

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

John King, Mayor  
Nathan Bland, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jason Barcak  
Denise Wallace  
Richard Coppedge  
Joyce Dalley  
Doug Calame

**City Staff:**

Chris Whittaker, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Sandra Ellis, Treasurer  
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director  
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police  
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer  
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 5:30 p.m., August 13, 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 July 9 and special meetings on July 13, July 31, and August 1, 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

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**6A. Department Reports – Library Board**

Sharon Cloud reported that the Library Board will be holding a memory brick fundraiser. They continue to encourage authors, artists, collectors, etc to present programs at the Library. The summer reading program was a success. Everyone is welcome to the Friday coffee events.

**6B. Department Reports – Public Works Department**

Jason Hubbell reported that airport runway work will be on August 20<sup>th</sup> and last about one week. Fire hydrants will be inspected and painted. Volunteer tree work at the airport will begin next week. Gave an update on generator costs and quotes for heavy equipment.

**7A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance to rezone property located at S25200 Washington Heights, Block 4, Lot 1, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property ID 10755 known as 308 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue) from R-1 zoning classification (Residential Single-Family) to C-1 zoning classification (Commercial-Light)**

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

- 7B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance to rezone property located at S18900 Rockdale, Block 114, Lot 15 pt of, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property ID 15489 known as 331 West Belton Avenue) from R-1 zoning classification (Residential Single-Family) to R-2 zoning classification (Residential Multi-Family)**

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

- 8A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution of intent to begin annexation process for City property located at 1166 Hwy 79 West (a called 6.0 acre tract)**

**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 resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9A. Receive an update on Bitcoin, Bitmain and other related technologies**

Dustin Haisler with e.Republic gave a presentation to Council on blockchain technology, bitcoin, Bitmain, and cryptocurrency. Question and answer session followed presentation.

- 9H. Consider and take any necessary action on an Economic Development Administration Grant for distressed coal communities**

Kara Clore and Dr. Weed reported that the EDA Grant is in the proposal phase. They have partnered with the County, area school districts, and Work Force Commissions to bring higher education options to Milam County. The old City Hall building could be the primary location for classrooms and laboratory (possibly a headquarters). The old funeral home property could possibly be utilized for parking. The focus will be on health care, IT, welding, and manufacturing/construction.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed for the MDD to move forward in coordination with other entities on the EDA Grant with the caveat that the higher education center be located at the old City Hall building. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on approval of an annexation schedule for City property located at 1166 Hwy 79 West**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed approve the schedule and begin the process. Motion carried.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant for a Splash Pad at Samuel Park**

- Chris Whittaker distributed current cost list to Council and stated the project must be completed by July 2020.
- Mayor King feels the money could be better utilized to serve more citizens
- Councilmember Bland stated that he initially voted not to apply for the grant. Since the grant was awarded and we hosted a groundbreaking ceremony, he feels that the City should follow through with the project in order to keep their word to the citizens.
- Councilmember Dalley stated that the proposed plan is much larger than the original concept. Gave a brief history of property. She is not supportive of the splash pad.
- Grant is only good for Samuel Park location
- Councilmember Barcak stated that he is all for activities for the kids, but the citizens deserve better water and roads
- Jerry with BSP stated that MSI donated dirt-work for excavation and pad-work. Once dirt-work is complete, Kraftsman could complete installation in approximately three months.
- Parking would be an extra cost. Walking trail would have to be reworked.
- City will host a Town Hall Meeting to receive public comments

Item was postponed to a future regular Council meeting.

**9D. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by the Coffield Ministries for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for the Cathey Qualls Revival**

Chris Whittaker received the request after the event. No receipts were received. He doesn't think the event is eligible for funding without receipts. Recommends motion to deny request due to lack of documentation.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and one (1) opposed to deny the request due to lack of documentation. Voting for the motion were Barcak, Calame, Dalley, Coppedge, and Wallace. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

**9E. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by Fly Apache Pass RC for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for the 2018 Ice House Fly In event**

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

**9F. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by Vicki Moultry on behalf of Frank & Brenda Williams for a zoning exception (variance) for property located at S25100 Wallis, Block 1, Lot 8, 9, & 10, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property ID 20336 known as 812 San Gabriel Street) for the installation of a manufactured home**

P&Z recommended denial of request.

- Vicki Moultry gave a brief summary of average earnings for families in Rockdale area. Understands the intent of the zoning map, but feels that it doesn't fit the reality for a majority of the residents (especially lower income families). Options for this property are to tear down existing home and build a new one (which they can't afford) or to place a manufactured home on the site (which it is not zoned for).
- Councilmember Dalley stated that she searched for options, but could not find anything. Feels that we need to be able to help folks in our community.
- Mayor King stated that several years ago there was a HUD program to have homes built at no cost to the owners (as long as the taxes were current). Once the owner lived in the new home for five years and kept the taxes paid, the home would belong to the property owner.
- If a variance is granted, then the "law" for the whole city has been changed
- Council requested the city manager to contact Langford (grant writers) regarding grants for low-income housing

**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 deny request for a zoning exception. Motion carried.

**9G. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for North Burleson Street FEMA Hazard Mitigation Project**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to proceed with the project (to be funded with Certificates of Obligation) and to submit a request to Representative Wilson's office to begin the process with FEMA for a Special Needs Assessment for supplemental funds. Motion carried.

**9I. Consider and take any necessary action on setting City Council priorities**

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

**9J. Consider and take any necessary action on an appointment to the Library Board**

**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 appoint Kris Reuter to the Library Board. Motion carried.

**9K. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for City property located at 1166 Hwy 79 West**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to reject all bids. Motion carried.

**9L. Consider and take any necessary action on approval of a letter of engagement for the annual audit**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the letter of engagement with Don Allman for annual audit services. Motion carried.

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

Chris Whittaker gave brief updates on the following:


- Meeting with Ward Roddam, Judge Barkemeyer, and Bitmain to discuss fire and ambulance support for old Alcoa property
- City could apply for GLO grant for flood mitigation on Meadow Drive
- USDA water improvement grant information received
- Phone call with Jennifer Ritter on Tuesday to discuss TWDB grant/loan
- Street Certificates of Obligation may be used for purchase of equipment, but would need to purchase as opposed to lease
- Still waiting on Fire Marshall follow-up plan for local hotel

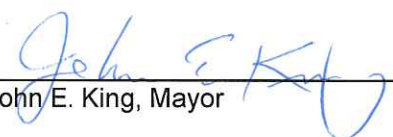
Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
City Secretary

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