

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

John King, Mayor  
Nathan Bland  
Willie Phillips ❖ (*left @ 6:17 pm*)  
Denise Wallace  
Doug Calame ★ (*arrived @ 5:43 pm*)  
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  
Nicole Hirsch, Marketing Director

**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 5:31 p.m., March 12, 2018, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

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

- Chris Whittaker introduced Nicole Hirsch as the Marketing Director
- Joyce Dalley thanked Belinda Hillhouse and the Linwood Acres Garden Club for the volunteer work they are performing at the Library
- Joyce Dalley acknowledged that Mayor King received his 5-year Certified Public Official award
- Dave Melton spoke about Earth Day events and distributed information with activities for April

**5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:**

1. Minutes of regular meeting on February 12, 2018
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. Marketing Director Reports

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**6A. Department Reports – Municipal Development District**

Kara Clore reviewed handouts distributed to Council. Public Use Funds are not included on the printout. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the MDD will be partnering with the school to hold a workshop at the Alcoa Lake House Training Center.

★ Councilmember Calame arrived at 5:43 p.m.

Dr. Weed gave a brief summary of meeting with Texas Department of Transportation regarding the I-14 route and the loop around Rockdale.

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

Lon Williams gave a brief report to Council regarding violations, demolished structures, permits, and vacant buildings.

**11A. Receive an update and take any necessary action regarding the 2016 Texas Capital Fund (TCF) Infrastructure Grant #7216172**

Scott Murrah with BSP reported that the project began entirely through the MDD. The City has been invoiced for 90% of the project in the amount of \$42,500. The City has paid \$38,250 to date, with an outstanding balance of \$4,250. The two outstanding bills from Alliance Engineering Group, Inc. totaling \$2,527 were not included with the BSP invoices. Judy Langford with Langford Community Management Services reported that \$37,000 has been paid to date. The overall contract amount was \$50,000. Since the project reached the 50% milestone, an additional amount was billed for the project. Total outstanding invoices are as follows: \$4,250 owed to BSP; \$8,000 owed to Langford; and \$2,527 owed to Alliance.

**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 validate the paid to date amounts with actual checks written plus additional outstanding balances to Alliance for \$2,527, BSP for \$4,250, and Langford for \$8,000. Motion carried.

**10B. 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, Texas Capital Fund Program Contract 7217042**

**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.

**7A. Conduct a workshop for a quarterly review of the FY 2017-18 budget**

Workshop opened at 6:08 p.m.

- 530-03 - Court fine revenue is low – projected to be \$222,000 (instead of \$300,000 budgeted)

❖ Councilmember Phillips left at 6:15 p.m.

- 611-211 – Expenses for legal fees are high
- 611-219 – Council expenses are over due to annual Roll Call maintenance agreement
- 624-501 – Expense for walking trail was taken from this account since it was over \$5,000 – money is available in 624-203 General Maintenance to cover costs
- Bottom line – General Fund is approximately \$300,000 over revenue
- 53 days in Reserves – should have 105 days (TML recommends 120 days)
- Will add this item to next regular meeting agenda to allow Council additional time to study budget printout

Workshop closed at 6:50 p.m.

**7B. Conduct a workshop to review the Comprehensive City Plan**

Workshop opened at 6:51 p.m.

- Most changes were phrasing
- Several charts were removed and replaced with links so that data will remain current
- Removed zoning areas and replaced with link to City website
- Industrialized modular homes are considered to be residential structures per State
- Need to get updated charts from KSA
- Requesting updated Flood Plain map from FEMA
- Requested a Design Criteria manual be developed by Public Works so that portion could be removed from the Comprehensive City Plan
- Recommend a street survey
- Airport Plan was included in City Plan
- City Services – new priority list for parks replaced the previous chart

Chris Whittaker thanked the Planning & Zoning Commission for their great work. Stated that links will need to be reviewed annually.

Workshop closed at 7:08 p.m.

**8A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the Comprehensive City Plan**

Public hearing opened at 7:08 p.m.

- Deta Donnelly – Asked if the Plan referenced water and wastewater as it is now or in the future
- Lon Williams – Responded that it includes both
- Deta Donnelly – Asked how hard it is to get updated flood plain maps
- Lon Williams – Responded that we have asked several times for updates, but we are so small that we are way down on their list of priorities
- Kara Clore – Asked if the City was going to have a meeting to accept public comments, like they did last time
- Mayor – Responded that this meeting with public hearing was the opportunity to receive public comments

Public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

**9A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending the Rockdale Code of Ordinances Article 14.01.001 adopting a Comprehensive City Plan, providing for the amendment of the plan; providing for related matters; 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 Bland, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

**9B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Article 1.02 “Administration” of the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing for Open Meetings; establishing an effective date and other related matters**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

**10A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution appointing election judges and early voting ballot board for election on May 5, 2018**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

**10C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution approving a reduction in rates charged by ATMOS Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division (“ATMOS”) and authorizing consent to a reduction in rates charged by ATMOS Pipeline Texas (“APT”), all related to the reduction in the Federal Corporate Tax Rate; finding the reduction in ATMOS’ rates to be just and reasonable; finding that the meeting complied with the Open Meetings Act; declaring an effective date; and requiring delivery of the resolution to the Company and Special Counsel**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

**11B. Receive an update and take any necessary action on road contract with CRU**

Chris Whittaker, Scott Murrah, and Kara Clore provided a summary to Council of the CRU contract. Mr. Murrah recommends cancelling contract with CRU, submitting final change order with items not completed zeroed out, and paying retainage. That would allow the MDD to move forward with contract to complete road and repairs to Texas Street.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to allow the city manager to negotiate exiting the CRU contract, contingent upon the City and MDD entering into an Interlocal Agreement for the funding. Motion carried.

**11C. Receive an update and take any necessary action on an Interlocal Agreement between the Rockdale Municipal Development District (MDD) and the City**

Chris Whittaker stated that Jeff Ulmann with the Knight Law Firm is reviewing the latest draft of the agreement. Kara Clore stated that the MDD addressed previous comments from Jeff Ulmann and the costs in question. MDD representatives Ms. Clore and Dr. Weed stated that the invoices from BSP (\$4,250) and Alliance (\$2,527) would be paid directly to the vendors by MDD. The only unpaid invoice at this time to be addressed is from Langford (\$8,000). Chris Whittaker recommended the Council postpone any action until legal review is complete.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the Interlocal Agreement pending the addition of \$8,000 for Langford into Section 3.04 and final legal review. Motion carried.

**11D. Consider and take any necessary action on the FY 2017-18 budget**

Postponed.

**11E. Consider and take any necessary action authorizing the city manager and city attorney to enter into an agreement or contract with Milam County and the City of Cameron for ambulance services**

Byron Sedlacek with AMR gave a brief summary regarding the contract for ambulance services. Contract could remain the same for an additional five years. Triad could extend an offer to Thorndale for an opportunity to buy-in for their portion of the costs. The current contract expires on December 31, 2018.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to allow the city manager to enter negotiations for ambulance services. Motion carried.

**11F. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for city property located at 1166 Highway 79 West**

Chris Whittaker reported that no bids were received.

**11G. 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 a Texas Historical Marker for the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented in the amount of \$1,800. Motion carried.

**11H. Consider and take any necessary action on HOT fund expenditures**

City manager has requested funds for the Marketing Director to attend a sales tax conference and the TTIA conference in June. Funds were also requested for a laptop and docking station.

Kara Clore recommends a company credit card be obtained for the Marketing Director.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve training classes and laptop/docking station for the Marketing Director. Motion carried.

**11I. Receive an update from the city manager on the Incode Purchasing Module**

Chris Whittaker reported on options to network all departments to Incode purchase order module. Option 1 would cost \$8,300 and option 2 would cost \$16,000. There may be an internal work around at no cost. Purchase orders should be obtained prior to purchase.

**11J. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for engineering/architectural services for the FEMA approved Project Worksheet for damage caused by Hurricane Harvey**

Councilmember Dalley asked Public Works Director for his recommendation. Jason Hubbell recommends Dunaway. Mayor King made the same recommendation based on Dunaway having more experience with FEMA projects and having three civil engineers with flood management experience on staff. Chris Whittaker recommends Dunaway.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve award of bid to BEFCO Engineering. Motion carried.

**11K. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Projects List**

Chris Whittaker gave brief updates on the following:

- POSGCD grant was submitted
- FM 908 curve done – Roberts Avenue waiting on an issue with AT&T line
- New manhole installed at site of new police station
- TWDB water and wastewater projects are under review
- WWTP issues
  - Clean out digester
  - SBR clean out


Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
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 Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
 City Secretary

  
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 John E. King, Mayor

