

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Nathan Bland
Colby Fisher
Doug Calame
Joyce Dalley, Mayor Pro-Tem
Willie Phillips ❖

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Zach Reeves, Public Works Director
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer

Absent:

Leroy Phillips

Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present

With a quorum of the Council members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 5:32 p.m., March 13, 2017, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

No comments.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on February 13, 2017
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Library Report
6. Municipal Court Report
7. Police Department Report
8. Code Enforcement Reports
9. Public Works Department Reports
10. Hotel Tax Fund Report

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Fisher and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6A. Department Reports – Municipal Development District

Adam Straznicky reported on activities at the Rockdale Municipal Development District. The report included information on the façade improvement grants, rental assistance program, Industrial Park, Downtown Revitalization project, and the new business moving into Bill Hall's warehouse.

6B. Department Reports – Community Services

Lon Williams reported on building permits and demolitions for the year.

7A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal to provide for a stop sign (replacing the yield sign) at the four-way intersection of San Jacinto Drive and Post Oak Road

Public hearing was opened at 5:43 p.m. Chris Whittaker reported that the proposal was initiated due to a citizen request and was validated by the Police Chief. Brian Siedelhofer stated that this was a safety issue. With increased visibility at the intersection, vehicles are no longer slowing down or yielding as they approach the intersection. Public hearing was closed at 5:45 p.m.

8A. Conduct a workshop on the proposed ordinance establishing policies and procedures for vacant structures in the Central Area zoning district

Workshop was opened at 5:45 p.m. Chris Whittaker stated that this proposed ordinance came about due to the collapse of the Cameo building. After reviewing several ordinances from other cities, a draft ordinance was created and a copy sent to each property owner within the Central Area zoning district for their review and comments. The Rockdale Downtown Association would like to see this ordinance include the entire city. Workshop was closed at 6:07 p.m.

9A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances by adding Section 3.04.143 to be entitled "Cross-Connection Control Program"

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

9B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 12, Traffic and Vehicles, of the Code of Ordinances by providing for a stop sign (replacing the yield sign) at the four-way intersection of San Jacinto Drive and Post Oak Road

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

9C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance cancelling a portion of the May 6, 2017 General Election for the office of Council Member – West Ward; declaring unopposed candidate to be elected; and providing an open meetings clause and for other matters

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

10A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution appointing election judges and early voting ballot board for election on May 6, 2017

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

10B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution opposing Senate Bill 2 amending Chapter 5 of the Tax Code

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

11A. Consider and take any necessary action on the proposed ordinance establishing policies and procedures for vacant structures in the Central Area zoning district

Chris Whittaker asked for direction from Council on how to proceed. If Council wishes to include all commercial structures within the city, the proposed ordinance will need to be revised and distributed for additional comments.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to amend the ordinance to include City-wide commercial properties. Motion carried.

11B. Consider and take any necessary action on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Rockdale and the Milam County Historical Commission for donation of items from the "Wallis House" with proceeds to be used for stained glass restoration and/or other historical projects in Rockdale

Geri Burnett stated that it may cost up to \$10,000 to restore the stained glass. The Historical Commission would like to use the other architectural pieces from the property to fund the restoration project. Councilmember Bland voiced concern about stability of the building and the liability issue for the City. The City Attorney will be asked to draft a waiver/liability release.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Milam County Historical Commission. Motion carried.

11C. Receive an update and take any necessary action on a request to purchase a portion of Fair Park

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to not sell the property. Voting for the motion were Bland, Calame, Dalley, and W. Phillips. Voting against was Fisher. Motion carried.

11D. Receive an update and take any necessary action on the purchase of property from Hal McKinney that would allow for the extension of Murray Avenue to Main Street (FM 908)

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to not pursue the purchase of property at this time. Motion carried.

11E. Consider and take any necessary action on the purchase of property from Kody Kubiak that would allow the City to better address drainage issues

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to purchase the property from Kody Kubiak for \$500. Motion carried.

11F. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request for Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds submitted by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce for advertising of the 2017 Rockdale Buckin' Bulls & BBQ Cook-off

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to award \$6,000 for advertising the event with the provision for an additional \$30 per provable room night (in excess of 200) from the Post Event Report. Motion carried.

❖ Councilmember W. Phillips left at 7:10 p.m.

11G. Receive an update on the structural assessment for Bridge Park

Chris Whittaker reviewed the assessment with Council. No action at this time.

11H. Receive an update from the city manager on the Town Hall Meeting regarding the repurpose of the old City Hall building

Collier Perry asked the Council to vote to try to fully restore the building without knowing how to pay for it or what the future use will be. Geri Burnett requested that a community committee be formed. She stated that the Historical Commission would like to see the building restored regardless of the cost. Chris Whittaker reported that a lot of great questions and comments were received. All of the opinions were appreciated. A survey will be sent out for citizen feedback.

11I. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Projects List


Chris Whittaker reported on the following projects:

- Storm damage to city facilities
- Town Hall Meeting on April 6th for the new Police Station
- Dip on Wilcox (in front of the Fire Department) is being fixed
- Sumuel Park Splash Pad may be funded

Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 10th day of April, 2017.


ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



APPROVED:



John E. King, Mayor