

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:****Councilmembers:**

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

**City Staff:**

Chris Whittaker, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Sandra Ellis, City Treasurer  
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police  
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer  
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director

**Absent:**

Doug Calame

**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 5:30 p.m., September 11, 2017, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance****Citizen Communications**

- Ronnie & Millie Caywood – Spoke regarding the sewer backup in their home on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Called multiple times for assistance. Sewage is a recurring issue. Big problem that needs to be addressed.
- Ray Gilligan – Owns rental property on Hairston. The trash in the neighbor's yard is causing rodent issues. Has been addressing this case with the City for over 8 years. Has a meeting with his lawyer on Friday and will be filing a lawsuit against the City.

❖ Councilmember Fisher arrived at 5:35 p.m.

- Belinda Hillhouse – Stated that tax rate has already been decided on for this year. City needs to figure out a way to live within their means for upcoming years so that taxes won't need to be raised every year.

**5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:**

1. Minutes of regular meeting on August 14 and special meetings on August 21 and August 28, 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
11. Receive reports from Tax Assessor for 2017

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Phillips, 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**

John Weed reviewed the MDD budget. Stated they will be spending approximately \$2,000,000 next fiscal year and the focus will be on the Industrial Park and the building at the Industrial Park. Introduced new executive assistant Rhonda Wagner who will be working full time and replacing Linda Wyatt. Informed Council of an upcoming meeting on Wednesday with Cameron Economic Development Committee.

**6B. Department Reports – Community Service**

Lon Williams gave a brief summary to Council.

**7A. Discuss the proposed fiscal year 2017-18 budget regarding special funds**

Workshop opened at 5:45 p.m. Mayor read a statement regarding public comments during workshops. Council discussed options of either hiring a Marketing Director or continuing with the 28% reimbursement to hoteliers for advertising. Workshop closed at 6:03 p.m.

- 8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance granting to Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC, its successors and assigns, an electric power franchise to use the present and future streets, alleys, highways, public utility easements, public ways and public property of the City of Rockdale, Texas, providing for compensation therefor, providing for an effective date and a term of said franchise, providing for written acceptance of this franchise, providing for the repeal of all existing franchise ordinances to Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC, its predecessors and assigns, and finding that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public**

**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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the City of Rockdale beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018; and possible discussion and action on ratifying the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax special fund budget with the Marketing Director position funded instead of the 28% refund to the hoteliers. Voting for the motion were Bland, Fisher, and Wallace. Voting against were Dalley and Phillips. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the annual budget for the City of Rockdale beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Voting for the motion were Bland, Fisher, Dalley, and Wallace. Voting against was Phillips. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget. Motion carried.

- 8C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance for the levying of an Ad Valorem tax upon the real, personal and mixed properties in the City of Rockdale, Texas for the year 2017, an occupation tax equal to one half the state levy, and split payment option for payment**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Fisher and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented, adopting the City of Rockdale 2017-18 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.9118 per \$100 assessed valuation, the debt service portion being \$0.2305 per \$100 assessed valuation and the maintenance and operations portion being \$0.6813 per \$100 assessed valuation. Motion carried.

- 8D. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance regarding Design Manual and Pole Attachment Agreement regulating the installation of Network Nodes on City service poles and utility poles, and any matters related thereto**

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

- 8E. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance regarding regulating the physical use, occupancy and maintenance of City right-of-ways (ROW) by Wireless Network Providers, and any matters related thereto**

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

- 9A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution approving the appraisal roll taxable value of \$203,825,335 with tax levy of \$1,858,479.41 for the year 2017**

**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 resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution adopting the City of Rockdale Investment Policy**

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

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation**

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

- 9D. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution to establish and adopt the City of Rockdale Agenda Policy and Procedures**

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

- 9E. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution to establish and adopt the City of Rockdale Procurement Card Policy**

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

- 10A. Mayor to proclaim September 2017 as "Texas Strong Month" in the City of Rockdale, Texas**

- 10B. Consider and take any necessary action on authorizing the city manager to make necessary transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year and to provide a report to Council regarding said transfers at the regular meeting in November**

**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 request as presented. Motion carried.

- 10C. Receive and take any necessary action on the annual audits from the City's and MDD's auditors**

MDD audit has been completed and received. City audit, which should have been completed by the end of April, has not been received.

- 10D. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for Financial Audit Services for the City of Rockdale**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the bid from Donald Allman, CPA. Motion carried.

**10E. Consider and take any necessary action on the bid recommendation from KSA Engineers for the award of a construction contract for the new Police Station Project No. RD.036**

Brian Wyatt and Bob Fisher with KSA recommend Gaeke Construction Company.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the bid from Gaeke Construction Company. Motion carried.

**10F. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for bank depository services for the City of Rockdale**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the bid from Classic Bank. Motion carried.

**10G. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request for Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds submitted by Jody Morris (Quilty Place) for advertising of Quilting Lessons with Telene Jeffrey**

Chris Whittaker recommends approval of \$300.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher to approve \$300 as recommended by the city manager. Motion died for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Councilmember Dalley to approve \$500 upon verification of receipts. Motion died for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve up to \$350 for reimbursement upon verification of receipts. Motion carried.

**10H. Consider and take any necessary action on a proposed Rockdale Interactive Web Map (IWM) project**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to deny approval of the IWM project. Voting for the motion were Bland, Dalley, Phillips, and Wallace. Voting against was Fisher. Motion carried.

**10I. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Rockdale Municipal Development District Board of Directors**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed to appoint John King to the MDD Board. Voting for the motion were Dalley, Phillips, and Wallace. Voting against were Bland and Fisher. Motion carried.

**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 reappoint Bobby Pelzel and Trent Wages to the MDD Board. Motion carried.

Kara Clore and John Weed spoke in opposition to the mayor being appointed to the MDD Board. Feels there is a conflict of interest and recommends caution.

**10J. Consider and take any necessary action regarding last month's presentation by Ted Kamel (with MuniServices) regarding City sales tax revenue, hotel tax management and hotel audit services**

Chris Whittaker recommends contracting with MuniServices for City sales tax revenue and hotel tax management.

**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 contract with MuniServices for City sales tax revenue services (paid percentage of "found" money) and hotel tax management services (to be paid with HOT funds). Motion carried.

**10K. Consider and take any necessary action on establishing guidelines for municipal water accounts**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Fisher and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to establish guidelines and bring them back to the Council for review and approval. Motion carried.

**10L. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Projects List**

- Introduced Jason Hubbell as the Public Works Director (holds A-A licenses)
- Showed pictures from Bureson Street – some areas have washed out during heavy rains
- Finalizing Rice Street plans
- Annexation Town Hall meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.

**11A. At 7:32 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the city manager**


**11B. At 7:57 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the city manager**

**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 city manager contract as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

**ATTEST:**

  
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 Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
 City Secretary

**APPROVED:**

  
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 John E. King, Mayor

