

City of Coolidge  
Workshop  
Official Minutes

May 18, 2023

5:30 P.M.

**Call to Order**

Discussion regarding swearing in of new Council members was initiated by Councilmember Johnson. Mr. Todd Braswell was appointed at the last Council Meeting to fill the vacant seat of Councilmember Yarbrough upon his immediate resignation for the remainder of his term, which is up in November. There are two other vacant Council seats to be filled. There was a Special Election scheduled for July 20, 2023, for the two vacant Council positions; however, only two candidates qualified so there will be no need to hold an election due to there being no opposition. The other two candidates will be sworn in at the next Council Meeting.

**Review/Discuss Methodist Church Estimate:**

Council reviewed and discussed two estimates given by Dwayne Fallin to repair and remodel the Methodist Church. The difference in the two estimates was in materials used to build a handicap ramp along the side of the building – one with wood (Total Cost - \$39,237.22), one with aluminum (Total Cost - \$42,450.00).

Council discussed deciding to make the Methodist Church a historical building and turning it into a museum of Coolidge history. Councilmember Leger said Mr. Cole can research with Thomasville Landmarks and DCA what steps need to be taken to make it an official historical building and also check into possible Grants to help with funding.

It was decided to place this item on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting for a vote on making the Methodist Church a historical museum and moving forward.

**Review/Discuss Playground Equipment:**

Council discussed funding for new Playground equipment and reviewed quotes for two different playground structures provided by previous Interim City Manager, Drew Campbell. Mr. Campbell also provided a copy of the Safety requirements for playgrounds.

Councilmember Leger stated Council needs to decide what exactly they want at the Park/Playground, where they want to set up the Park/Playground, and draft a plan to present for possible Grant funding. The suggestion was also made to go to the businesses in town and ask if they would be willing to donate to help with funding.

At this time, new Council Member, Todd Braswell, was sworn in and took his seat at the Council table.

Councilmember Johnson wanted to discuss resident Tonia Gentry receiving permission from the City to have a power pole placed on her property. Councilmember Leger suggested having Mr. Cole follow up on the status of if and when permission will be granted for Mrs. Gentry to have the power pole erected on her property.

Councilmember Johnson asked to have this issue placed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Review/Discuss Sound Assists for Council Room:

Council again discussed panels for the walls and rugs for the floor to help reduce the sound echo in the Council Room. Mayor Causey suggested that Council research options and print something out to put in the Council folders for Council to look over and make a decision.

Councilmember Leger suggested starting with the rugs on the floor and having some plants added in the room and see how much of a difference that makes before deciding on anything else. Council was presented with quotes in their folders for the padding and rugs for the floor for review.

Councilmember Leger wanted to have this issue placed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting to see where the money would come from as far as the Budget so Council can make a decision, vote, and move forward in purchasing the rug and some plants for the Council Room, see how much of a difference it makes, and then decide if any further measures need to be taken.

Comprehensive Update Input:

Council briefly discussed the updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Coolidge.

Councilmember Johnson asked if Coolidge was considered a Sanctuary City in the State of Georgia.

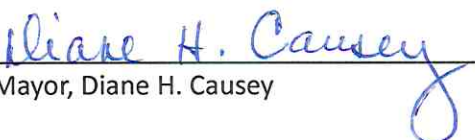
She said it stated Coolidge was a Sanctuary City in the Comprehensive Plan from 2008. She stated she would like to find out and if it is, she would like Council to reconsider that immediately and asked for it to be placed on the Agenda for the June 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Drew Campbell stated that he does know it is not in the City's Ordinances.

Councilmembers Leger and Johnson requested copies of all Resolutions be provided to all Council Members and requested copies of all Ordinances as well as Resolutions for our new Council Members, along with copies of the City Charter and Budget. Councilmember Johnson would also like another copy of the Budget to be provided again to Council because they voted to review and amend the Budget quarterly.

Mayor Causey stated she needed to have a discussion with Council about something very important that needs a consensus from Council until it can be ratified at the next meeting. The aerator motor has been installed and the aerator is ready to go in, but it was discovered that the cable that supplies power must be replaced. There is a quote of \$4,050.00 for 1,000 feet of the cable that is required, plus \$375.00 for labor. Mayor Causey stated it would be qualified for SPLOST funds. It was the consensus of Council members present to go ahead with the repairs, and Councilmember Gilligan will email his response to Mayor Causey.

Adjourn

Workshop adjourned.

  
Mayor, Diane H. Causey

  
Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

**Present**

Councilmember Leger  
Councilmember Johnson  
Councilmember Braswell

**Absent**

Councilmember Gilligan  
City Manager, Don Cole