

COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 15TH, 2025, 6:00PM
ESD 10 (COUPLAND) FIRE STATION
410 FM 1466
COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM.

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm and declared a quorum. Only one member of council was not present.

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

The minutes of the previously held meeting were reviewed. Alderwoman Rogers made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, with Alderwoman Sandbulte seconding the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JUNE 30TH.

Alderwoman Marosko made a motion to accept the financial reports ending on June 30th, with Alderwoman Rogers seconding the motion. The financial reports were approved.

4. 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 multiple citizens in attendance at this meeting, however, we only had one sign up to speak. This citizen wanted to speak regarding the potential variance renewal for the autobody shop on CR 458. Their concerns were that the autobody business should not be granted another business variance due to the zoning stipulations of the area, as well as the business selling certain objects, etc. that were not discussed and approved within the business plan that was given to the city council.

5. ONCOR RESOLUTION

Mayor Schmidt met with an ONCOR representative to discuss a potential rate hike for services. By signing this resolution, it places the City of Coupland within a category for cities that may be unrepresented. This resolution also denies the request by ONCOR for the hike. Alderwoman Rogers motioned to accept resolution 2025-07-15-01 and deny the rate hike, with Alderwoman Sandbulte seconding the motion. The resolution was signed by Mayor Schmidt and will be sent back to the ONCOR representative.

6. ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The ordinance was read aloud for the second time and given an explanation. Alderwoman Rogers made a motion to accept Ordinance 2025-06-17-05, with Alderwoman Marosko seconding. The ordinance was approved and passed.

7. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mayor Schmidt gave a second explanation of this ordinance and it was read aloud for the second time. Alderwoman Rogers made a motion to accept Ordinance

2025-06-17-06, with Alderwoman Sandbulte seconding the motion. The ordinance was approved and passed.

8. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING INTER-JURISDICTIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The ordinance was read aloud and Alderwoman Rogers made a motion to accept the Resolution establishing inter-jurisdictional emergency management program, with Alderwoman Sandbulte seconding the motion. The resolution was passed and approved.

After recent events, it is very important that we are proactive with our emergency management techniques and designating a representative from Williamson County to be our lead in any emergency situation.

9. UPDATE ON DEPOT

The city is currently in the process of acquiring the depot and surrounding property, with the agreement that we keep it as a museum for eternity, as well as the City office being placed within. Once the city attorney will be back in town, we will move forward with potentially undergoing a deed search.

As it stands, we currently spend \$9,000 per year on rent for the city office, and by moving the office within the train depot, this will allow us to either save some of this money or use it for updates.

10. UPDATE ON SEWER SYSTEM

The sewage board recently sent out around 90 surveys regarding the city taking over the sewer system, and got 10 back. The city council will be holding at least one, and maybe two, public hearings so that citizens can come and ask questions and voice their opinions. This will take about a year, and overall, the city wants the citizens who are on the sewer system to be happy with the outcome and to feel heard.

The sewage board recently received a grant and made the appropriate adjustments, including raising rates for the first time since 2012, to make sure that the sewage system is in perfect working condition. They also will be having multiple vacancies on the sewage board, and will be looking for members of the community to volunteer.

11. UPDATE ON COUPLAND INN

Recently, Mayor Schmidt was approached by the owner of the Coupland inn to potentially give the inn and property to the city. However, there are a lot of parameters, including insurance, the state of the building, etc., that would have to be in our favor before the city would consider taking it over.

12. CITY OF COUPLAND SIGN

We have a draft of the design for the updated sign, which we will need to discuss colors for. However, we are awaiting a form stating that the current owners are relinquishing their rights and ownership of the current sign before we can move forward.

13. PUBLIC DISCUSSION FOR RENEWAL OF BUSINESS VARIANT ON CR 458 (AUTOMEDIC)

Citizens who reside on CR 458 were granted a one year business variant for their autobody repair shop. That variant ends this month, and is up for possible renewal. The

city council discussed any complaints that we have received regarding the state of the business and how it is affecting residents of the surrounding area. The owners of the autoshop are due to be at the next council meeting, where council will vote on whether or not to renew their variance. If they do not show up, it will be an automatic denial.

14. DR.PARCELL, COUPLAND SUPERINTENDENT

STEAM camp wrapped up and was a blast for all of the children who signed up. Registration for the new school year is up and going. Currently there are 317 students registered, and they ended the previous year at 318. Concrete will be poured soon, and then steel beams will be placed. There will also be a beam signing once the steel is up. The new school will be open in a year servicing grades 7-9, the following year 7-10, and adding a new grade each year, respectively. This upcoming school year's eighth graders will be the first graduating class for Coupland at the new school.

The new legislature passed that gives more money to school districts. Around 60%, the school board does not get a say in where it goes. However, a large portion of it goes to increased compensation for teachers. Dr. Parcell would like to push for a significant increase in compensation for Coupland teachers, as long as the board can handle the increase in funds.

There will be a board meeting on the 31st, as well as August 14th, with the first day of school being August 12th. Coupland ISD is currently at 70% local students, with 30% transfer students, which is an improvement in growth for the local community.

15. MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Schmidt made a request that citizens of the community attend any and every possible city meeting that they can, whether it is the council or school board, etc. so that the community can be involved.

Mayor Schmidt also thanked John Roulston-Bates for his service both in the community and the council.

16. COUPLAND ESD 10 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

The ESD is expanding their day crew, with the program increasing to 7 days/week which will help improve getting the trucks out the door within 60 seconds, and improving their overall response time. They are also working on a refurbishment with the Thrall station which will allow both stations to hold overnight crews, if necessary.

For the month of June, there were around 51 calls with half of those being medical, the remainder were predominantly outside fires and motor vehicle accidents. However, there was one hazmat incident in Thrall which was an accidental release of chlorine gases that did not result in any accidents.

The ESD meetings meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm, if anyone would like to attend and be involved.

17. COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION

There is an upcoming ice cream social on Sunday at the church, at 7pm, which will be free to the community.

18. THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 19TH, 2025.

19. ADJOURN MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:57pm.

Rachel Wrzuszczak

Rachel Wrzuszczak, City Secretary

Russell Schmidt

Russell Schmidt, Mayor