

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Sandra Ellis, Treasurer
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police
Jerry Waggoner, Municipal Court Judge
Caz Muske, Marketing Director

Absent:

Richard Coppedge

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., December 10, 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 November 13, 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 Report

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

6A. Department Reports – Cemetery Committee

Chris Whittaker reported that the bid notice for the IOOF property will be in the newspaper this week and bids will be due by the end of the month.

6B. Department Reports – Municipal Court

Jerry Waggoner reported that two computers had been ordered for court personnel. A windfall was found in the restricted funds and transferred to the general accounts. Amount of citations issued is down due to ticket writers not working.

6C. Department Reports – Marketing Director

Caz Muske presented a report to Council. Topics included branding, social media, the Retail Coach, Patterson Center, and HOT funds.

7A. At 5:49 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for consultations with attorney and under Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code for deliberations of economic development negotiations

Executive session is only for economic development negotiations. Council invited Dr. Weed and Kara Clore into executive session.

* At 6:38 p.m., Councilmember Barcak left the meeting.

- 7B. At 6:40 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding consultations with attorney and deliberations of economic development negotiations**

There was no action taken.

- 8A. Conduct a workshop to discuss the current status of Little River Health Care in Rockdale (waiver of Citizen Communication procedures for this item – public comments will be allowed)**

Workshop opened at 6:41 p.m. Chris Whittaker reported that information has been made public on how patients may obtain their medical records. Also, a job fair will be held on Wednesday. Dr. Weed stated that former employees are working without pay to provide medical records. The bankruptcy court will assign a trustee for records management. There are current discussions to bring a clinic back to the area soon. Workshop was closed at 6:45 p.m.

- 8B. Conduct a workshop to discuss the rate adjustments necessary for the Texas Water Development Board application for funding of water and sewer projects (Citizen Communication procedures reinstated for this item – public comments will be allowed during item 11A)**

Workshop opened at 6:45 p.m. Chris Whittaker introduced Matthew Garrett with NewGen Strategies & Solutions. Mr. Garrett gave a presentation to Council. Workshop was closed at 7:21 p.m.

** Councilmember Barcak returned to the meeting.

- 9A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application**

Public hearing opened at 7:22 p.m. No comments were received. Public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.

- 10A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance annexing 6.00 acres of City-owned land; approving a service plan for the annexed area; making findings of fact; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date**

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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 10B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Appendix A of the City's Code of Ordinances, the Fee Schedule, Article A2.000 Utility Rates and Charges and Article A3.000 Other Fees, by amending the fees charged for Solid Waste/Garbage Collection and Disposal at City Yard, Alcoholic Beverage Permits, Wrecking/Junkyard Registration Annual Fee, and by adding Section A3.019(e) Fair Park Commercial Heifer Barn; amending and repealing conflicting ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing an effective date and an open meetings clause**

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

- 10C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending and adopting a Water Conservation Plan; establishing restrictions of certain water uses; establishing penalties for the violation of and provisions for enforcement of these restrictions; establishing procedures for granting variances; and providing severability and an effective date**

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

11A. Receive an update on the rate study and take any necessary action on rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application

- Chris Whittaker reviewed the TWDB timeline. Will need to have the first reading of an ordinance in January to meet the April deadline.
- Belinda Hillhouse stated that she had sent an email to Council a few weeks ago. She doesn't think we can afford a complete system change at this time. Not sure the full amount should be funded exclusively through water bills. She voiced a concern that KSA is not doing an adequate job for the City.
- Whittaker addressed the concerns over KSA and their involvement in projects. He stated that Town Hall meetings will be planned.
- Mayor King discussed an alternative option. City wells could be abandoned and water could be purchased from Southwest Milam. Chris Whittaker will get more information from SW Milam.
- Need citizen buy-in to the process before proceeding. Two Town Hall meetings will be held in January along with public hearings at the next two Council meetings.

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 adopt Scenario 2 rates for 2019 with the caveat that we explore all options prior to moving forward and authorize the city manager to engage/explore any other viable options. Motion carried.

11B. Consider and take any necessary action on entering into an open services agreement with NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC for continuing services for assistance related to its Community and Citizen Education Plan regarding major utility capital investment and related utility rate increases

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to hire NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC. Motion carried.

11L. Discuss and take any necessary action on possible special elections to be held on May 4, 2019 regarding:

1. Charter amendments
2. Adoption of sales and use tax for the maintenance and repair of municipal streets

Mayor King informed Council that Charter amendments would include recall election procedure clarification and dual membership to committees/boards/commissions. Chris Whittaker stated that he is not ready to pursue the street maintenance tax at this time, but wants the Council to be aware of the option. Kara Clore stated that Council might want to consider a TIF (tax increment finance) instead, which is based off of increased property values.

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 allow the city manager and city secretary to explore any Charter amendments for the May 2019 election. Motion carried.

11C. Receive an update from the Rockdale Municipal Development District and take any necessary action on repairs to Texas Street resulting from the Industrial Park water line project

❖ Mayor King left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Kara Clore reported that no action has been taken by the MDD. The Board is seeking more bids. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2018.

11D. Consider and take any necessary action on funding water and streets projects

Chris Whittaker reported on the San Gabriel project. KSA has identified old lines under the project area that need to be lowered. Original line items from the project budget were changed/removed to reduce costs of the project.

Lines are too shallow and need to be lowered. Whittaker recommended paying for lowering the water lines with Certificates of Obligation.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve lowering of water lines. Voting for the motion were Bland, Barcak, Dalley, and Wallace. Voting against was Calame. Motion carried.

Jason Hubbell reported to Council on needs in the Streets Department. The purchase of a new heavier roller would improve repairs to streets. Cost of a new roller would be approximately \$44,000. No action was taken.

11E. Receive an update and take any necessary action on transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year

Sandra Ellis reviewed letter on transferred restricted fund balance. Each fund has approximately 70 days.

11F. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a lot size variance request submitted by Darrell Grear for property ID 18780, Original Town-Rd, Block B, Lot 5 North part of, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property known as 230 East 2nd Avenue)

Planning & Zoning recommended approval.

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 approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

11G. Consider and take any necessary action on approval of 2019 City holiday schedule

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

11H. Consider and take any necessary action on an appointment to the Park Board

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 appoint Koye Bleeker to the Park Board. Motion carried.

11I. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for steel pipe and racks

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 reject all bids and authorize city manager to rebid. Motion carried.

11J. Consider and take any necessary action on an Intergovernmental Agreement between Milam County and the City of Rockdale for assistance to the City with Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funding to address flood damages sustained during DR 4332

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to enter agreement with Milam County. Motion carried.

11K. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the marketing director regarding a request submitted by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for annual operation of the Rockdale Visitor Center for 2019

Caz Muske recommends funding \$18,000 for the remainder of FY 2018-19 (January through September 2019).

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

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

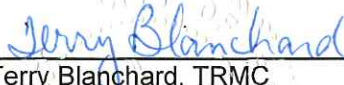
- Nursing home project is on-track. Working to get power to the lift station.
- Received good comments about San Gabriel Street
- YMCA will be on the January agenda to discuss pool management
- Patterson Center – issues with decorations. Acoustical panels could be attached to walls. Lighting is being addressed in parking lot. Safety issue with steps at front of building.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 14th day of January, 2019.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor