

City of Coolidge  
Workshop  
Official Minutes

January 16, 2024  
5:30 P.M.

**Call to Order**

Workshop called to Order at 5:30 P.M.

Prior to the Workshop and Council Meeting, Mr. James (Jimbo) Coleman had requested to speak to Council. He had already spoken to City Manager Don Cole and Councilmember Leger about the subject prior to the Workshop and Council meeting.

Mr. Coleman's name was added to the Council Meeting Agenda under *Speaker Appearances* to speak at the Council meeting following the Workshop. However, Mr. Coleman came to speak to Council at the Workshop instead.

Mr. Coleman was introduced and given the floor by Mayor Causey.

Mr. Coleman wanted to discuss a Coolidge Police Officer's response to two incidents that occurred recently involving residents behind his home, ultimately involving himself and his wife as well in the second incident, because he feels the officer did not handle the response calls appropriately. He discussed both incidents at length, describing his account of what occurred at the second incident, including the name of one of the individuals involved.

Council assured Mr. Coleman they would follow up and have the incident investigated further.

Council will continue discussion on the subject in *Executive Session* during the Council meeting.

**DISCUSS BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS:**

Councilmember Freddie Johnson would like to see the Ballfield be upgraded and improvements made in order to attract more people both in and outside the City of Coolidge. He discussed possibly having lights installed again after the old lights having had to be removed due to safety hazards with the power poles. He would like to have a nice Ballfield for not only the kids in our community but for kids in the surrounding areas as well to play on. He stated he has also had several people express interest who are looking for somewhere to hold tournaments and would be willing to pay the City of Coolidge to use the Ballfield for that purpose, which would be a benefit to the City and its residents.

Councilmember Leger stated she would also like to see the Basketball court eventually moved to a different location other than where it is currently, due to its proximity to the sewer pond and the cell tower.

Councilmember Freddie Johnson stated the first thing we should concentrate on, he thinks, would be to get the actual ball field back in working order by removing the grass in the infield and making it dirt again, having the field lines drawn, and having the bases put down. Council can discuss future improvement options and funding once the Ballfield is in good playing condition.

METHODIST CHURCH UPDATE:

Councilmember Braswell requested an update on the Methodist Church. He said he had someone inquire about possibly renting the venue for a wedding.

At this time, there are still renovations that need to be made to the church before it will be open and available to the public.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUEST:

Councilmember Leger requested that Council be provided notebooks containing the Comprehensive Plan and requested for everyone to bring it with them to meetings in the future.

DISCUSS PERSONNEL POLICY:

City Manager, Mr. Cole suggested, since the Personnel Policy is rather lengthy, to have some Workshops scheduled in the future dedicated specifically to the review and discussion of the Personnel Policy. Council agreed.

Councilmember Smith did want to address Section 9.01 of the Personnel Policy briefly, regarding approval of recognized Holidays. He would like to request Juneteenth be added as a recognized Holiday since it is now recognized as a Federal Holiday.

Workshop to discuss Personnel Policy scheduled for Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

DISCUSS COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

ADD TO AGENDA:

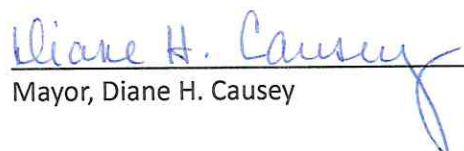
- Approve recognized Holidays in the Personnel Policy with the addition of the Juneteenth Holiday
- Appoint City Attorney
- Resolution for Council to inquire and investigate the actions of a Coolidge Police Officer during two Response calls

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michaela Hicks asked if there is a time frame for when the Christmas lights will be taken down. She and one of her children are concerned about the amount of electricity they are using and the cost to the City. She suggested possibly checking into timers for the Christmas lights in the future, if they are available, so that the lights are only on during certain hours to save money and energy.

**Adjourn**

Workshop adjourned.

  
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Mayor, Diane H. Causey

  
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Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember Tonia Gentry  
Councilmember Elizabeth Leger  
Councilmember Melissa Johnson  
Councilmember W.C. Smith  
Councilmember Freddie Johnson (arrived 5:40 p.m.)  
Councilmember Todd Braswell (arrived 5:50 p.m.)

Absent