

City of Coolidge
Council Meeting
Official Minutes

May 9, 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 Rev. Jon Carr.

Approve April 10, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 11, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 11, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 18, 2023, Called Meeting Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 24, 2023, Called Meeting Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 27, 2023, Workshop Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve April 27, 2023, Called Meeting Minutes:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Speaker Appearance: None scheduled.

Approve Order of Agenda:

Motion-Gilligan; Second-Johnson; Yarbrough-aye; Leger-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve Bills to be paid:

Motion-Leger; Second-Johnson; Gilligan-aye; Yarbrough-aye
Unanimously approved.

Finance Department

Mayor Causey asked Interim City Manager/Chief of Police, Drew Campbell to introduce Mr. Don Cole.

Mr. Campbell introduced Mr. Don Cole, the new City Manager, and asked everyone to please welcome him.

Mayor Causey asked Councilmembers Gilligan and Yarbrough if they had any questions regarding the Blight Ordinance and gave them a chance to review it since neither was present for discussion at the Workshop prior to the meeting. Both stated they had no questions.

Approve 1st Reading of Blight Ordinance:

Motion-Gilligan; Second-Johnson; Yarbrough-aye; Leger-aye
Unanimously approved.

Dispense with 2nd Reading and Adopt Blight Ordinance:

Motion-Gilligan; No Second
Motion fails. Ordinance not adopted.

Discuss/Approve requiring Reconciliation Reports for all bank accounts added to monthly Financial Reports:

Motion to table-Leger; Second-Yarbrough; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

A Workshop to discuss this topic will be scheduled after the June 20, 2023 Election and new Council members are seated.

Approve annual Court Clerk Recertification classes for Stephanie Mock - \$200.00:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve GMA District 10 Officers for the 2023-2024 year:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-aye
Unanimously approved.

Police Department

Chief Campbell gave the Chief's Report.

Public Works

Councilmember Johnson wanted to discuss the condition of the sidewalks and the need to be landscaped.

Mr. Campbell explained one of the employees had to be put on Light Duty for a short period of time and told her we will see that it gets done as soon as possible.

Recreation Department

No business to discuss.

New Business

No business to discuss.

Public Comment

Michaela Hicks, who was in the audience, has been complaining about an odor in the water at her home for quite some time and asked had the problem been fixed yet. She stated she is not the only one complaining about this issue and this was corroborated by Linda Smith (audience) and Councilmember Leger.

Mr. Campbell was not sure if Mrs. Hicks was referring to the repair of the aerators that has been a recent project of the City and asked if that was what she was referring to and she stated yes. He explained the aerators have nothing to do with the water supply but are used for the chemical reactions of the treatment pond before it is treated and then sprayed to re-enter the aquifer system. The aerators are still under repair as we are waiting for a part to come in before they can be put back in place. We have been in contact with EPD (Environmental Protection Division), and there are no hazards to the water supply as the aerators, again, have nothing to do with the water supply. The aerators do help with the smell from the treatment pond but not inside homes. Mrs. Hicks stated that it is still a problem and asked if we have any idea when this will be taken care of. Mr. Campbell told her, since he is not sure what is the source of the smell she is encountering, he will be happy to contact Bill Gerber, who is a Class I Certified Water and Wastewater Operator contracted with the City of Coolidge, and let him know about the issue and concerns of citizens.

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. W.C. Smith, who was in the audience, raised his hand to ask a question, and Mayor Causey told him he would have a chance to speak before the meeting was adjourned. At this time, Mayor Causey asked Mr. Smith if he would like to address Chief Campbell with any questions or concerns. Mr. Smith stated that Chief Campbell had answered most of his questions during his Chief's Report concerning recent automobile break-ins around town. He stated he understands we have recently hired a part-time officer but that the break-ins seem to be occurring sometime between midnight and 4:00 a.m., so he would like to have an officer patrolling during those hours if possible. Chief Campbell thanked him for his questions and input.

Councilmember Johnson added that there has also been concern from some of the women in the community who live by themselves. If something happens and there is not a City Police Officer on duty, they have to call the Sheriff Department to have a Deputy come and it takes anywhere from 20-40 minutes for them to get here. She is also concerned for the employees of the Dollar General store, who are mostly women, when they have to close the store at night because they have had two robberies already in the past. She wanted to know if we have a solution to have an officer patrolling more in the evenings. Chief Campbell agreed with Councilmember Johnson that we do need an officer here during those hours for the safety of the store owners and employees and told her he looks forward to conversation with Mr. Cole, once he starts as the City Manager, to come up with a solution.

At this time, the public was asked to leave the Council Room for Council to go into Executive Session for Personnel.

Executive Session

Motion to Enter Executive Session:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Johnson-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-Yarbrough; Second-Johnson; Gilligan-aye; Leger-aye
Unanimously approved.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at this time.

Approve Contract with Mr. Don Cole, for position of City Manager:

Motion-Johnson; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Yarbrough-aye
Unanimously approved.

Remove Drew Campbell as signatory to all bank accounts, effective May 15, 2023:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Johnson; Gilligan-aye; Leger-aye
Unanimously approved.

Approve addition of Don Cole as signatory to all bank accounts, effective May 15, 2023:

Motion-Yarbrough; Second-Johnson; Gilligan-aye; Leger-aye
Unanimously approved.

Set Workshop to review Methodist Church estimate, Playground equipment, and sound assists for Council room – May 25th, 5:30 p.m.:

Workshop rescheduled for May 18th, 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Yarbrough announced his resignation from City Council, effective immediately.

Motion to accept Councilmember Yarbrough's resignation-Leger; Second-Johnson; Gilligan-aye;
Mayor Causey-aye
Unanimously approved.

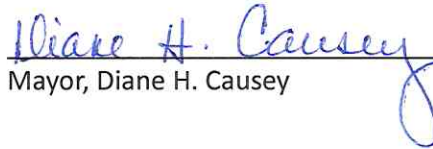
Councilmember Johnson nominated Todd Braswell to be appointed to Councilmember Yarbrough's seat to complete his term in office:

Roll Call Vote: Gilligan-aye; Leger-aye; Johnson-aye; Mayor Causey-aye
Unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn:

Motion-Johnson; Second-Leger; Gilligan-aye; Mayor Causey-aye
Unanimously approved.



Mayor, Diane H. Causey



Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember Gilligan
Councilmember Yarbrough
Councilmember Leger
Councilmember Johnson
Mr. Don Cole
City Attorney, Tommy Coleman

Absent