

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Sandra Ellis, Treasurer
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director
Stephen Goodrich, Lieutenant
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer
Caz Muske, Marketing Director

Absent:

Joyce Dalley

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., October 8, 2018, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

Councilmember Dalley is attending a Board of Directors Meeting prior to the TML Annual Conference.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on September 10 and special meetings on September 10 and September 24, 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 Bland and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6A. Department Reports – Park Board

No representative available for report.

6B. Department Reports – Administration

Sandra Ellis reported on close-out of FY 2017-18 and preparations for auditor. Condensed billing cycle has been completed and seems to be working well.

7A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed initiation of annexation proceedings for a certain City-owned tract or parcel of land being 6.0 acres, more or less, being generally located at 1166 West Highway 79, Rockdale, Milam County, Texas

Public hearing opened at 5:36 p.m. No comments were received. Public hearing closed at 5:37 p.m.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution amending the policy for City vehicles that may be taken home

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Voting for the motion were Bland, Barcak, Coppedge, and Wallace. Voting against was Calame. Motion carried.

- 8B. Consider and take any necessary action on a revised resolution to request financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to provide for the costs of planning, design and construction of improvements to the City's Water System; to authorize the officers, staff and consultants to file an application and other documents for financial participation in the program; and making certain findings in connection therewith**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9A. Receive an update on the construction of the Rockdale Water Treatment Plant Filtration Unit Project #7217411 and take any necessary action on award of bids for said project**

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 award the bid to Stolz Mechanical Contractors, LLC for the base bid and additive alternate 2.02 in the amount of \$376,400 to be paid out of 2015 Certificates of Obligation. Motion carried.

- 9B. Receive an update on an Economic Development Administration Grant for distressed coal communities**

Kara Clore stated that she had no report. Chris Whittaker stated concern that there is no agreement with investor for the old City Hall.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on repairs to Texas Street resulting from the Industrial Park water line project**

Chris Whittaker stated that the initial letter and meeting were in December 2017. The follow-up letter was received in October 2018. MSI was asked to give an estimate for repairs and the \$35,000 estimate was verified by BSP Engineers. The City contracted with CRU, but due to pending litigation, some items are prohibited from discussion.

Dr. Weed stated that the MDD acknowledges this is part of their project. Kara Clore reported that the \$35,000 estimate includes road and parking lot repairs. She also stated that, at this time, the MDD doesn't have funding for this project. They hope to be in discussions with the County to possibly partner on the project. Hope to have an answer for the October MDD meeting. The MDD Board considers this a priority. The MDD will contact Rising Star Church with a tentative timeline for discussions.

Mayor King asked for an update to this item be placed on the next City Council regular meeting agenda.

- 9D. Consider and take any necessary action on approving a stipend program for Police Officer candidates**

Sample contract is under legal review.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the program as presented. Motion carried.

- 9E. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by Joan Ratliff for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for City membership in the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail Association**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Barcak and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve \$250 for membership as presented. Motion carried.

- 9F. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by Joan Ratliff for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for City membership in the Rancheria Grande Chapter as a Model Trail Community Chapter of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail Association**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve \$250 for membership as presented. Motion carried.

- 9G. Consider and take any necessary action on a request submitted by Carol Worley on behalf of a client for the possible purchase of a portion of City cemetery property from the City of Rockdale**

Chris Whittaker reported that there are no plans to develop the property at this time. The Cemetery Committee has no objections to the request.

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 go out for bids for the portion of property requested with the right to reject bids. Motion carried.

- 9H. Consider and take any necessary action on a request for placement on agenda submitted by Gary Darby regarding lien on property in Hillcrest Addition**

Gary Darby spoke to Council regarding a paving lien from 1996. Wants to make sure that all liens were paid without discounts. Chris Whittaker stated that he will research and run by legal. If there is a conflict of interest with local legal services, the issue will be turned over to the assistant City attorney. Mr. Darby stated that he wants to make sure he is being treated fairly.

- 9I. Consider and take any necessary action on a request for placement on agenda submitted by the Rockdale Girls Softball League regarding a request for City to assist league with water and electricity in written agreement (if necessary)**

Pete Rubio, RGSL president, spoke on behalf of the league. He stated that the cost of water and electricity would cause their registration fee to double. This would keep some kids from being able to participate. Chris Whittaker responded that letter went out in January, after the review of water policy, stating that organizations would be responsible for their utilities. Since the RGSL budget was already set for the season, an extension was given for the remainder of that season. While trying to find options that would allow all kids an opportunity to play, the following ideas were discussed:

- a. City-owned/City-operated – City could fund utilities, but maintenance would fall to City. Would need to work out a fee schedule.
- b. Partner with Baseball League to have combined facilities to help off-set declining participation and increasing expenses.

- 9J. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Project List**

- Nursing home sewer line/lift station project is on track
- Special Council meeting on Monday, October 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

- 10A. At 7:00 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.072 and Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate about real property and economic development negotiations**

Council invited Jason Hubbell, Lon Williams, John Weed, and Kara Clore into executive session.

- 10B. At 7:57 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding deliberations about real property and economic development negotiations**


There was no action taken.

Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 13th day of November, 2018.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor