CITY OF COOPER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR
JULY 13, 2026 – 5:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADDY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, SCOTTY DEATHERAGE, LINDA BARNES AND DIANE STEGALL

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRETT

ABSENT: JOSH HOSKISON

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, AREAL LABRA, CAROLYN BACY-ROBERTS, RENEE BOOTH, KAYLA BOOTH, AARON BOOTH, DAVID BOOTH, CHARLES RUTLEDGE, AMBER NORRRIS AND MICHAEL MILLER VIA ZOOM

AGENDA ITEM #1
Mayor Darren Braddy called the meeting to order and Darren also voiced the prayer.

AGENDA ITEM #2
Linda Barnes asked about the drainage situation that Renee Booth had brought before the council at the June 8, 2026 meeting. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that he had contacted the contractor, Jeremy Skeen, that was going to do the work on June 8. Mayor Braddy stated that Jeremy Skeen was given the authority to begin work and the city would compensate him for work that was done on the city's behalf. Mayor Darren Braddy reiterated that the project was in the hands of Jeremy Skeen to begin the project as he has already been given the authority to begin.

AGENDA ITEM #3
Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the June 8, 2026 minutes as written. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the animal control contract. The council leaned toward the fact that it didn't seem like there were enough animals dealt with for the cost of the contract. Mayor Braddy stated that in the beginning, the level of service was great. Mayor Braddy stated in the beginning, he told Kerry Payne that he would like to get the stray animal situation under control and then we wouldn't need his services for long term. Darren also stated that if the contract is nulled, that the city would still be in the position of nowhere to take animals unless they were sick. It was the consensus of the council to table this until further research and discussion could be done.
Diane Stegall made the motion to table the animal contract discussion. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #5
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council Resolution #01-07-26 authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Water Development Board Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant (TWDB WSIG). David Phillips made the motion to read Resolution #01-07-26 in its entirety. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read Resolution #01-07-26.
Linda Barnes made the motion to approve Resolution #01-07-26 authorizing the submission of an application to the TWDB WSIG. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #6
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council Resolution #02-07-26 certifying the TWDB WSIG application authorization. Diane Stegall made the motion to read Resolution #02-07-26 in its entirety. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read Resolution #02-07-26.
Linda Barnes made the motion to approve Resolution #02-07-26 certifying the TWDB WSIG application authorization. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #7
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council Resolution #03-07-26 authorizing entering into an interlocal agreement with Cooper ISD allowing TEA Occupancy versus IBC Code for a one-time project. Mayor Braddy introduced Arael Labra with WRA, contractor for the Cooper ISD construction project, Charles Rutledge and Amber Norris to discuss the TEA occupancy code versus the IBC code for the new construction for Cooper ISD for a one-time project. Arael stated that per the 2018 IEBC, the maximum occupant load for the existing junior high/high school campus, including the addition is 1,230 occupants. However, Cooper ISD will follow the Texas Education Agency (TEA) occupant load recommendations, which are more restrictive than the IEBC requirements. Based on the TEA calculations, the school's maximum occupant load is 887 occupants, consisting of 812 students and 75 staff members. Cooper ISD requests a variance to the 2018 IEBC regarding the occupant load and apply TEA occupant load recommendations for the Cooper Elementary School storm shelter addition allowing it to accommodate up to 1,037 occupants. Diane Stegall made the motion to read Resolution #03-07-26 by caption. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

RESOLUTION #03-07-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COOPER, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF COOPER AND COOPER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COOPER JUNIOR HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS; FINDING THAT THE AGREEMENT SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Scotty Deatherage made the motion to approve Resolution #03-07-26 authorizing entering into an interlocal agreement with Cooper ISD allowing TEA Occupancy versus IBC Code for a one-time project. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #8
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the item of becoming a member of Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS). Mayor Braddy stated that, in searching for playground equipment for the TPWD Local Park Grant, Ashlee Acosta with Cunningham Equipment, had contacted the city in hopes of selling their playground equipment for the TPWD LP project. In order to receive discounted equipment from this company, the city must purchase a membership. Ashlee Acosta was looking to sponsor the first year of the membership. Mayor Braddy stated that Emily Howse, himself and Charles Edwards, with GrantWorks, had discussed this and had determined that the membership would not benefit the City of Cooper. It was the consensus of the council to deny membership in the TRAPS program.
David Phillips made the motion to deny membership in the TRAPS program. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #9
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the city had been awarded the TDEM 97.039 HMGP DR-4705-0028 Grant in the amount of $411,952.00 with a 75/25 match. This grant is to install a generator at the Water Treatment Plant. Mayor Braddy stated that this one generator would not be big enough to run the treatment area and the intake facility, but hopefully in the future the city will be awarded another grant for the intake facility that in already in process. The city portion of the match would be $102,988.00. Mayor Braddy stated that if the grant award was accepted that the city could not fund the match portion alone. Mayor Braddy stated that the County and Delta County MUD were onboard to share the cost of the match.
Diane Stegall made the motion to accept the award of the TDEM 97.039 HMGP DR-4705-0028 Grant in the amount of $411,952.00 with a 75/25 match of which is $102,988.00 is the city's responsibility. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #10
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council Resolution #04-07-26 authorizing entering into the interlocal agreement between the City, County and Delta County MUD to share the cost of the 25% match for the TDEM 97.039 HMGP DR-4705-0028 Grant for the generator at the Water Treatment Plant. David Phillips made the motion to read Resolution #04-07-26 by caption. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

RESOLUTION # 04-07-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COOPER, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF COOPER, AND DELTA COUNTY MUNUCIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT ("MUD"), AND DELTA COUNTY (COUNTY) REGARDING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE (LOCAL MATCH) FOR A HAZARD MIDIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP); FINDING THAT THE AGREEMENT SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Diane Stegall made the motion to approve Resolution #04-07-26 authorizing entering into an interlocal agreement with the City, County and Delta County MUD to share the cost of the 25% match for the TDEB 97.039 HMGP DR-4705-0028 Grant for a generator at the Water Treatment Plant. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #11
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the Sanitation Solution annual CPI rate increase. Mayor Braddy stated that due to fuel cost increases that there is a considerable increase which is 8.07%. Emily Howse stated that due to this large increase that all rates would need to be increased. Emily proposed a 10% increase above Sanitation Solution cost for the city to charge customers. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the Sanitation Solutions contract would expire in April 1, 2027 and he was in contact with other providers.
Scotty Deatherage made the motion to approve the Sanitation Solutions 8.07% increase in garbage rates. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #12
Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the proposed Delta County Appraisal District (DCAD) budget.
Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the DCAD proposed budget. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #13
Mayor Darren Braddy updated the council on the Frankie McKinney Arts Alliance. Mayor Braddy stated that Judy Falls is considering opening the McKinney House now that she is retired.

AGENDA ITEM #14
Mayor Braddy updated the council on city happenings.

AGENDA ITEM #15
Monthly budget reports were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #16
Accounts paid were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #17
Linda Barnes made the motion to adjourn. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

TIME: 6:49 PM

APPROVED:

DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:

EMILY HOWSE
CITY SECRETARY