

City of Coolidge
Workshop
Official Minutes

October 10, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

SPEAKER APPEARANCE: Meherrin Representatives: Glenn Bryan, Dax Bryan, and Jim Smith

Mayor Causey introduced Mr. Bryan, Mr. Bryan, and Mr. Smith and thanked them for coming to speak to Council and citizens.

The gentlemen gave an overview of the company, Meherrin – length of time in business, locations, products and services, number of employees in Coolidge, etc.

Councilmember M. Johnson raised her concerns regarding the Meherrin storage tanks located next to the City Park and Playground. The concern is whether the contents being stored in the tanks is considered safe for children to be around.

In the past year, the company has had an engineering firm come and inspect the tanks for thickness and integrity. The tanks have had liners installed as an extra layer of protection for safety measures. The materials being stored inside are nitrogen-based products with a small amount of sulfur. The materials are not regulated by DOT as hazardous materials to be transported. The materials are evaluated and are regulated under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard for safety from exposure. The main product someone might smell or be exposed to is ammonia in the air, but the concentration of the ammonia in the open air is low enough to be considered nonharmful to humans by OSHA. Ammonia is an irritant to the nose and eyes, but there are no long-term effects from inhalation of ammonia and it is not a carcinogen. As far as the limited potential of exposure to children at the Playground, they do not feel there should be a huge concern there. They do monthly inventory evaluations and reports and that information is provided on a website for First Responders in the event they should have to respond to some kind of accident or emergency having to do with the tanks and chemicals. The tanks themselves are self-venting and are not pressurized, which is safer in the event of a fire.

Councilmember F. Johnson asked all three gentlemen if they would have any reservations taking their children or grandchildren to play at the Playground next to the storage tanks, and they all answered that they would not have any problem at all taking their children or grandchildren to play at that location.

Mayor Causey asked if there were any other questions and there were none.

She thanked the gentlemen for coming to share the information about Meherrin and answer questions from Council and residents.

REVIEW PROPOSED 2023 MILLAGE RATE – 10.835 Mills:

City Manager Cole reviewed the proposed 2023 Millage Rate (10.835 mills) with Council. There were no questions.

DISCUSS AGENDA:

Items discussed:

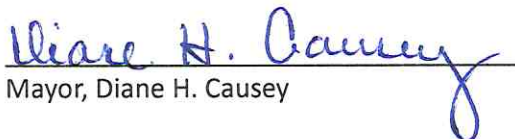
- 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Ordinance
- Lease of Kyocera copier
- Municipal Court Software Fee
- Budget Workshops – October 17th & 24th
- GEFA approved \$71,000 for Phase 1 of Lead and Copper Line Replacement
- Playground Unit delivered and awaiting installation
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new Playground

Items not on Agenda:

- Request from Councilmember F. Johnson to put on Agenda to discuss upgrade of Ball Park
- Tonia Gentry complaint of Thomas County Public Works creating ruts in her yard when ditch cleaning

Adjourn

Workshop adjourned.


Mayor, Diane H. Causey


Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember F. Johnson (via telephone)
Councilmember M. Johnson
Councilmember Braswell (arrived 5:40 p.m.)

Absent

Councilmember Gilligan
Councilmember Leger