

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

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
Melanie Todd, Librarian

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 5:35 p.m., November 13, 2017, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

Joan Ratliff asked about the complaint submitted to the previous auditor regarding a Council member. Mayor responded that there was no evidence found to support the complaint, so no further action was taken.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on October 9 and special meetings on October 24 and October 31, 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 Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6A. Department Reports – Planning & Zoning Commission

Doug Williams gave a brief report to Council regarding the Master Plan review. Commission may not meet the January timetable for complete review. Suggested Council set aside a date for workshop to review revised document. The Commission has one vacancy.

6B. Department Reports – Building Standards Commission

Lon Williams stated that the Commission has not met since the last update. The Commission has several vacancies.

6C. Department Reports – Library

Melanie Todd reported that the Library has lots of items available to check out. There will be a combined meeting coming up later in November. They are working on a draft plan to expand the Library hours of operation to begin in January.

6D. Department Reports – IT Update

Trent Gresh with McLane Intelligent Solutions reported that the overall IT health is good. There have been fewer tickets submitted and the response time for average reports is within an hour and emergency response time is averaging twelve (12) minutes. Generally, things have been good.

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on an ordinance authorizing the issuance of “City of Rockdale, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017” and related matters

Jennifer Ritter with Specialized Public Finance gave a brief summary to Council. Bond funds would be used to complete the new Police Station. Citizens National Bank submitted the most competitive bid. David Mendez, Bond Attorney with Bickerstaff, gave a brief report to Council. Council requested an adjustment so the payments become due on the first of October each year.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the bid from Citizens National Bank as recommended by Bond Counsel with amendment to move payments to October 1st of each year (subject to approval of bank). Motion carried.

7A. Conduct a workshop to discuss rates in the City’s Code of Ordinance Fee Schedule

Workshop opened at 6:07 p.m. The following items were discussed:

- Waste Connections has increased their rates by 0.1%
- Vacant Building fees need to be added
- TCEQ Assessment fee needs to be added
- Discussed inside city limits rates and outside city limit rates
- Credit card fees need to be 3% for debit and credit cards
- Swimming Pool – increase lifeguard rates to \$9.50/hour and increase admission to \$4.00
- Tap fees – normalize rates for inside and outside city limits

Workshop closed at 6:25 p.m.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Appendix A of the City’s Code of Ordinances, the Fee Schedule, Article A1.000 Building, Development and Property Maintenance Fees; Article A2.000 Utility Rates and Charges; and Article A3.000 Other Fees, by amending the fees charged for electrical registration fees, TCEQ assessment fee, monthly water and wastewater charges, tap fees, solid waste collection rates, credit/debit card processing fees, swimming pool fees, and by adding Section A1.012 Vacant Commercial Structure Permit; amending and repealing conflicting ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing an effective date and open meetings clause

Council asked to postpone the swimming pool section until the December meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve fees as recommended with normalization of fees to inside city rates and to postpone changes to swimming pool fees until December meeting. Motion carried.

9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution to cast votes for the Milam Appraisal District Board of Directors for the period ending December 31, 2019

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, to cast all votes for Tim Arledge. After discussion, motion was withdrawn.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Phillips and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted five (5) for and one (1) opposed to split the votes equally between the five candidates on the ballot. Voting for the motion were Fisher, Calame, Dalley, Phillips, and Wallace. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

- 10A. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by John Shoemake for a short form subdivision of Sterling C. Robertson Survey, Abstract No. 52, Residue of a 7.690 acre tract, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property known as 1000 Rockdale Road) into Tract 1 (1.370 acres) and Tract 2 (5.602 acres)**

P&Z Commission recommended approval.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

- 10B. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by James McQuinn for a short form subdivision of William Allen Survey, Abstract No. 72, being part of a 271.672 acre tract within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (record owner Barbara J. Nelson, Volume 1044, Page 498, Official Records of Milam County, Texas) into a 1.91 acre tract (Elvis James McQuinn, Jr.) and the remaining called 269.762 acre tract (Barbara J. Nelson, manager of the Nelson Management Trust)**

P&Z Commission recommended approval.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

- 10C. Receive an update from the city manager regarding transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year**

Chris Whittaker reported that approved projects were executed. Municipal Court revenue was down and sales tax was down. Additional projects not in budget included library windows, IT services, demolition of old funeral home, Roberts Avenue curve with TxDOT, IOOF repairs, and warning sirens. Approximately \$186,000 over budget. Council approved more projects and legal fees have increased. Revenue was down \$154,000 and expenses were over \$288,000. Down to 59 days in General Reserve (Council set preferred standard of 105 days).

- 10D. Receive an update and take any necessary action on the 2017-18 fiscal year budget**

Mayor stated that Reserves are too low in the General Fund. He would like to see Council put a hold on any new projects and expend only on necessary items. After six months, the Council could review and see if funds were available for released. Need to use an essential management mode for General Fund. Emergency items need to be fixed, but new projects need to wait. Currently, there are 59 days in General Reserve and 105 days in Enterprise Reserve. Whittaker disagrees with the Mayor. He will continue to give Council options for projects that he feels need to be done.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Fisher and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to postpone to workshop. Motion carried.

- 9A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development & Revitalization 2015 Non-Housing Project application to the General Land Office; and authorizing the mayor and/or city manager to act as the City's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Community Development & Revitalization Program**

Whittaker reported this is the East Belton low water crossing project (Strand and Langford). Application currently has 39 points out of 100 without the match. In order to get an additional five points, the City could fund 1% of the grant. Cost estimate is at \$1,000,000 now, so City portion would be \$10,000. Funds wouldn't be needed until next fiscal year. There are 116 counties available to apply for the \$50,000,000 funds.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the application with a 1% City match. Motion carried.

10E. Receive an update on City water and wastewater projects for a potential Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Grant/Loan submittal in March 2018

Bob Lane and Stuart Cowell with KSA Engineering gave a presentation to Council.

10F. Consider and take any necessary action to authorize the city manager to proceed with the procurement process for engineering, financial analysis, and bond counsel for the 2018 TWDB Grant/Loan project

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to proceed with amount to be determined at a later date. Motion carried.

10G. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for annual operation of the Rockdale Visitor Center for 2018

- Rebecca Vasquez – Updated Council on expanded website. Number of hits has doubled. Walk-in visitors has doubled.
- Terri Sandoval – Need funding. If both sides could work together, it would run more smoothly.
- Patricia Watson – Need to continue funding to be able to continue providing services.
- Trevor Cashmere – Vote to at least continue same funding as last year.
- Joan Ratliff – Numbers don't add up. Visitors don't always go to the Chamber first. Funds must put heads in beds. Must use the 2-step test.
- Chris Whittaker – Some things require heads in beds and others don't.
- Joyce Dalley – Visitor centers and convention centers do not apply to the 2-step program.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve up to \$24,000 to be reimbursed with receipts. Motion carried.

10H. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by the Rockdale Historical Society for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for annual operation of the weekend Visitor Center for 2018

- Patricia Watson – Goes to Chamber for information. Depot is open on the weekends. It should be the weekend visitor center.
- Joan Ratliff – Awesome concept since they are staffed.
- Chris Whittaker - Recommends \$4,000 per year.
- Joyce Dalley – Voiced concerns with covering labor for the Depot but not the Chamber.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted four (4) for and two (2) opposed to approve up to \$4,000 to be reimbursed with receipts. Voting for the motion were Bland, Fisher, Calame, and Wallace. Voting against were Dalley and Phillips. Motion carried.

10I. Consider and take any necessary action on soliciting a RFP for a Hydrology and Hydraulic study for the culvert at North Burleson Street for the FEMA claim for Hurricane Harvey

Chris Whittaker reported that this is the first step in developing the project. No cost to City – everything is funded by FEMA.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

10J. Consider and take any necessary action on soliciting a RFQ for engineering services of the North Burleson Street FEMA claim for Hurricane Harvey

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

10K. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Building Standards Commission

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Richard Henderson and James Earley. Motion carried.

10L. Consider and take any necessary action on an appointment to the Rockdale Municipal Development District Board of Directors

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to withdraw the previous appointment of John King to the MDD Board. Motion carried.

Council requested the appointment be postponed until the December Council meeting.

10M. Consider and take any necessary action regarding a recommendation for nominations to the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Fisher, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to nominate Chris Whittaker for the POSGCD Board of Directors. Motion carried.

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

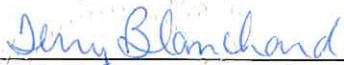
- TXU donated ten trees to Bridge Park
- New nursing home
- Airport

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 11th day of December, 2017.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



 Terry Blanchard, TRMC
 City Secretary



 John E. King, Mayor

