

COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024, 6:00PM
ESD 10 (COUPLAND) FIRE STATION
410 FM 1466
COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM.

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02pm and declared a quorum. All members of the council were present.

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

Alderwoman Piper motioned that the minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Roulston-Bates. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF MAY 31, 2024

We are still \$2500 short on Ad Valorem tax, which we will need to take into consideration while doing the next budget. Also, the city's insurance (liability and cyber security) has increased significantly for the upcoming year. The financial reports were approved by the council.

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 were no citizen communications at this meeting.

5. PRESENTATION BY ADAM ROCHE

Adam Roche - Vice President for Austin operations for Dynamic Systems, Travis Everetts, and Michael Hess, were in attendance for tonight's presentation. They currently employ about 900 full time employees in Austin, at Samsung and Tesla. They have also done work for University of Texas, Seton & St.David's hospitals. They are projecting a little over 11.1 billion dollars in work for this year. Dynamic Systems does a lot of mechanical contracting, general healthcare work, lab projects, etc.

They are proposing putting a fabrication facility here in Coupland that would support Samsung. They're current shop is in Buda, Texas, and is their main "clean room" location. They are currently leasing a space in Taylor for a light fabrication shop, which they will be moving here. The shop would entail gasses like Argon, and plastics, with the employees wearing protective suits to help keep the particle count down. They will also be setting up an orbital welding machine to help weld the pipes, and that requires a trickle of Argon.

The property they are looking at is just up the road, next to Boggy Creek, and includes a 6,000 square foot barndominium, and roughly 16 acres. They are still working on the planning, and looking into potentially using the building that already exists. However, if that is not an option, they would be looking at placing a 70-80 ft by 125-170 ft building on

the property. The property is currently on Manville water, so they are assuming they will most likely need to build a storage tank with pumps.

The proposed building/clean room would be around 12,000 square feet and would employ at least 12 full time employees. They are optimistic that that number will grow. There will be delivery trucks picking up and dropping things off throughout the day, but it will be a smaller operation, not hundreds of cars. Their hope is that by having their business in the area, it will increase overall revenue and amenities for the City of Coupland. After securing a property, the next step would be to submit for an annexation request.

Roulston-Bates motioned that the city council looks forward to receiving a submission from Dynamic Systems Inc., with Piper seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

6. PRESENTATION BY DEBRAH CANDELAS

Mrs. Candelas was not present at the meeting.

7. COMPREHENSIVE CITY MAP (JOHN ROULSTON BATES)

The current city map that was placed on the city's website was a scanned version, and unclear to read. John Roulston-Bates has created a much clearer version that lists the six zones that the city has, with colored borders along each zone. There is also a key that describes each zone. This new version of the map would be replacing the current map that is on the website.

Piper motioned to approve the resolution to submit the new city map to the website. Wells Mason seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

8. DISCUSSION TO GENERATE AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING THE CITY TO PAY TO MOW PEOPLES LOTS WHO DON'T COMPLY WITH REQUEST AND PLACING LIEN ON THEIR PROPERTY UNTIL MOWING BILL IS PAID.

The city of Coupland currently has an issue with individuals refusing to mow their lawn, even after receiving a nuisance ordinance violation letter. Mayor Schmidt would like to research an ordinance that would allow the city to mow people's lawns who are not complying and then place a lien on said property until they pay the fine. Mayor Schmidt will consult with the city attorney to check on how this would be done, but there needs to be a process for after people are notified of a violation and are not responding.

The city council was in approval of this.

9. DR.PARCELL, COUPLAND SUPERINTENDENT

The city of Coupland ISD recently got a new website to make it easier/ideal for parents, and anyone new to Coupland. The new website is ADA compliant and has links that show everything from the lunch menu, the board of trustees and a space for parent's to log in and view their student's grades. They also have a new system/app that will notify parents and members of the community who opt-in of any updates, including weather, etc.

The school board will have a board meeting coming up. The architect for the new middle school build will be presenting the final drawings and bid. If the board approves it, they will give the go-ahead, and eventually put it out for contractors. The goal is for September to be the month that they begin breaking ground. The sewer board is also allowing them to hook up to their system so that they can avoid putting in numerous septic tanks. Dr. Parcell also said they are also short on taxes, their insurance has increased significantly, and they are still functioning on the 2019 funding formula.

Coupland ISD is also implementing an “intervention program” for all students, 1st grade through 8th grade, where each student will receive help with whatever they need (math, reading, science, etc.) in two 30 minute blocks. They will also have an enrichment program for qualifying students, who can work on STEM or gardening projects.

They will also be changing their summer school program next summer. They will still include their ESL program, and a traditional summer school for 2 weeks, all day, of math and reading. The following two weeks will be “camp”, that will be math and literacy based, and will include more games and activities. Next year, they will also have a summer feeding program for kids that can show up and eat the food on site.

10. MAYOR UPDATES

The sewer board met with TXDot, and they are having to locate some lines and will be redoing a culvert and cutting a line. They will begin doing this in December or January, and will start in segments. Their plan is to complete this in one day, so that traffic isn't blocked off for too long. When the time comes, we will announce any road closures to the city.

As an update for the stop signs that were placed on Hoxie- we still have people running the stop signs, however, large truck traffic has decreased, which was the goal.

Mayor Schmidt received the interlocal agreement back from the judge, and it was signed and approved. They are doing preliminary work for CR 458, but at this moment, we are not the ones holding the project up.

11. COUPLAND ESD 10 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

The fire department will be advertising for paid day crews within the next week. The intention is to run 7am-7pm, Monday through Friday, with three people to a crew, split between Coupland and Thrall. The fire department is currently at an ISO 5. The fire department is also buying into the Texas Emergency services retirement system, meaning anyone who has been a volunteer for 10 years has the ability to have a small pension. The maximum volunteer service is 15 years.

They also have two new trucks in build out, one new response vehicle in build out, and within the next year they will have a new engine, and they also have a few other updates coming up.

For the month of May, Coupland ESD had 57 calls. Of which, just under half were in the old coupland fire district, 22 of those were medical, 7 motor vehicle accidents, 8 electrical hazards, 5 outside fires, 3 structure fires or alarms, 4 citizen assists and 1 boat rescue.

12. COUPLAND CITIZENS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RECOGNITION

Soon, we will need to begin working on the budget, as well as Truth in Taxation.

13. THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING (SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE WORKSHOP) WILL BE JULY 2ND, 2024.

THE NEXT COUPLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JULY 16TH.

14. ADJOURN MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Rachel Wrzuszczak, City Secretary

Russell Schmidt, Mayor