

**CITY OF COPPERAS COVE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2003 - 7:00 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rodney G. Nauert called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove, Texas to order at 7:13 p.m.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Harris gave the Invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

ALSO PRESENT

Bradi D. Diaz
Ray Don Clayton
John F. Gallen
Charlotte Heinze
Fred Harris
Bud Owsley
Annabelle Smith

Steven J. Alexander, City Manager
Pamela J. Russell, City Secretary
James R. Thompson, City Attorney

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

E. PUBLIC RECOGNITION

1. Copperas Cove Youth Advisory Committee Members Appointments – Oath of Office.

Charlotte Heinze, Council Member stated that the Copperas Cove City Council created the Youth Advisory Commission. The YAC was created in part to serve as a liaison between the City and the Youth of the Community. Pamela J. Russell, City Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Members of the Copperas Cove Youth Advisory Commission:

Stephanie Shannon – President, Kristopher Deaton – Vice President, Todd Loggains - Treasurer, Jennifer Tolleson – Secretary, Jerod Howard – Sergeant at Arms, Brittany Pace – Sister City Representative, Tranel Jones – Resource Committee Chair, Monique Hayden, Resource Committee Vice Chair.

Mayor Nauert congratulated the Copperas Cove Youth Advisory Commission Members on their respective appointments.

- F. CITIZEN'S FORUM** citizens are allowed to speak on any matter other than personnel matters, matters under litigation, or matters on the regular agenda, for a length of time not to exceed five minutes per person. Thirty minutes total has been allotted for this section.

Diane Steele – 905 North 4th Street. Stated she was disappointed with the lack of citizens input at City Council meetings, and asked the City Council to please vote their conscience.

Roger O'Dwyer – 1703 Highland Drive. Stated he had recently been on a visit to Corsicana, and suggested the City Council visit Corsicana, and see what good things are taking place in that City along with the incredible amount of industrial growth. Mr. O'Dwyer said he would like to be able to provide jobs to the youth of this City.

G. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Consideration and action on approval of minutes from August 5, 2003 Regular City Council Meeting. **Pamela J. Russell, City Secretary**

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve consent item No. 1. Council Member Gallen seconded the motion, and with a unanimous vote, motion carried.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS/ACTION

1. Public Hearing on City Manager's Proposed Budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. **Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance, stated that on July 3, 2003 the proposed Budget was formally presented to the City Council. Since that time the City has held five budget workshops. The proposed balanced budget includes a 3 cent property tax increase. 1.5 cent proposed increase is to fund debt service, and 1.5 cent proposed increase is for capital outlay.

Speaking For: None.

Speaking Against: Diane Steele – 905 N. 4th Street
Roger O'Dwyer – 1703 Highland

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration and action on Ordinance No. 2003-22 promulgating an ordinance providing for the condemnation, repair, rehabilitation, demolition, removal or abatement of unsafe buildings to improve and maintain the aesthetics of the community and to promote the health, welfare and safety of the general public. **James R. Thompson, City Attorney**

Mayor Pro Tem Diaz made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2003-22. Council Member Heinze seconded the motion. Mr. Roger O'Dwyer stated he agreed with the contents of the ordinance wholeheartedly, except for the use of the word "aesthetics". Mr. O'Dwyer stated the word is ambiguous, and should be fully defined, as the word is dangerous in his opinion. With a unanimous vote, motion carried.

2. Consideration and action on Ordinance No. 2003-23 amending the current ordinance pertaining to Alarm Systems. **James R. Thompson, City Attorney**

Council Member Gallen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2003-23. Council Member Owsley seconded the motion, and with a unanimous vote, motion carried.

3. Consideration and action on authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Central Texas Council of Governments for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) maintenance. **Tim Molnes, Police Chief**

Council Member Clayton made a motion to approve agenda item I-3. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Molly Bosley CTCOG, Planning Director gave an overview of the Interlocal Agreement and requested the City continue this service with CTCOG. With a unanimous vote, motion carried.

4. Consideration and action on setting a proposed tax rate for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, and placing the proposed tax rate on a future agenda as an action item. **Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Council Member Smith made a motion to move that the City Council set a proposed tax rate of \$.7750 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, and place the proposal on an agenda for the September 9, 2003 Special Called City Council Meeting, as an action item. Council Member Harris seconded the motion.

Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance stated: In accordance with the Truth in Taxation laws, when a proposed tax rate exceeds 103% of the effective tax rate or the rollback rate, whichever is less, the taxing unit's governing body must vote to place a proposal to adopt the rate on the agenda of a future meeting as an action item. This vote must be recorded. The proposal must specify a desired rate. A unit cannot vote on a proposed tax rate of an unspecified amount. The final tax rate is scheduled to be adopted on September 9, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., at a Special Called City Council Meeting. Additionally, a Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate is scheduled, if necessary, to occur on September 2, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., at a Regular City Council Meeting.

Roger O'Dwyer – 1703 Highland. Stated: We are in a recession, and asked the City Council to look very closely at the rate that you are raising.

Council Member Fred Harris stated: Everything we get in this City is superior to what other cities get in this area. Our quality of life and quality of services is superior. Copperas Cove is one of the most solvent cities in the USA. I commend Steven Alexander, Robert Camareno and their staff for what they did with the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Diaz stated: The City will see many improvements through the bond issuance for capital improvements, and commended staff for keeping the proposed tax increase as low as it is.

Council Member Clayton stated: That this community needs controlled growth. With a unanimous vote, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Consideration and action on calling for a Public Hearing on the proposed tax increase for the 2003-2004 fiscal year to be held on September 2, 2003, at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. **Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Mayor Pro Tem Diaz made a motion to approve item I-5 - calling for a Public Hearing on the proposed tax increase for the 2003-2004 fiscal year to be held on September 2, 2003, at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Gallen seconded the motion, and with a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance stated: In accordance with Truth in Taxation laws, if the proposed tax rate for the 2003-2004 fiscal year exceeds 103% of the effective tax rate or the rollback rate, whichever is less, the City Council must vote to place a proposal to adopt the rate on the agenda of a future meeting as an action item. This vote must be recorded. The proposal must specify a desired rate.

Roger O'Dwyer – 1703 Highland. Mr. O'Dwyer asked if a translator would be available for his Hispanic Neighbor, or if assistance was available for handicapped people interested in attending the City Council meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Diaz stated: City Hall is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the City Secretary at (254) 547-4221, (254) 547-6063 TTY, or FAX (254) 547-5116 for information or assistance.

J. STAFF REPORTS

1. Financial Report for the City of Copperas Cove for the month ended June 30, 2003. **Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance**

Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance gave the Financial Report for the month ended June 30, 2003. Steven Alexander, City Manager stated that the construction of the Ogletree Pavilion was being paid for with bond fund monies, and that these funds could not be moved or used for operating costs.

K. REPORTS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS – None.

L. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Council Member Harris – Requested a Workshop on the progression of the strategic plan.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Pursuant to §551.071 of the Open Meetings Act. *Tex. Gov't Code*, Council will meet in Executive Session to consult with the City Attorney on PUC Docket 27.179, Application of ONCOR Electric Delivery Company for a CCN for a Proposed Transmission Line in Bell and Coryell Counties.

2. Pursuant to §551.072 of the Open Meetings Act. *Tex. Gov't Code*, Council will meet in Executive Session to deliberate on the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

Mayor Nauert closed the regular session of the meeting to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.

N. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION RESULTING FROM ANY ITEMS POSTED AND LEGALLY DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nauert re-opened the regular session of the meeting at 9:52 p.m. Mayor Nauert announced that Executive Session items M-1, and M-2, were for information purposes only, and no action would be taken.

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Rodney G. Nauert, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pamela J. Russell, TRMC, City Secretary