

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:**

**Councilmembers:**

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

**City Staff:**

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

**Absent:**

Colby Fisher

**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 5:33 p.m., January 8, 2018, 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 December 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 Calame 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 – Airport Board**

Kent Givens and Jimmy Cox gave a brief report to Council. On-going maintenance (chip sealing) to the runway in order to keep the 50/50 RAMP Grant. Highly unlikely that our airport would qualify for a 90/10 grant, but encouraged to keep applying for RAMP Grants.

**6B. Department Reports – Police Department**

Thomas Harris gave a brief report to Council. Planning is still underway for the new police station. We are down three officers, but sponsoring two locals through the Academy (will graduate in May). Stephen Goodrich was promoted to Lieutenant.

**7A. Conduct a workshop to discuss options for the 2018 Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Grant/Loan project**

Bob Lane, Stuart Cowell, and Bob Fisher with KSA gave a presentation to Council. A prioritized plan with three options were presented. Caaren Skrobarczyk with the TWDB gave a brief history of their agency and the application process. Councilmember Bland requested that the direct read meters be moved to the bottom of the prioritized list.

- 8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances by amending Article 13.03 Water and Sewer Rates and Charges; providing a repealer clause; providing a severability clause; finding and determining that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law**

**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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance ordering and establishing procedures for a 2018 General Election to elect one (1) Council Member for the East Ward and one (1) Council Member for the West Ward in 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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 9A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution establishing a joint election agreement with the Rockdale Independent School District and the Rockdale Hospital District**

**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.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution designating authorized signatories for contractual documents and documents for requesting funds pertaining to the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Contract Number 7217411**

**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.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution amending the City of Rockdale Personnel Policy**

**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 approve the resolution as presented. Voting for the motion were Calame, Dalley, Phillips, and Wallace. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

- 10A. Consider and take any necessary action to authorize the city manager to sign the contract for joint election services with the Milam County Election Officer**

**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 authorize the request as presented. Motion carried.

- 10B. Receive an update from the Public Works Director for maintenance on the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)**

Jason Hubbell updated Council on the latest effluent violations from the past weekend. Proposed a plan to mediate the situation. Will be transparent with TCEQ on the plan of action. Basins will be drained tomorrow and City will attempt to run off of one basin temporarily.

- 10C. Consider and take any necessary action on options for the 2018 TWDB Grant/Loan project**

Deta Donnelly spoke to Council about things that could be done now to improve the water. Jason Hubbell stated that supplies had been purchased and field testing would begin within the next week or so. Jason is able to administer the tests and will be training other Public Works personnel on the process.

**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 submit the prioritized plan with revision to the TWDB. Motion carried.

**10D. Receive an update from KSA on the GIS mapping project**

Bob Lane with KSA gave a brief presentation. Sample maps and templates were reviewed.

**10E. Receive an update and take any necessary action on City of Rockdale ½ cent sales tax used by Milam County**

**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 ask the County to hold an election regarding the ½ cent sales tax that is being received by the County to be reallocated to the City of Rockdale. Motion carried.

**10F. Consider and take any necessary action to pay bills for CRU for work performed at the Industrial Park**

Chris Whittaker gave a brief history. Approximately \$187,000 out of \$300,000 has been paid for work completed (paid from Water Reserves). MDD is working on an Interlocal Agreement to enable them to pay invoices. An executive session will be added to the February Council meeting for an update.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the payment in the amount of \$187,675.92 to CRU. Motion carried.

**10G. Consider and take any necessary action on city manager contract**

Chris Whittaker stated that, per his contract, outside consulting requires Council permission.

**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 allow Chris Whittaker to accept contract work as long as it doesn't interfere with city manager duties. Motion carried.

**10H. Receive an update and take any necessary action on municipal rates to non-governmental agencies, City employees, Council and Mayor**

Chris Whittaker gave a brief summary.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to direct the city manager to study and come back with a plan for City employee compensation in lieu of employee water rates. Motion carried.

**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 immediately eliminate employee water rates for the Mayor and Council Members. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to immediately eliminate municipal water rates for non-profit and/or charitable organizations as described by the City attorney (in memo opinion dated 12/6/17). Motion carried.

**10I. Consider and take any necessary action to award bid for City property located at 1166 Highway 79 West**

No bids were received.

**10J. Receive an update on Highway 79 rehabilitation project**

Chris Whittaker gave a brief summary. Scott Murrah with BSP gave a presentation to Council. TxDOT is trying to control access to the highway, not limit access. An engineered plan must be presented that meets current TxDOT standards. If a business feels that they should be grandfathered, it will be up to the business to raise that issue. The City will support businesses if they have an issue with the plan.

**10K. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Library Board**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Don Stockton and Michelle Earley. Motion carried.

**10L. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission**

**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 reappoint Sharon Cloud and Judith Slusher. Motion carried.

**10M. Consider and take any necessary action to change the regular Council meeting date for November**

**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 move the meeting to Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

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

- Brick samples for the new PD were on display
- Completing utilities for new PD
- KSA will give an update at the next Council meeting
- Looking at phone systems
- Meeting next week regarding the FM 908 curve


Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
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 Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
 City Secretary

  
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 John E. King, Mayor