



Council members unanimously decided that Councilwoman Lisa Cavanaugh would preside the meeting in Mayor Penque's absence.

**Attendance:**

- Present: Chris Ampfer, Lisa Cavanaugh, Steve Cunningham, Cindy Moore, Adam Sandfoss, Laura Vroegindewey, City Clerk Robin Morency, Public Works Director Ron Hitch, Police Chief Steve Collinsworth, City Administrator Steve Taylor, and City Attorney Brandon Voelker
- Not Present: Mayor Penque

The February 10, 2025 caucus meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Lisa Cavanaugh at 7:30pm.

Prayer and pledge were led by the City Clerk.

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None.

**Citizen Comments:**

- Joe Heil (resident) approached the council to inquire about the origins of the US 27 Corridor Improvement Project. City Attorney Brandon Voelker explained that the initiative stemmed from ongoing complaints about traffic and was driven by the administration's goal of enhancing the area. He noted that the project aims to improve aesthetics, reduce traffic speed, and create a more community-oriented environment rather than maintaining it as a high-traffic thoroughfare. Mr. Heil expressed concerns about increased traffic being redirected onto his street, Marian Drive, and the potential impact on emergency vehicles and snowplows. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that council considers residents' input before making any decisions based on the presentation by Bayer Becker and hopes the extension of St. Michael Drive is a dead issue. Steve Taylor added that this was a preliminary concept that was presented including all phases of the master plan and he is trying to coordinate a meeting with Bayer Becker to allow for public involvement/input. Cindy Moore requested that the cost of the project be sent to council members.
- Paul Studer (resident and business owner) expressed strong opposition to the US 27 project, stating that it would severely impact the operation of his business on US 27, and it would ruin the intent of everything the city has fought for, which was to keep it a residential community. He emphasized that they are prepared to take any necessary actions to oppose the project. Mr. Studer shared his vision for beautifying US 27, which he has proposed to the city in the past.
- Lou Gerding (resident) questioned the financial aspects of the project, asking why the money was spent, whether it was included in the budget, and if the council was aware that the project was underway. He expressed concern about the potential cost, assuming it to be significant. Cindy Moore and Lisa Cavanaugh stated that they were not aware. Steve Taylor stated that the city needed to start with a vision for the project and hopes to refine it over time to determine what is feasible.
- Joe Heil asked if there was a possibility of eminent domain to make this project happen. Brandon Voelker stated that the council has historically never exercised eminent domain or enforced annexation.
- Dave Guidugli (resident) asked how the project would be funded, he does not see how the city could come up with the money. In response, there was discussion about the potential use of city-matched grants.

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**Recognition of Scheduled Guests:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Committee Report:**

- Public Works: Ballfield backstops – Ron Hitch informed the council that he had shared the quotes, noting that the cost came in slightly higher than the original budget. There was discussion regarding the expenses associated with replacing the backstops for all three ballfields, the last time the fields were updated, and whether the replacements could be completed in-house. Chris Ampfer suggested replacing the backstops at the fields that get used the most, then do the rest next year. Steve Cunningham asked Ron Hitch if he could obtain another quote, to which Mr. Hitch responded that he would seek additional quotes. There was also discussion about other potential field improvements, including new benches and the possibility of adding shelters over the benches.
- Pickleball Windscreen – Cindy Moore expressed that she does not believe it is necessary to purchase a windscreen with "City of Cold Spring" printed on it, given that it accounts for half of the total cost. There was also discussion about potential future improvements to the pickleball courts.

**Follow Up Citizen Comments:** None.

**Police Department Comments:**

- Chief Collinworth announced that the blasting at Cold Spring Pointe will resume, scheduled from February 17 through February 28 at 1:00 PM. He noted that there will be temporary road closures on US 27 and AA Highway for approximately 15 minutes during each blasting event.

**Council Comments:**

- Cindy Moore inquired about the monthly police department reports, noting an increase in assaults on officers. Chief Collinworth confirmed that these incidents have risen and discussed the procedures in place for handling such situations, he added that no officers have been hurt.
- Laura Vroegindewey asked about recent issues with the wheelchair lift at the community center. Ron Hitch explained that the lift is no longer under warranty and that most malfunctions are due to user error. He emphasized that the lift is specifically designed for individuals who truly need it, clarifying that it is a wheelchair lift, not a standard elevator.
- Chris Ampfer thanked Ron for the quotes and appreciates the input from residents.
- Lisa Cavanaugh asked about the blank sign at Matinee Boulevard. Brandon Voelker explained that it is intended to indicate the future placement of the relocated Silverwoods Apartment signs, upon their approval.

**Attorney Comments:** None.

**Mayor Comments:** None.

**Adjournment:**



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- Lisa Cavanaugh adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.

Approved: 3/24/25

City Clerk: Robin Morency

Mayor: 

To view the meeting agenda, visit: <https://coldspringky.gov/city-council/meeting-agendas/>

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