

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING**

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

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

**Absent:**

Doug Calame

**City Staff:**

Chris Whittaker, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Sandra Ellis, City Treasurer  
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director  
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer  
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police  
Jerry Waggoner, Municipal Court Judge  
Melanie Todd, Librarian

**Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present**

With a quorum of the Council members present, the Special Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 5:30 p.m., December 4, 2017, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- 4A. Consideration and possible action concerning amended Ordinance 2017-12-04 (4A) amending and restating Ordinance 2017-11-13 (8B) authorizing the issuance of \$1,025,000 "City of Rockdale, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificate of Obligation, Series 2017"; authorizing the sale thereof; and enacting provisions incident and related to the issuance of said certificate**

**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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

**5A. Conduct a workshop to discuss the City of Rockdale 2017-18 fiscal year budget**

Workshop opened at 5:34 p.m. with the following remarks:

- Mayor King – Enterprise reserves are on target. General reserves are too low.
- Councilmember Bland – According to the City Charter, the Council controls City finances. Read a prepared statement directed at disparaging remarks that were made towards city manager and reminded Council to make informed decisions and not be swayed by critics.
- City Manager Whittaker – Listed items not in the budget that will need to be addressed:
  - Hired new auditor to complete previous audit - \$10,000-\$15,000
  - Pool needs repairs to be usable
  - Airport cost for repairs up from \$2,500 to approximately \$13,000
  - Front-end loader needs an engine - \$20,000
  - Backhoe needs a transmission
- Councilmember Bland – Inventory equipment and materials. Surplus equipment could be sold at auction.
- City Manager Whittaker reviewed his recommendation list with Council. Other recommendations included asking for the ½ cent sales tax that goes to the County to come back to the City (would require a special election) and addressing the AMR contract for services.
- Postpone records storage building – decrease 611-501 by \$25,000
- Postpone police vehicle – decrease 631-503 by \$29,000
- Postpone police vehicle equipment – decrease 631-504 by \$15,000
- Add to police vehicle maintenance – increase 631-306 by \$10,000
- Short two police officer positions – decrease 631-117 by \$14,000
- Postpone renovations at Civic Center – decrease 624-314 by \$6,000
- Place a HOLD on capital parks projects for now – do not spend 624-501 amount of \$21,000
- Cut Council expenses and supplies by half – decrease 611-219 by \$4,000
- Need more information regarding the swimming pool

Workshop closed at 7:02 p.m.

**5B. Conduct a workshop to discuss the Splash Pad and other City projects**

Workshop opened at 7:02 p.m. with the following remarks:

- Splash Pad must be constructed within three years from date of contract (July 2017)
- Councilmember Bland – Has an issue with abandoning the project. Would rather see the timeline postponed.
- Janet Sheguit (BSP) – Will need at least 1 – 1½ years to complete the Splash Pad.
- City Manager Whittaker reported that the DRP and TASA projects won't be started for at least one year plus.

Workshop closed at 7:21 p.m.

**5C. Conduct a workshop to discuss rates in the City's Code of Ordinance Fee Schedule**

Workshop opened at 7:21 p.m. with the following remarks:

- City Manager Whittaker reported that this workshop was to address the swimming pool fees that were postponed at the previous Council meeting.
- The proposed increase in admission fees are to help cover maintenance costs with revenue.

Workshop closed at 7:28 p.m.

**5D. Conduct a workshop to discuss proposed changes to the water billing cycle**

Workshop opened at 7:28 p.m. with the following remarks:

- City Manager Whittaker gave a summary of proposed changes.
- Councilmember Bland would like to see cost of electronic bills as compared to mailed bills.

Workshop closed at 7:37 p.m.

**5E. Conduct a workshop to discuss bid scoring for engineering, financial analysis, and bond counsel services for the 2018 TWDB Grant/Loan project**

Workshop opened at 7:37 p.m. with the following remarks:

- City Manager Whittaker reported that one engineering proposal was received. Bond counsel and financial analysis services bids are being submitted.
- The City had a TCEQ visit today. The water study was beneficial and provided pertinent information.

Workshop closed at 7:41 p.m.

**6A. Consider and take any necessary action on the City of Rockdale 2017-18 fiscal year budget**

**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 implement changes discussed in workshop with funds moved to a specified line item in each department to hold the amended funds. Motion carried.

**6B. Consider and take any necessary action on the Splash Pad and other City projects**

**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 delay project start date and reassess Splash Pad in fiscal year 2018-19 budget process. 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 run a perpetual bid on six acres on west side of Rockdale with the right to reject bids. Motion carried.

**6C. Consider and take any necessary action on rates in the City's Code of Ordinance Fee Schedule**

**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 increase the swimming pool admission fee to \$4. Motion carried.

**6D. Consider and take any necessary action on the proposed changes to the water billing cycle**

**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 changes as proposed. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.


These minutes approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Blanghard, TRMC  
City Secretary



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John E. King, Mayor