



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

CITY OF COFFEE CITY
Special Called City Council Meeting
July 29, 2024 @ 6 pm
7019 Pleasant Ridge Rd
Coffee City, TX 75763

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COFFEE CITY. TO BE HELD ON **MONDAY, July 29, 2024, at 6:00 PM AT THE COFFEE CITY, CITY HALL, 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 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)	VACANT - Place 4
Marquis Castleberry – Mayor Pro-Tem (P)	Ollie Harmon - Place 5 (A)

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Jeff Blackstone called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announce if quorum is present:

Mary McDonald announced roll call and that a quorum was present.

3. Opening remarks:

4. Approving meeting minutes for the July 15, 2024 Special Called Council Meeting.

Ruthie Seward made a motion to approve the July 15, 2024 special called council meeting minutes. Marquise Castleberry seconds the motion. Motion carries.

5. Review & discuss the 2024 – 2025 City and EDC Budget.

Mr. Blackstone stated that they would be going over the budget and that Mary had put some numbers together, showing the 23-24 budget and year to date, then a proposed budget for the upcoming year. He stated since the termination of the police department in September we had seen a drop in court revenue so that would be something that would drastically change. He then mentions that for the sales tax, there had been a drop and what was brought in was below what was proposed.

Ruthie Seward asked about Bright speed paying franchise fees and Mary stated that nothing had been received. Mrs. Seward suggested that we reach out to them and ask the status.

Mr. Blackstone stated the community center income was up compared to previous years and he felt it was because the police department was gone. Mr. Blackstone asked if the electric bill for the community center was paid by the city or the funds from the rental, Mary stated it was paid by the city.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the permit fess income that was listed and Mary stated that it would be the firework stands that set up during holidays. She stated that since the council passed the city ordinance regarding permits, individuals that set up firework stands within the city now have to receive a permit from city hall and that includes a fee to be paid.

Mrs. Seward asked about the account balances and that she didn't see them listed, Mary stated that she did

not list them and didn't notice but will get those numbers and email them to the council.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the \$50,000.00 under court income and Mary stated that earlier in the day when she was reviewing numbers, she lowed it to \$21,800 along with the income listed under the restricted accounts.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the election expense being \$4,000.00 but he thought it was closer to \$2,000.00 on the interlocal agreement. Mary stated that she would check that agreement and adjust the numbers on the budget.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the \$6,000.00 under dues and subscriptions and if any of it had to do with a police department. Mary stated that it did not and it pertained to city emails, QuickBooks. Mrs. Seward asked if that included the insurance and Mary stated that it did not and it was listed in another portion of the budget.

Mr. Blackstone asked why the insurance was so high with not having a police department and Mary stated that it will be going down as it will be renewing soon and will reflect the change of not having a department.

Mr. Blackstone stated that the court expenses really need to be looked at being that a projection of only \$21,800.00 is listed as income. He stated that \$6,000.00 for the Judge, \$6,000.00 for the prosecutor and almost \$25,000.000 for the court clerk is a lot and more than the total income from the court. He asked where the \$6,000.00 came from and Mary stated that it's half of what was budged last year when they were attending court twice a month and now with no police department, they come only once a month. Mr. Blackstone stated that it seems that the court is costing the city money and pulling off the city's budget just to cover court expenses. He stated that the income coming is from late collections of hold tickets. Mary stated that she also reduced the legal fees for the count from \$1,500.00 to \$1,000.00.

Mr. Blackstone asked if the NetData case management was something that was needed for the court with no police department and Mary stated yes, as long as people were still paying and have open cases, the system is required. Mr. Blackstone stated that with all the expenses from the court it seems like shutting down the court will need to be something to think about. Mr. Blackstone asked how the cases played out for those that wanted to fight them and no officers are employed here. Mary stated that, just like last Friday, the court had subpoenaed the officers on the cases to appear to which they did. Mary did state that any cases from the officers that were indicted are in the process if not already done to be dismissed.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the new item of iPad listed under the fire department expenses. Fire Chief, Bill Johnston, stated that it was for the new notification system that they are using and it requires each vehicle to have one. Mr. Blackstone asked how much the fire department receives from the county as far as funding and Mr. Johnston stated that last year it was right at \$18,000.00.

Mr. Blackstone stated that they need to look into seeing if having a court clerk is necessary to have at all or at least reduce her hours for the next few months.

Mr. Blackstone next moved to the repairs and maintenance item for the community center for \$2,500.00. He stated that we need to see if that is something that the EDC would be able to assist with covering as in previous years, that have listed community center improvements in their budgets.

Mr. Blackstone moved to utilities. He asked about the cost for telephone/internet/cable and why it was so high. Mary stated that it included the business hosted phone lines and that it could be reduced if we removed the cable due to not having a reason for it. Mary stated that cable is also being paid for in the community center which is also not needed. Mrs. Seward suggested that we contact them and see what could be done to reduce the monthly bill and Mary confirmed that she would do that.

Mr. Blackstone asked about the building security item and if it was for the alarm system and Mary confirmed that it was.

Fire Chief Bill Johnston stated that they were applying for a grant for the AED so that expense could be removed from the city budget. He then stated that the expense for nozzles could be cut in half.

Mrs. Ousley went back to the repairs on the community center to confirm that they would like for the EDC to consider assisting with, Mr. Blackstone confirmed he did and she stated that she would speak with the EDC board regarding it.

Council moved on to review the EDC budget and Mr. Blackstone asked about the service agreement with the city and if it was listed on the city budget. Mary confirmed that it was and it was a little bit higher than the previous year.

Marquis Castleberry asked if the \$50,000.00 listed on the EDC budget was for the welcome signs the EDC

has been working on getting. Mrs. Ousley confirmed that it was but they are going to be looking for something smaller than what they initially wanted.

Mr. Blackstone asked and the venue and events expense and if it was only for the EDC assisting with the firework shows at the resort. Mary stated that it was but also included assisting in other events such as the belts and hoses fishing tournament the fire departments host each year. Mr. Blackstone stated that with the EDC assisting the resort for most events, they need to think about annexing that part into the city.

Mr. Blackstone asked if anyone had anymore questions regarding the budget other than the items that they reviewed and made changes to. He stated that we will have those numbers updated and gather more information regarding the insurance and telephone lines to help reduce those cost.

6. Discuss, Consider and Act upon changing the date of the August 2024 city council meeting.

Mr. Blackstone stated they he wanted to reschedule the regular scheduled meeting due to Mary not being able to attend that day. Ruthie Seward made a motion to table and set date at a later time after everyone is able to review their schedule. Carrie Ousley seconds the motion. Motion carries.

7. Adjournment:


Ruthie Seward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Ousley seconds the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 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, JULY 29, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA BY THE COFFEE CITY, CITY COUNCIL WAS POSTED AT THE CITY HALL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD AND CITY WEBSITE ON FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024 BY 5:00 PM.



JEFF BLACKSTONE
MAYOR

MARY MCDONALD
CITY SECRETARY