

COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2026, 6:00PM
COUPLAND JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
350 CR 460
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. All members of council were present.

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

The minutes of the previously held council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JULY 31ST.

The financial reports ending July 31st, were reviewed and approved as presented.

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 was a large number of citizens in attendance for the meeting. There were 9 individuals signed up to speak publicly. The first comment was from Lynn Payne regarding the neighborhood & businesses of CR 458. The second individual, Dean Rumel, chose not to speak. The third individual, Gil Flot, gave concerns regarding the salary of the city secretary, his dissatisfaction with the city of coupland becoming incorporated, and his frustrations with CR 458. It is important to note that Mr. Gil mentioned the secretary is paid for "4 hours per week", which is not factual information. The secretary is currently contracted for 20 hours per week. The fourth individual, Jana Hinojosa, is a long time member of the city of Coupland and gave concerns regarding the changes on CR 458 and a lack of transparency with the budget and communication between citizens and city council. The fifth individual, Jessica Mason, brought up concerns regarding the city secretary, and the upgrades at the new city hall, the current state of CR 458, road repairs that need to be done within the city, and frustrations with the addition of new city ordinances. The sixth individual, Wells Mason, a former council member, gave concerns with the current administration and council, concerns with transparency, no longer having access to his city email, and concerns about the building & construction ordinance. The seventh individual, Barbara Franklin, gave concerns regarding transparency, especially with regard to agendas and the need to be more clear with what is being discussed. The eighth individual, Jennifer Dollins, also chose not to speak. The ninth individual, Prissy Rumel, listed concerns with the website, concerns regarding the amended budget and increased totals, the city secretary salary, and a need for increased transparency and communication.

The city of Coupland would like to thank everyone for their comments and concerns. It is our goal to keep Coupland "Coupland" and continue to make it a great place to live. We

realize that we have a long way to go, and a lot that we need to improve on and will do so. Also, the city welcomes any questions and concerns being brought to our attention. If you would like to be placed on the agenda so that your concerns can be addressed in a public setting, please contact the city secretary.

5. RENEWAL OF AUTO MEDIC BUSINESS VARIANCE

Auto Medic is an automotive business located on CR 458. Their current one year variance is ending soon, and is up for possible renewal. Alderwoman Marosko motioned to approve the renewal of a one year variance for Automedic. Alderwoman Rogers seconded the motion. The one year variance was approved.

6. ADOPTION OF TAX RATE

Due to a change in location of the council meeting that was not notified in the newspaper, council was unable to adopt the proposed tax rate at this meeting. This will be addressed at the next council meeting.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 was presented to council for their review. There were no questions or concerns brought up. The vote went as follows: Alderwoman Marosko- "yes", Alderwoman Sandbulte- "yes", Alderwoman Patschke- "yes", Alderwoman Haverland- "abstained", and Alderwoman Rogers- "yes". The proposed budget was approved.

****Special note regarding budget adoption:** After the concerns brought up at the council meeting, Mayor Schmidt consulted with the City attorney regarding proper procedure and it was found that the City of Coupland did in fact need to place a notice in the paper prior to the meeting. Therefore, the budget was not formally approved and this matter will be addressed and adopted at the next meeting.

8. ORDER OF ELECTION

Although the city of Coupland will be cancelling the general election due to unopposed candidates, there still needs to be an order of election sent through to Williamson County elections.

A formal cancellation of the election will be placed on the agenda for next month's council meeting.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION ORDINANCE

Council members were presented with a draft of a building and construction ordinance to review prior to the council meeting. There were no questions or concerns brought up regarding this ordinance.

Alderwoman Patschke motioned to accept the Ordinance number 2026-08-18-01. Alderwoman Sandbulte seconded the motion. Each council member voted "yes" to approve and adopt this ordinance.

The process that is noted in the ordinance is more stringent than the current ordinance that is in place, and the goal for this ordinance is to make it more standardized and clearer for individuals who are seeking to have construction done within the city. In the past, there have been incidents where construction was done without the city's approval

that has resulted in the city needing to sell off property, and places the city at risk for liability.

10. DR.PARCELL, COUPLAND SUPERINTENDENT

The new school opened on time, but there are still a few things that need to be finalized and fixed. There will also be a microphone at the next meeting. Once everything is completed, there will be an official grand opening with a walk through. There are currently 375 students in Coupland ISD, with 103 at the junior high and 272 at the elementary school. Coupland ISD is fully staffed and is making strides every day.

There will be a joint meeting between the city council and school board. At the time of the current minutes being drafted, the meeting is set for October 1st.

Mayor Schmidt is going to be donating a letterman jacket to the junior high that is currently located in the historic train depot, so they too can hold a piece of Coupland history.

11. MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Schmidt would first like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this time. He would also like to acknowledge the concerns that were brought up earlier in the meeting. He does not want to make excuses for the concerns, and hopes that citizens believe him when he says that we will improve.

Alderwoman Patschke, who decided to take over during an opening on council, commented on her experience with the city council and staff. She stated that everyone included is working to create a wonderful city for everyone.

Overall, the comments made at today's meeting express a genuine concern for wanting what is best for Coupland. We also would like to share with everyone that there is a dire need for individuals to serve on city council and put their concerns to use.

12. WILLIAMSON COUNTY ESD 10 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There were no updates at this meeting.

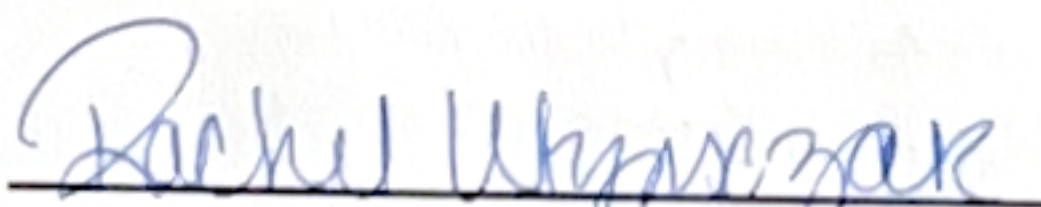
13. COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION

There were no citizen announcements at this meeting.

14. THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026.

15. ADJOURN MEETING.

Mayor Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.


Rachel Wrzusczak, City Secretary


Russell Schmidt, Mayor