Sarah Torluemke submitted applications to appear on the ballot. Ms. Piper and Ms. Schmidt will remain on the Board of Aldermen. Ms. Torluemke will replace Eldridge Tidwell, who decided not to run for re-election. Ms. Marosko made a motion to issue the order. Mr. Tidwell seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

6. Discussion & approval of Ordinance No. 2014-9-11-01 adopting the annual budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

There was no additional discussion. Ms. Piper made a motion to adopt the budget. Mr. Tidwell seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. The budget is adopted.

7. Discussion & approval of Ordinance No. 2014-9-11-02 to pass the levy of an ad valorem tax on all property real and personal, within the corporate limits of the City of Coupland, Texas at a rate of \$0.25 on each \$100.00 valuation of property.

The Mayor noted that the proposed ordinance maintains the current \$0.25 rate but because property values have increased somewhat, the City will collect about \$2,000 more in property taxes next year. Ms. Schmidt made a motion to adopt the the ordinance. Ms. Garry seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. The rate is adopted.

8. Discussion regarding the City's portion of the TxDOT Right a Way Acquisition funding for the widening of FM1660 for the amount of \$13,930.

The Mayor reported that the City's portion of the Right of Way acquisition for TXDOT's improvement project along FM 1660 has not been paid as authorized in the previous meeting because the agreement sent to the City by TXDOT was incorrect. Once again, TXDOT seems to not be aware that Coupland is an incorporated city within Williamson County. The agreement names the City as Williamson County with Jack Piper as the Mayor of Williamson County. They also listed an incorrect amount. The Mayor said no payment will be sent until we have a proper, signed agreement. The City had previously selected the option of making three equal payments, spread out over three fiscal years, with the first payment due before the end of FY 2014.

9. Discussion regarding Bastrop Rd. within the City of Coupland.

There was a discussion about Bastrop Road in Coupland. You have to look closely to see where it used to be as most of it fell into disuse decades ago. Apparently it was part of the original plat for "Coupland City" in the 1800's but most of it was never developed. The Mayor said that Martha Poldrack is developing a plot of land along that road and behind the Stock Up Food Mart for a new food establishment. No formal action was taken but by consensus, the Aldermen authorized the Mayor to negotiate with Ms. Poldrack on behalf of the City to help with the cost of clearing and leveling the old road bed but not absorbing future maintenance costs. Ms. Piper said they had contacted the Texas Municipal League and the City Attorney, both of whom said that the City is under no legal obligation to maintain any specific section of city roads. The consensus of the Aldermen was that the City can only maintain roads currently in use.

10. Report regarding mowing of specific ROWs in the City of Coupland.

With regard to mowing along those existing roads, the Mayor reported that he is still looking for someone to mow along CR 458. There was also a discussion about snakes coming from a property on Broad Street and near the school. The Mayor said he contacted the owner, who is a reputable businessman in Fredericksburg. The owner asked that City arrange to mow the property and send a bill for reimbursement. The Mayor also reported on recent road work work done by Naivar Construction. The Mayor reported that the state has been notified about two different sinkholes along Spur 277. Ms. Garry reported that the state is upgrading culverts along SH 95, evidently in response to a lawsuit. She also commented that even though Tesla Motors has elected to build its new battery plant in Nevada instead of Hutto, recent national exposure of that site will likely result in future development of that 1200 acre site between Hutto and Taylor and south of US Highway 79. There was a comment during the meeting about the need to have someone do some shredding in some overgrown portions of the City.

11. Update regarding the application for a Williamson County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The Mayor reported that Williamson County is waiting for a copy of the August minutes to verify that he had the authority to enter the City into an agreement regarding future applications.

12. Update on the Prinz Estates Subdivision Final Plat.

Mayor Piper said future activity related to the Prinz Estates is awaiting the probate of Mr. Prinz' will.

13. Coupland citizens/events/announcements/recognitions.

During the recognition portion of the meeting, Ms. Schmidt mentioned the successful Choo Choo Fest in August. Ms. Marosko talked about efforts to save the old iron bridge on CR 456, which is currently closed and pending a decision by Williamson County and the state whether they will repair or replace it. Finally, Mayor Piper recognized Edridge Tidwell for his role in serving on the inaugural Coupland City Council.


14. The next Coupland Council meeting will be October 9, 2014


The next meeting of the Coupland City Council will be on October 9 at the Fire Station.

15. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

ATTEST:


STEWART DALE SPENCER
City Secretary


JACK PIPER
Mayor