

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Nathan Bland
Colby Fisher
Doug Calame
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

Absent:

Willie 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 5:36 p.m., October 9, 2017, at the George Hill Patterson Community Center, 609 Mill Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

No comments.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on September 11 and special meeting on September 11, 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 Dalley and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6A. Department Reports – Park Board

Tim Ramey gave a brief report to Council listing on-going and completed projects.

6B. Department Reports – Administration

Sandra Ellis gave a brief update on the new auditor. Terry Blanchard gave a brief update on the election voting equipment.

7A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution nominating candidates for the Milam Appraisal District Board of Directors for the period ending December 31, 2019

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 approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

8A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding annexation and annexation planning

The public hearing was opened at 5:44 p.m. The following comments were received:

- Linda Owens – Against annexation. Threatened ADA action if annexation was approved.
- Dorothy Prazak – No comment
- Peggy Eckman – Receives no services from the City. Stated that annexation is just a legal shake-down. Asked where the money disappeared to that was received by Milam County when Alcoa was here.
- Jeff Pevehouse – Referenced a petition that was presented to the city manager earlier in the day (*copies were given to each Council member*). Wanted to know why areas inside the City don't have services.
- Mary Lou Loehr – Dad left her property so that she would be taken care of. Stated that City can't keep up with current areas. There is no proof of growth. City needs to clean up own yard before starting on new areas.
- Dan Hash – Resents annexation. Doesn't want money to be used outside of the City. Animal Control would have to deal with wild hogs. Roads are in bad shape. Water is brown on a regular basis.
- Leana Mann – Sees many issues with annexation. (*Provided tax rate analysis documents for Council.*) Rockdale has the highest tax rate of cities reviewed. Stated there is a misappropriation of funds within the City.
- Collier Perry – Spoke in favor of annexation. The ability of the City to annex is very important. He served on the MDD for many years. In the effort to attract residents and businesses to Rockdale, we need adequate places for people to live. The City needs to be able to recoup taxes from any incentives offered to entice businesses to our city.
- Gordon Todd – Doesn't need the City. He does his own maintenance and has managed for thirty-four years with no help from the City. Stated the general movement is to only annex areas that want to be annexed.
- Belinda Hillhouse – Lives in town and doesn't think annexation is a good idea at this time. Need to wait.
- Wendie Upson – Lives in town and is not in favor of annexation. She agrees with Belinda. Need to take care of our house before we add on a yard.
- D.J. Magee – Council was voted in to represent their constituents. This is just theft. Stated that the annexation is unlawful. Threatened a class action lawsuit from the citizens. Urges Council to vote down annexation.
- Charles Albright – Doesn't want to be annexed. He has a pet pig (wild hog) and doesn't want to give up his pet. Asked who is going to deal with dead animals and wild hogs if areas are annexed.
- Joe Cleveland – Asked audience to give Gordon Todd a round of applause. Stated that he supports the RVFD throughout the year. Asked where the growth is that was referenced.
- Tammy Carter – Her family spent a lot of money to move outside the City. She heard that businesses have tried to come into town, but were denied. Doesn't see any growth. Against annexation.

Public hearing was closed at 6:25 p.m.

9A. Consider and take any necessary action authorizing the city manager and the city planner to proceed with research regarding an annexation strategy for the City of Rockdale, Texas

Gabe Rojas gave a presentation and discussed annexation strategy. Initial maps were made available in August, the citizens were given an opportunity to provide comments at a Town Hall Meeting in September, and a revised map was provided for review. During the Town Hall, approximately 200 were in attendance. Received input regarding low and high priority areas. Reviewed per capita cost and fiscal impact analysis. Existing Land Use map provides an overview of where things are happening now. The Water/Wastewater infrastructure map show current CCN. Emphasis should be placed on corridors.

Mayor reminded the audience that this is not a vote to annex. This is a vote to proceed with development of a plan. Councilmember Dalley requested that each area for consideration be voted on individually.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted two (2) for and three (3) opposed to approve the four areas recommended in the Short Term Annexation Strategy (Industrial 2, Airport 1, North Rockdale 2, and Ham Branch). Voting for the motion were Bland and Calame. Voting against were Fisher, Dalley, and Wallace. Motion failed.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by Randy Patranella for a short form subdivision and variances of S19600 Original Town-Rockdale, being part of Block 121 (per plat recorded in Cabinet A, Slide 47 of the plat records of Milam County), City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (properties known as 701 and 619 Brandon Street) into Lot 1 (13,337 sq ft), Lot 2 (9,687 sq ft), Lot 3 (8,400 sq ft), Lot 4 (9,225 sq ft), and Lot 5 (19,381 sq ft) with an area to be dedicated to the City of 12,544 sq ft**
1. V1 – Lot 1 – 5 feet variance
 2. V2 – Lot 2 – 2 feet variance
 3. V3 – Lot 5 – 2.5 feet variance

P&Z Commission recommended approval.

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 request as presented. Motion carried.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by Jordan Garrett for a short form subdivision of Ackerman Addition, Block 1, All of Lots 35 & 37, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (properties known as 625 and 629 N Rice Street) into Lot 35A (0.390 acres)**

P&Z Commission recommended approval.

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 request as presented. Motion carried.

- 9D. Receive and take any necessary action on the annual audit for the City of Rockdale, Texas**

Item removed from agenda.

- 9E. Consider and take any necessary action to authorize the city manager to expend funds from the 2012 Certificates of Obligation for projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Chris Whittaker requested funds for the following projects at the WWTP:

- \$32,835 to repair and modify auger; and
- \$25,985 to upgrade the SCADA software.

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 expenditures from the 2012 Certificates of Obligation. Motion carried.

- 9F. Consider and take any necessary action on authorization of advertisements for grant administrator and engineering services for a General Land Office Flood Mitigation Grant**

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 authorize advertisements as presented. Motion carried.

- 9G. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Park Board**

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 reappoint Tim Ramey, L.C. Richards, and Lisa Benford and to appoint Michael Duncan. Motion carried.


- 9H. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Projects List**

- Wallace house should be coming down around October 16th
- Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Police Station will be on October 30th at 5:15 p.m.
- Groundbreaking ceremony for the Sumuel Park Splash Pad will be on November 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 13th day of November, 2017.

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard
Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary

APPROVED:

John E. King
John E. King, Mayor