



7019 Pleasant Ridge Road CR 4217 * Coffee City, TX 75763 Phone: (903) 876-3414 * Fax: (903) 873-2433

CITY OF COFFEE CITY
City Council Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023 @ 6 pm
7019 CR 4217/Pleasant Ridge Rd
Coffee City, TX 75763

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COFFEE CITY. TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, May 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM AT THE COFFEE CITY HALL, 7019 CR 4217, 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

Jeff Blackstone – Mayor (P)

Carrie Ousley - Place 3 (P)

Ruthie Seward - Place 1 (P)

Keith Skender - Place 4 (P)

Marquis Castleberry – Mayor Pro-Tem (P)

Ollie Harmon - Place 5 (A)

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Jeff Blackstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announce if quorum is present:

Mary McDonald announced roll call. Alderman Ollie Harmon was absent. Mary announced that a quorum was present.

3. Opening remarks:

4. Consider and Act upon approving items 5 & 6.

There were no questions asked regarding city financials or meeting minutes. Ruthie Seward made a motion to approve items 5 & 6. Keith Skender seconds the motion. Motion carries.

5. Approving City financials for April 2023.

6. Approving meeting minutes for the April 10, 2023 council meeting.

7. Consider and Act upon approving new length of term for CDs with Austin Bank.

Mr. Blackstone stated that the city has two CDs that are going to mature, one the 28th of this month and one on June 18th. He stated that we are currently set up on an auto renewal and they'll renew us at 2.6% for 12 months but we've got some programs going that we could capitalize on. He stated that they had a seven month that will get you 4.25% and a 10 month at 4.06%. He stated that it would make sense to choose one of those two options. Mr. Skender asked if it was currently at 0.18% & Mr. Blackstone confirmed. Mr. Castleberry asked if it would be advantageous to the city to do 10 months at 4.06 instead of the 7 months. Mr. Blackstone stated that the only thing doing the 10 month gives you over the 7 month is a little more time. Mr. Skender stated that he thinks in the current environment, he didn't see it going down with the rates across there so he thinks going with either the 7 month or 10 months would be best and that he

thinks it would flatten for a while before they start going back down. Ruthie Seward made a motion to approving a new length of term for the CDs with Austin Bank to the 7 months at 4.25%. Keith Skender seconds the motion. Motion carries.

8. Consider and Act upon approval to create a city ordinance requiring a permit for alarm systems.

Mr. Blackstone stated that this would be something for the Fire Chief or Police Chief to speak on and elaborate. Chief Portillo spoke and stated that they're running into a lot of people with alarms that don't have permits and what happens is the alarm company calls them 5, 6 & 7 times a night and they're having to run priority to make sure the residents aren't being broken into and a lot of it has to do with faulty systems. He stated that with a permit they would get two calls then after that they would be charged for having them come out on a false alarm. He stated that they are very busy and when they have to pull an officer off another call for service just to go get the alarm that they know is false, it takes up their time and resources. He stated that with the permit he hopes that it would push the homeowner to upgrade and make repairs to their systems.

Mr. Castleberry asked Chief Portillo if the ordinance would be \$50.00 after the first two calls if it was a false alarm. Chief Portillo stated that it would be \$50.00 alarm permit that they would pay the city and puts it on file and during that year they get two false alarm calls before they start getting fined. Mr. Blackstone asked if this permit give them information to verify. Chief Portillo confirmed and it would give them the keyholder and hope to help better serve them.

Mrs. Ousley asked what happens if someone doesn't get an alarm permit and Chief Portillo stated that it is normally a \$150.00 fine for not being registered.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the current people with alarms and how they would be notified of this taking effect. Chief Portillo stated that as they receive these calls, they would inform them and give them the paperwork. He stated that they would have to give them a 4-month grace period.

Mrs. Ousley stated that when she was in Houston it was \$25.00 permit fee and \$50.00 seemed a little high and that maybe \$50.00 for business. Chief Portillo stated that is was something for the council to decide on and this was just to give them permission to put something together for them to vote on next month.

Mr. Skender asked if Chief Portillo could give them an idea of how many false alarm calls, they receive in a three-month period. Chief Portillo stated that it is normally 12 calls a month.

Marquis Castleberry made motion to approve creating a city ordinance requiring permits for alarm systems at a \$25.00 a year fee for residents and \$50.00 a year for business with two free warnings and the third we charge. Ruthie Seward seconds the motion. Motion carries.

9. Consider and Act upon receiving bids for the construction of an evidence room to be built on to the police department office.

Mr. Blackstone stated that some days the smell of marijuana housed in the evidence room is strong and that it's full. He stated that it was full and there were a lot of things in there that not as secure as we would like for it to be and more rooms are needed. He stated that they were considering maybe going behind the police department office where there is a space to be able to extend out to house all the evidence. He stated they were wanting to go a head and come up with a design plan and take some estimates to get the work done. Mr. Skender asked if this would only be for evidence and Mr. Blackstone confirmed.

Chief Portillo spoke that they reason this was needed was because of the increase of them picking up fentanyl and PCP and when you open the door, they can fell it on your skin and it starts to itch. Mrs. Ousley asked how long they needed to be kept and Chief Portillo stated that they had drugs form 2008 in there and that it's a long lengthy process to disposing of drugs and that he's working with the DA's office on. Mrs. Ousley asked how big of a space was needed. Chief Portillo stated they were looking for 10x10 possibly. Mr. Blackstone stated that they would need to get some measurements to figure out what would fit in that space and how they can make it work and that this was to just start the process of getting some ideas and coming up with a plan.

Ruthie Seward made a motion to approve receiving bids for the construction of an evidence room to be built on to the police department. Carrie Ousley seconds the motion. Motion carries.

10. Consider and Act upon accepting one of three bids submitted for one driveway repair located on Coffee Landing Road.

Mr. Blackstone stated they had bids for asphalt for repairs to the driveway that Mr. Lacy has come in to discuss about the steep approach because of road construction that was done. He stated that a while back when the road was resurfaced it was evened out and cars drag when entering the driveway. Mrs. Seward stated that it seemed that it wasn't the city and it would be a residential problem. Mr. Blackstone stated that he thought so to but they were told years ago by different administrations that it would be taken care and so it has now fallen on them because of verbal agreements that were promised. Mrs. Seward stated they would have to get with Henderson County regarding this also. Mr. Blackstone stated that they have been trying and he decided to just go out and get some bids to at least show that they were trying to do something and not just ignoring the problem. He stated that the least expensive one was for \$1,500.00 and that was a lot of money for something that he felt wasn't the city's problem but didn't have all the legal reference to say no and that he will leave it up to council to decide.

Mr. Castleberry spoke that when the road was resurfaced it was built up higher than the drive way and was never made to be even with it at the time the work was done. Mr. Blackstone stated that it didn't get done and now it's fallen on us to fix the problem. Mrs. Seward asked if the city could do half. Mr. Blackstone stated that they would something for council to decide and that if they wanted to they could table it and he or he and Mr. Castleberry can go talk to Mr. Lacy and tell him that these are the bids we received and how much it would cost and the city is willing to potentially go in half on the \$1,500.00 bid and see if he is in agreement and then we will come back to vote on it.

Carrie Ousley made a motion to table the accepting a bid submitted on the driveway repair located on Coffee Landing Road until a future meeting once they've had the opportunity to speak with the owners about prices. Ruthie Seward seconds the motion. Motion carries.

11. Consider and Act upon accepting and adopting the resolution for the JAG grant for the Police Department (previously approved by council on February 14, 2022 and grant has been awarded).

Ruthie Seward made a motion to adopt the resolution for the JAG grant for the Police Department. Marquis Castleberry seconds the motion. Motion carries.

12. Fire Dept. Report:

Mr. Blackstone stated that Fire Chief stepped out. Move to the police report then come back.

Chris Moore gave the fire report. He stated they only had 12 calls for service and 5 were canceled in route. He discussed upcoming events and trainings that were going to take place. He also stated that they had received a large donation of things that consisted of everything from clothes to over-the-counter medicines, shoes, soap. He stated that they gave a lot to local churches and the women's crisis center out of Athens picked up some as well. He stated that the medication was disposed of because they were expired.

13. Police Dept. Report:

Chief Portillo gave the police department report. He stated that they had 1,756 calls for service. He stated that they had 6 felony arrest and 15 warrants that involved narcotics. There were 465 citations, 305 warnings and 3 DUIs. He stated that the house on 4217 with the dogs, those dogs were gone for about a month and have shown back up so they will be getting warrants and plan to put the dogs down on Saturday. Vehicle maintenance was also reviewed.

14. Municipal Court Report:

Mary McDonald gave the court report. A total of \$65,724.09 was collected, \$27,063.26 went to the city and a total of 36 warrants were cleared.

15. EDC Report:

No EDC report was given as they were not able to hold a meeting last month.

Mr. Blackstone stated that the EDC was in need of members at least two or three and encouraged people to volunteer.

16. Open Forum:

- Open Forum is limited to items currently on the agenda.
- Speakers must sign in 5 minutes before the beginning of the meeting.
- Speakers will be given 3 minutes to speak.

Any person that is unable to attend and wishes to submit questions to the council can e-mail the questions to the City Secretary at citysecretary@cityofcoffeecity.com

Lionel Ware spoke to council about cars and trailer being parked in the road and asked if council could put up no parking signs. He stated that it was hard getting through with the things parked there. Chief Moore spoke and stated that the rescue truck couldn't make it to a call one day because it had gotten stuck by trying to go around the parked vehicle. Chief Portillo spoke and stated that he can call the PD phone and someone will go out there and start writing citations for obstruction of roadway and if they're there it's a class B misdemeanor.

Anthony Vrba spoke and asked where we stand with the two properties that he had previously mentioned regarding trash. Code enforcement officer detective Stewart spoke and stated that they have actually been cited for the trash and that she has notified them that they can be cited every day they're in violation. She stated that today she noticed a fence was put up instead of actually cleaning up the place. She stated that she is aware of the issue and is taking the steps to resolve it.

Joni Harbert spoke and asked about trimming the tree that is located at city hall near the road and said that it was hard to see when trying to turn out and that she would do it herself if she could. Chris Moore stated that they would try to get someone to get it done this Saturday. She then asked if there was a way to get a flashing light at the intersection of 155 and FM 3506. Mr. Blackstone stated that they would not due that anymore due to people being confused and that they are working on trying to get an actual red light placed there. Chief Portillo spoke and stated that it was something that the mayor, fire chief and himself are working on and the ball is moving on it, it just takes time to get it done.

17. Adjournment:

Ruthie Seward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marquis Castleberry seconds the motion. Jeff Blackstone adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

The City Council of the City of Coffee City reserves the 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, Section 551.071 (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 Cod, including, but not limited to, Section 321.3022 (Sales Tax Information).

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA BY THE COFFEE CITY, CITY COUNCIL WAS POSTED AT THE CITY HALL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD AND THE CITY WEBSITE ON FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 BY 5:00 PM.



JEFF BLACKSTONE
MAYOR



MARY MCDONALD
CITY SECRETARY