

City of Coolidge
Council Meeting
Official Minutes

January 16, 2024
6:30 PM

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

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

Approve December 5, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

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

Approve December 12, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes:

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

Approve December 14, 2023, Called Meeting Minutes:

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

Speaker Appearance: James (Jimbo) Coleman

Mr. James Coleman had requested to speak to Council, so his name was added to the Agenda tonight. However, Mr. Coleman decided to come speak to Council at the Workshop preceding the Council meeting instead.

Incumbent Councilmembers Todd Braswell and Melissa Harper Johnson and new Councilmember Tonia Gentry took the Oath of Office and were sworn in by Asst. City Clerk Stephanie Mock.

Appoint Mayor Pro Tem:

Councilmember M. Johnson nominated Councilmember Elizabeth Leger.

Mayor Causey asked if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Motion to appoint Councilmember Elizabeth Leger as Mayor Pro Tem-M. Johnson; Second-Braswell; F. Johnson-aye; Gentry-aye; Smith-aye; Leger-abstained
Motion carries.

Approve Order of Agenda with addition of *Appoint City Attorney, Approve List of Recognized Holidays in the Personnel Policy with the addition of the Juneteenth Holiday, and Resolution for Council to inquire and investigate the actions of a Coolidge Police Officer involving two Response calls:*

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

Approve Bills to be paid:

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

Administrative Department

City Manager Report – Copy provided in Council folders

Finance Department

Approve Letter of Engagement for Valenti, Rackley & Associates – 2023 Audit:

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

Approve list of Recognized Paid Holidays with addition of the Juneteenth Holiday:

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

Appoint City Attorney:

Motion to appoint Kyle Swan as City Attorney-M. Johnson; Second-Leger

Before calling for “All in Favor”, Mayor Causey wanted to read a letter to Council addressed to her from Drew, Eckl, & Farnham, the Law Firm of City of Coolidge Attorney, Tommy Coleman. The letter was the formal Resignation of Tommy Coleman, current City Attorney, effective immediately.

Accept Tommy Coleman’s Resignation as City Attorney:

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

Appoint Kyle Swan as City Attorney:

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

Councilmember Freddie Johnson stated he feels we should send a letter of appreciation or a card or do something to recognize and show our appreciation to Mr. Coleman for over 25 years of service as City Attorney for the City of Coolidge. Other Council members agreed.

Police Department

Chief’s Report – Copy provided in Council folders

Public Works Department

Public Works Report – Copy provided in Council folders

Street Department

No business to discuss

Recreation Department

City Manager Don Cole will check on when the Christmas lights will be taken down.

Ballfield Improvement:

Council discussed at the Workshop preceding the meeting.

New Business

No new business to discuss.

Old Business

Workshop for Personnel Policy Review scheduled for January 23rd, 5:30 PM.

Public Comment

Linda Smith discussed the acoustics in the Council room. She said the rugs that were purchased to reduce the echo in the Council room have helped, but she thinks it is still hard to hear what is being said and asked about checking into getting a microphone/sound system to help with the sound problem.

Executive Session - Personnel

Motion to Enter Executive Session:

**Motion-M. Johnson; Second-Leger; F. Johnson-aye; Gentry-aye; Braswell-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:

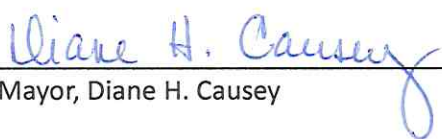
**Motion-Smith; Second-F. Johnson; Gentry-aye; Braswell-aye; Leger-aye; M. Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.**

Council will not vote on the Police Inquiry Resolution at this meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn:

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



Mayor, Diane H. Causey



Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember Freddie Johnson
Councilmember Tonia Gentry
Councilmember Todd Braswell
Councilmember Elizabeth Leger
Councilmember Melissa Johnson
Councilmember W.C. Smith

Absent