



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
November 13, 2023 @ 6 pm
7019 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, NOVEMBER 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM AT THE COFFEE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER, 7019 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 PURSANT 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 (A)

Keith Skender - Place 4 (P)

Marquis Castleberry – Mayor Pro-Tem (P)

Ollie Harmon - Place 5 (P)

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 and a quorum being present.

3. Opening remarks:

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

Mr. Blackstone stated that they would not be approving the minutes for the October 23, 2023 town hall meeting but they will be placed on next month's agenda for approval.

Carrie Ousley made a motion to approve items 5 & 6 the October 2023 city financials and the October 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries.

5. Approving City financials for October 2023.

Keith Skender asked about the fuel expense. Mr. Blackstone stated that he believed it was for August through September so this would be the last big fuel expense. Mary McDonald confirmed it and stated that closing date on the fuel account is the 23rd of each month so what they were looking at was for August 24 through September 23rd.

6. Approving meeting minutes for the October 9, 2023 City Council Meeting and October 23, 2023 Town Hall Meeting

7. Consider and Act upon the sale of some of the police department vehicles.

Jeff Blackstone stated that he had reached out to a company in Tyler that does all the Tyler's vehicles as well as other cities around just to get his idea of what will be our option for getting ready to sell these cars. He stated that some of them were purchased as old DPS units at \$1,200 to \$1,800 each and they have high

miles and beat up. He stated that the company he spoke with said they had two options, one to decommission them, which is bringing them to a company like this one and they strip all the gear off that makes it a police vehicle then you are able to turn around and auction them. Going this way you won't get very much for them because there's not much value to those cars when they're stripped down. He stated that the other option is to remove all the graphics from the vehicles and remove all radios because those were just purchases under a grant. He stated that we would also have to remove the computer and printers but leave all the lights and other equipment because that's how you're going to get the most value because we have already had Brownsboro department reach out interested in purchasing a unit and Kilgore college as well. He stated that there are multiple websites that you can list your government vehicles and it goes out nationwide to departments that are looking for inexpensive cars. He stated that this company would make minor repairs that are needed and that they would possibly be interested in purchasing the charges that the engine is about to blow and because they would rebuild the motor. He stated that if they were interested the gentleman would put together a proposal on what it would cost to do the repairs and get them ready to sell and also would help valuing them to market on the websites and if cleaned up, depending on the mileage they could be worth anywhere between \$12,000 and \$15,000 apiece.

Marquis Castleberry asked who the company was and Mr. Blackstone stated it was a company out of Tyler called Central Point Group. Mr. Blackstone stated that because of the age and milage on the vehicles the company recommended keeping them as emergency vehicles to get the most of them. He also stated that it was recommended that the city keeps one of the Tahoe for extra vehicle that the fire department could possibly use or have ready to go if the police department was reestablished.

Carrie Ousley asked if he was given a rate of what it would cost to take everything off and make repairs. Mr. Blackstone stated that he would give him one if they were interested.

Mr. Castleberry asked how many vehicles the city had and how many should they keep should we get a department back. Mr. Blackstone stated that there were five vehicles and due to the state of them he would recommend just keeping one. Mr. Blackstone stated this was just to make a motion to proceed with moving forward and decide if they wanted to sell and he would get him to give all the information together for them to review and then make a final approval. Carrie Ousley stated that she would make a motion to get a quote from the company to review. Mrs. Ousley also asked if they should get more than just one quote to review. Mr. Blackstone stated that he could reach out to see if there were other outfitters in the area that might be interested in doing the same thing. Marquis Castleberry made a motion to move forward with the sale of some of the police department vehicles. Ollie Harmon seconds the motion. Motion carries.

8. Fire Dept. Report:

Fire Chief, Chris Moore, gave the fire report. He reported a total of 25 calls for the month and presented the breakdown of those calls. He discussed the past events and upcoming events and trainings that the department has coming up.

9. Municipal Court Report:

Mary McDonald gave the municipal court report. Stated that there was a total of \$25,860.30 collected. \$7,375.40 goes back to the state and \$13,716.42 to be kept by the city.

10. EDC Report:

Vicki Castleberry gave the EDC report. She discussed that the EDC was working on cleaning up some of the city ordinances to help with the cleaning up of the city and would be bringing those to the city for approval. She stated that they are finalizing the welcome signs that they are working on putting up along with the new logo for the strip center on 155. She stated that they were waiting on the city attorney to discuss the property that is to be gifted to the EDC. She also stated that she had been in contact with the owners of Kilo's Liquor to see when they planned on getting the changes done outside the building. She stated that he promised that they would be done by Thanksgiving or they would have to return the grant money that was given to them. She stated they would want the council to consider their name for the property on 3506 and Highsaw trail. She also stated that they are waiting the remainder of next week to see if they can get 5 or more vendors for the Christmas market or they would cancel the event.

Mr. Blackstone asked what their process was in name selection for the property. Mrs. Castleberry stated that they had talk amongst themselves and the guest that attended a couple of the EDC meetings that gave

them some ideas. She stated the reason they chose multi-purpose was because they were looking to prepare it for different events and activities and not just one thing because they are hoping that they can get the gifted property to provide something more for the city to have businesses there.

Mr. Blackstone asked what the sale price was for the property that is to be gifted. Ray Ver Hey stated that it was listed at \$495,000.00 for the entire seven acres.

Mr. Blackstone stated that the ordinances are something we currently have so just need to figure out a way to enforce those which would probably require the city secretary to form a letter and send out certified notices to notify them they are in violation and give them a time to correct it and if not also state what will happen. Mrs. Castleberry stated that there were some adjustments they wanted to make and bring to the council to review and discuss.

11. Consider and Act upon approving the name selection of the property on the corner of Highsaw Trail and FM 3506 as “Coffee City Multi-Purpose Park”.

This item was skipped during the meeting and no action was taken.

12. Consider and Act upon the EDC & City moving forward with the gifted property located at the corner of HWY 155 and FM 3506.

This item was skipped during the meeting and no action was taken.

13. Discussion: Neighborhood Crime Watch

Mr. Blackstone that now that we don't have an active police department Mr. Castleberry brought it to his attention of a neighborhood crime watch. He stated that he agrees and neighborhoods needed to become more proactive in watching out for their neighbors. He stated that if they see something it should be reported. He said he had spoken with Sheriff Hillhouse because someone had called him regarding a motorcycle gang rolling down 155 and into Kilo's parking lot and his warehouse parking lot after hours when there's nobody around. He stated that the gentleman had called the nonemergency line so nothing really happened for it. He stated that they needed to call the emergency dispatch line so they can actually dispatch the closet deputy out. He stated that he thinks it's important that we all start to try to really look for suspicious vehicles, suspicious people and report anything. He stated they should take pictures, license plates, pictures of vehicles and look at cameras. He stated that if you didn't already have cameras up he would recommend some sort of ring camera at your porch or driveway. Mr. Castleberry spoke and stated that he had talked to Sheriff Hillhouse during the town hall meeting and he had stated that he thought this would be a good idea and help citizens feel comfortable knowing that we are all looking out for one another. He stated that the Sheriff had experience in this and would be willing to come out and speak to the council and citizens should they want to start something.

14. 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

No one signed for open forum but Mr. Blackstone asked if anyone had any questions.

Ray Ver Hey spoke and stated that he wasn't at the town hall meeting but wanted to know if they could possibly suggest to the Sheriff using one of the city offices to have someone close by instead of far out. Mr. Blackstone spoke and stated the Sheriff was at the meeting and it was something that was brought up and his response was basically they only have so many officers available during certain shifts and they only have so many on each side of the county. He stated that they were understaffed as well and maybe it could potentially be something down the road if he had more officers but for the time they are just working the best they can with the number of officers they have.

15. Adjournment:

Ollie Harmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Ousley seconds the motion. Motion carries and meeting adjourned at 6:27 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, NOVEMBER 13, 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 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 BY 5:00 PM.



JEFF BLACKSTONE
MAYOR



MARY MCDONALD
CITY SECRETARY