

City of Coolidge
Council Meeting
Official Minutes

November 14, 2023
6:30 P.M.

The City of Coolidge regularly scheduled Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane H. Causey at 6:30 P.M.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by City Manager Don Cole.

The Oath of Office was administered to new Council Member W. C. Smith.

Approve October 3, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve October 10, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve October 10, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes:

Motion-Leger; Second-F. Johnson; Gilligan-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve October 24, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Speaker Appearance: Josh Bernabe

Mr. Bernabe was scheduled to be a Speaker but was not in attendance.

Approve Order of Agenda:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; Leger-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve Bills to be paid:

Motion-F. Johnson; Second-Gilligan; Leger-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Administrative Department

City Manager Report – copy provided in Council folders

Finance Department

Set 2024 Budget Public Hearing Date – December 5th, 5:30 PM:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; Leger-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve LightBox Proposal:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-F. Johnson; Gilligan-aye; Leger-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve Council Retreat – January 20, 2024:

Motion-F. Johnson; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve payment of Employee Bonuses – November 22nd:

Council had discussion and consideration of whether the new employee, hired only one day ago, should be paid the same Christmas bonus as the rest of the employees of \$150.00.

Councilmembers F. Johnson and M. Johnson both felt that he has not been employed long enough to merit the full bonus amount and felt it would not be fair to the other employees who have been here for years for him to receive the same amount they do. They both feel that an employee should be employed for at least 90 days before consideration for the full Christmas bonus.

Councilmember Gilligan felt that, in the spirit of Christmas and the amount not being that much, Council should approve the \$150.00 bonus for all employees.

Motion to approve-Gilligan; Second-Leger

Councilmember F. Johnson wanted to ask the fellow employees present at the meeting what their thoughts and opinions were before voting because he felt they would be the ones affected the most by the decision and wanted to give the employees a chance to voice their feelings on the matter.

After listening to the employees and the consensus being agreement with the 90-day employment period, Councilmember F. Johnson suggested giving the new employee a \$50.00 "Christmas gift" as a gesture to welcome him.

Councilmember Gilligan withdrew his previous motion.

Motion to approve paying Employee Bonuses of \$150.00 to all long-term employees and a \$50.00 "Christmas gift" to the new employee-F. Johnson; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye

Unanimously approved.

Approve Employee Appreciation Lunch (approx. \$200.00) – December 14th:

Motion-Leger; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve Council annual pay – November 22nd:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Police Department

Chief's Report – copy provided in Council folders

Approve Flock Safety System:

Motion-Smith; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; Leger-aye; M. Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Public Works Report given by Chief Campbell, who is also Interim Public Works Director. Information provided in Council folders.

Approve Fall Clean-up Week (Roll-off Bin) – Nov. 17th – Nov. 24th:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve RPI Proposal for Water and Sewer taps – Beeline Rd. (Geranium Ave.):

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gilligan-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Recreation Department

Playground:

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – December 2nd, 10:00 AM

Councilmember F. Johnson would like to discuss upgrading the Ball Field at a future Workshop.

New Business

No business to discuss.

Old Business

No business to discuss.

Public Comment

Tonia Gentry commented on the stray dog problem and the leash law.

Executive Session - Personnel

City Manager six-month evaluation

Motion to Enter Executive Session:

Motion-F. Johnson; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; M. Johnson-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within the exception by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of the meeting is/are:

(F.) Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).

Council addressed and discussed the relevant subject matter.

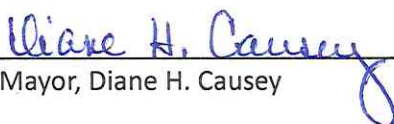
Motion to Exit Executive Session:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; Leger-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn:

Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Gilligan; F. Johnson-aye; Leger-aye; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.



Mayor, Diane H. Causey



Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember F. Johnson
Councilmember Gilligan
Councilmember Leger
Councilmember M. Johnson
Councilmember Smith

Absent

Councilmember Braswell