



7019 Pleasant Ridge Road * Coffee City, TX 75763 * Phone: (903) 876-3414 * Fax: (903) 873-2433

CITY OF COFFEE CITY
City Council Meeting (1) Minutes
March 14, 2022
7019 CR 4217 Pleasant Ridge Rd.
Coffee City, Texas 75763

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COFFEE CITY. TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, AT THE COFFEE CITY, CITY HALL 7019 CR 4217 PLEASANT RIDGE RD., COFFEE CITY, TEXAS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS. THE CITY COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MEET IN A CLOSED SESSION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD THE NEED ARISE AND APPLICABLE PURSUANT TO AUTHORIZATION BY TITLE 5, CHAPTER 551, OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.

Council Members

Frank Serrato – Mayor Riley Standifer – Mayor Pro-Tem

Chuck Jones – Place 1 Marquis Castleberry – Place 2

Kevin Swanson – Place 3 Ray Ver Hey – Place 5

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Mayor Serrato called the meeting to order at 6 PM.
- 2. Roll call and announce if quorum is present:** City Secretary, Nanette Moss called Councilman roll, all were present a quorum was determined to be present.
- 3. Opening remarks:** Mayor Serrato, stated that if anyone wanted to sign up to talk to do so now, if not to please let the Council continue with this meeting.
- 4. Consider & Act Upon: 5 & 6.** Mayor Pro Tem Riley Standifer asked what was repaired at the Community Center that was 609.00? City Secretary, Nanette stated that she thought that was the Pantry Door that was installed, after further research, she stated that was the repair for the Aerobic Septic System motor that had gone out. Councilman Castleberry asked what Net Data was, it was explained that was the Courts Program that was used, he also as about the “Counter” part of it? Court Clerk, Mary McDonald explained that was the “Counter Deposits” that were made when citizens made their payment to the court with their money order or cashiers checks was being deposited at the bank. Councilman Ver Hey asked about the “Badge & Wallet” asking was that for the Badges and Wallets for the Police Dept., and how many badges did that cover for 1,300.00? Nanette explained that was the 13 badges that the Council approved for the extra 13 officers. Councilman Ver Hey also asked about the invoice for the propane, and why it was \$929.25? Nanette also mentioned that this was for 2 invoices that there had been twice the tank had been filled during the icy weather, she also explained that the city hall, along with the Fire Dept, was the building running off the propane for heat, the Court Room Area was all electric. Councilman Vey Hey asked about the 339.25 and the 590.00, being paid to Glo Flame? Nanette explained that these two invoices



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was total to the 929.25. Councilman Ver Hey asked about on page 2 on the Profit & Loss statement, on the "Dues & Subscriptions" what was included with the 591.00 and the 546.13? Nanette spoke to say that the 591.00 was for TML yearly dues and the 546.13 was the QB Payroll subscription. Councilman Ver Hey if the Telephone, Internet and Cable bill could be broken down for the understanding as to why it's 799.00? Nanette explained that the Community Center usually runs 144.00 a month where the city hall ran 654.88 total together was the 799.00 amount. She also gave a break down on the city's part was for the telephone business service, long distance, internet and cable, the community center was just internet and cable. Mayor Pro Tem Standifer asked why the water bill was so high at the community center? Nanette stated that last month she had noticed the aerobic sprinklers were going off one afternoon when she was outside, and she went to the community center to see what might be causing this, she then stated that there was a women's toilet running that was causing this to happen with the aerobic system. After receiving the February water bill today, she noticed that the community center's bill went up another 30.00 from the previous month, Mary had gone down this afternoon to check and nothing was running, so Nanette advised the Council that she would be contacting Monarch Water Co. to see if it was a meter problem or what else could be causing this increase. Councilman Jones asked about the hotspot box? Nanette stated that was for the mayor's laptop that he was using of the cities to have internet connection. Councilman Jones asked that laptop can't plug in here at the city? Nanette replied no sir that laptop is not here it is in the mayor's possession. Councilman Ver Hey asked why are we paying for a hotspot for that? Mayor Serrato stated "I'm not using my internet. I'm not using my house." Councilman Ver Hey asked Mayor Serrato "you're not using your internet at the house?" Mayor Serrato said, I needed to use it and the internet so that is where the hotspot comes in. Councilman Ver Hey asked Mayor Serrato, you can't come to the office and use a computer here? Mayor Serrato said, no I can't come to the office all the time like you guys can't come up here all the time. Councilman Ver Hey said, okay so why is it so expensive for a hotspot? I had one for my phone and it was like \$20. Why? Is this one 33.04. Why are we paying so much for it? Councilman Ver Hey said I you can usually get internet at your house cheaper than that. Why so Much? Nanette explained that the 23.00 was for the monthly charge for the hotspot and the 110.00 was for the data that he went over on his usage allowance. Councilman Ver Hey asked why did it go over so much on data usage and why are we paying so much to be able to use a laptop? Mayor Serrato stated that he used the laptop. Councilman Jones asked how much data did the hotspot get for the amount? Nanette stated that the hotspot was 2 gigs. Councilman Ver Hey asked Mayor Serrato if there wasn't another solution for him because he didn't understand, because he uses his computer at home for anything he has to do. Mayor Serrato said, that's your stuff okay. Councilman Ver Hey asked Mayor Serrato why he just couldn't just come to the office though and use the computer the city provided him to use? Mayor Serrato stated that he does have a job like he did. Mayor Serrato stated that he couldn't come to the office Monday through Friday 9-5 or 8-5, so that's where the laptop comes in, he uses it to check his emails. Councilman Ver Hey asked the mayor, so that what you strictly use it for is your emails? What else are you using the laptop for? Councilman Ver Hey once again stated that he didn't understand why the mayor just couldn't use his phone until he could use the city computer at his office? Councilman Jones, stated that he also used his phone. Councilman Ver Hey asked the mayor if this transaction for a hotspot box was approved through the council before being done? The mayor stated that the approval didn't need to be made through the council it was just a hotspot to have internet. Councilman Ver Hey stated yes, but the city pays for the service and



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overages that are being charged, along with having the laptop and hotspot at your home. Councilman Ver Hey stated once again that the mayor had an office with a computer in it here at the city. Mayor Serrato stated that he couldn't come up to the city all the time, and that Councilman Ver Hey had a job to pay for internet at home, but he (the mayor) didn't have a job. Mayor Serrato also explained that he used it for city business and if anyone wanted to look at, they could. Mayor Serrato asked Councilman Ver Hey that he never seen him in here but once a month, Councilman Ver Hey stated that he only the seen the mayor in here once a month. Mayor Serrato asks that the Council to move on that Councilman Ver Hey was just making accusations, so let's move on, either approve it or not. Councilman Ver Hey stated that he was asking about the billing, Mayor Serrato stated that he uses it for work. And if there was an issue then it can be brought up at the next council meeting. Councilman Ver Hey asked again if he could make a motion to maybe we change this? Mayor Serrato stated that he had to email the council back in a timely manner and that he couldn't come up to city hall all the time. Councilman Ver Hey merely wanted to know how could he address this issue on how to change it, change the use of the modem for being paid by the city or not to be paid by the city? Councilman Ver Hey asked why the city was paying so much for the modem? Councilman Castleberry asked have we identified what the issue was, Councilman Ver Hey stated yes, it's a personal modem for the mayor's use, and the city was paying for it without being notified. Councilman Castleberry asks that the council either consider & act upon approving 5 & 6 since the council knows what everything is. And that if the council wanted to make a change and make some kind of motion, then we can put it on the agenda for next month. Councilman Ver Hey asked again, how do we make a motion? What was the next process to make a motion? Mayor Serrato stated that he uses it for work, okay, that Councilman Ver Hey might use his office, that he might have the money to go get internet or pay for internet, but he (Councilman Ver Hey) has more than he does, (Mayor Serrato). Mayor Serrato stated that he doesn't use his phone like the others do that's his personal stuff and that his phone is his, it's not the city's. When I tell the Council what going on with me here in a few minutes there's nothing, this is me. This is my personal stuff. Mayor Serrato stated that in order for him to email the Council things he needed access to the internet. And that is where the laptop comes in along with the internet modem box. Councilman Ver Hey stated that the mayor also had an office that the city pays for you to have a computer so just asking why do we have to pay for the modem box for you to have access to the internet? Why was the city paying extra for this is all he was asking, that was all? Councilman Castleberry stated so, he went over his time, so we paid \$100. Or so. Councilman Ver Hey stated 110. was a lot to go over on usage. Mayor Serrato made a suggestion to Councilman Ver Hey that when the checks were needing to be signed then maybe he should by here to so what all is being paid, and what's going on. Councilman Ver Hey stated that this is the time to bring it up to talk about these things. Mayor Serrato stated you can come in here and just look to see what's going on. Councilman Ver Hey stated I am right here; this is where the councils part come in right? Mayor Serrato stated Ray that enough okay that's enough, all right. That he was not being an adult to talk right now. Okay let's move on. Mayor Serrato stated that is Ray spoke one more time than he would have him removed from the meeting. Mayor Serrato told Councilman Ver Hey to STOP! Just to STOP! Mayor Serrato stated that Councilman Castleberry made it clear that if there was an issue that the council could do it later, Mayor Serrato told Councilman Very Hey, "I'm telling you not to talk", Okay. Councilman Ver Hey stated "I said you could move on" Mayor Serrato asked the Chief of Police to remove him Please. Councilman Ver Hey said, move on. Mayor Serrato, please remove him Chief, he



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stated to Councilman Ver Hey that he was disrupting the meeting and I told you, you don't have full time. Councilman Ver Hey said, move on. Mayor said No! I said don't talk. Mayor Serrato told police dept. to remove him. Councilman Ver Hey asked so, I can't talk the rest of the meeting being a city, Councilman? Mayor Serrato stated No! not today. Mayor Serrato once again asked the police dept. to remove him please that he was disrupting the meeting, we have tried to move on four times, Councilman Ver Hey stated that they could move on four times. Mayor Serrato told Councilman Ver Hey that anything that he placed on the agenda that the council would table until next month's meeting. Mayor Serrato stated to Councilman Ver Hey, that he wasn't going to disrupt the meeting that he had to leave, that he (Mayor) said leave. Councilman Ver Hey stated that he was a part of this council and how was he not approved to talk the rest of the meeting? Mayor Serrato advised him that he was not approved to talk, and should not be talking when he tells him not to be talking anymore, because he (Mayor) has the floor. Mayor: Now again gather your paperwork and leave. We're not going to ask you again to leave, or you will go to jail for disrupting a meeting, please leave. Mayor Serrato told Councilman Ver Hey that the council would table his items. Mayor Serrato asked Chief Portillo to remove Councilman Ver Hey Please, that Councilman Ver Hey could come back next time as a city Councilman. Councilman Ver Hey asked as a City Council member why wasn't he able to talk? Mayor Serrato stated because you don't have the floor to talk, how hard is that? Not one more word and you're still talking. Chief Portillo stated to Councilman Ver Hey let's go we are going to stand here all night. Councilman Ver Hey asks, that what everyone wants then fine. Mayor Pro Tem Riley Standifer stated that he objected to this, that this was ridiculous, Councilman Jones stated "I do too". Mayor Serrato stated, well how about I tell you all, not to talk we will see how that goes. Councilman Jones stated throw us all out and we won't have a meeting then. Mayor Serrato stated to Councilman Ver Hey to get out, Mayor Pro Tem Standifer stated that is Councilman Ver Hey left he was leaving too, because he didn't think that was right. Mayor Serrato stated then you can leave too, Mayor Pro Tem stated I sure can, and that he didn't need to be escorted out. Councilman Ver Hey stated that the mayor was making his own rules, he felt just because something that the council address' and he doesn't like it then he can just throw everyone out of the meeting. Councilman Jones advised that he would be leaving the meeting as well, he felt like this wasn't right to begin with the mayor throwing a Council member out of a meeting. Mayor Serrato stated that @ 6:22 PM the meeting was adjourned for there no longer being a quorum present, with 2 Council Member's leaving and 1 Council Member being removed for disrupting the meeting.

- 5. Approve: Meeting Minutes February Council Meeting**
- 6. Approve: City Financials – February**
- 7. Police Report:**
- 8. Discuss: With Chief Portillo on information with the impound lot.**
- 9. Fire Dept. Report:**



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10. **Discuss: Reimbursement to the Fire Dept. on prior approved budget items that the Fire Dept. paid, from their own funds that was City allocated. / See Attached Documents from 2020.**
11. **Municipal Court Report:**
12. **Discuss Budget Workshop:**
13. **Discuss - Consider & Act Upon: Storage Unit Rental for Municipal Court / Police Dept. (Files) – Tabled from January Meeting – Mayor Pro Tem to get pricing.**
14. **Consider & Act Upon: Computer Purchases for City Departments – See Proposal (Mark Guthrie) with CBS to explain.**
15. **Discuss: Councilman Ver Hey / City Attorney – Eminent Domain**

Open Forum:

- *Open Forum may contain any suggestions and ideas about the city.*
- *Complaints must be in writing. Forms are available at City Hall.*
- *Speakers will be given 3 minutes to speak.*
- *Speakers must sign in prior to speaking.*

*Any person that is unable to attend and wishes to submit questions to the Council can Email the questions to the City Secretary at or Mayor Serrato
Mayor.Serrato@Cityofcoffeecity.com.*

16. **Mayors Report:**
17. **City Secretary Report:**
18. **EDC Report:**
19. **Executive Session: Gov't Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters) City Secretary, Nanette Moss; Court Clerk, Mary McDonald; Fire Chief, Chris Moore; Police Chief, JohnJay Portillo, Mayor, Frank Serrato.**
20. **Reconvene from Executive Session: State Time and Any Action Taken**
21. **Adjournment:**

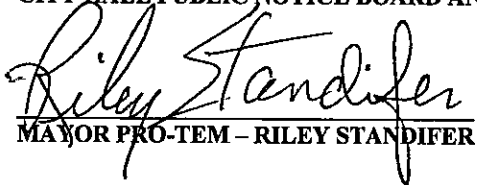
The City Council of the City of Coffee City reserves that right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matters listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, including, but not limited to, Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberation about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberation about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076, (Deliberations about Security Devices), 551.087 (Economic Development), 418.175-183 (Deliberations about Homeland Security Issues) and as authorized by the Texas Tax Code, including, but not limited to, Section 321.3022 (Sales Tax Information).

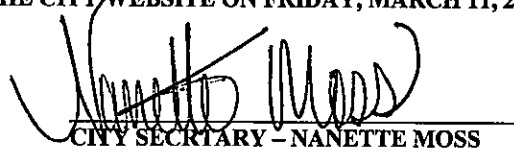
CERTIFICATION



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I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COFFEE CITY, CITY COUNCIL WAS POSTED AT THE CITY HALL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD AND THE CITY WEBSITE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022.


MAYOR PRO-TEM - RILEY STANDIFER


CITY SECRETARY - NANETTE MOSS