

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

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

**City Staff:**

Chris Whittaker, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Sandra Ellis, Treasurer  
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director  
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police

**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 5:36 p.m., January 14, 2019, at the George Hill Patterson Community Center, 609 Mill Ave, Rockdale, Texas

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

- Belinda Hillhouse – Feels that the city needs a city engineer. Not a reflection on Council or staff.
- Pat Landrum – Wants to understand how the animal shelter is funded. *Chris Whittaker responded that the City provides for basic food and care. PAWS pays for extras. Facility is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.*

**5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:**

1. Minutes of regular meeting on December 10, 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 Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

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

No representative present to give report.

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

Thomas Harris reported that construction of the new police station is progressing and starting to take shape. Dailey-Wells will furnish new dispatch equipment at no cost to the City. CTCOG is assisting. We currently have two cadets in the Police Academy.

**7A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application**

Public hearing was opened at 5:46 p.m. The following comments were received:

- Matthew Garrett with NewGen Strategies and Solutions gave a brief presentation

- Kenneth Callahan – Concerned about seniors at Hunters Chase. Asked why the City waited so long to begin the process. *Matthew Garrett replied that a needs-based affordability option has not been addressed at this time.*
- Tom Drake – Did you factor in future revenue (best and worst case scenarios)? *Matthew Garrett replied that an elasticity factor was used as single assumption.*
- Tom Drake – Have you adjusted for additional street repairs that will be needed? *Bob Lane with KSA replied that the initial costs have been factored in.*
- Tom Drake – Did you factor in for loss of hospital? *Matthew Garrett replied yes – approximately 2%.*
- Candace Hoffman – Asked about the meter replacement cost to downsize meters. *Chris Whittaker replied that it would cost approximately \$225 per meter to replace. Looking at about \$96,000 for meters. Numbers are based on ¾ standard. Matthew Garrett stated that to adjust costs to a ¾ and 1" standard would increase bill amounts by approximately \$2.50.*
- Vernon Landrum – Will this bankrupt the City? *Chris Whittaker stated that the City doesn't have the ability to make these changes with our current rate structure and that is why the rates need to be increased. The City is not in compliance with TCEQ and EPA. If nothing is done to improve the system, the City will continue to receive fines.*
- Ray Doerfler – Meter size shouldn't affect water rates. *Mayor replied that the demand on the system must be met.*
- Tom Newton – Asked if this is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance. *Chris Whittaker verified this is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.*
- Geraldine Offield – Are you considering provisions for senior citizens? *Mayor stated that has not been done yet. Councilmember Coppedge stated that there will be a meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> to receive citizen suggestions. Councilmember Dalley stated that she has been doing research on the number of seniors in our community.*
- Maggie Shackelford – Appealed to Council to consider what's behind the meter. *Matthew Garrett stated that they looked at a 23-month history of water use. They could look at options for multi-family rates.*
- Rick Powell – Stated that rate schedule can change drastically due to other adjustments. Middle-class could pay a lot more.
- Belinda Hillhouse – Questioned rate calculator from newspaper and website. *Matthew Garrett replied that the 2019 rates were used in calculations.*
- Chris Whittaker stated that the City is only planning to borrow what is needed as it is needed.
- Candace Hoffman – Will new rates take affect before meters can be downsized? *Chris Whittaker stated that meter information will be available at the February meeting along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of an ordinance.*
- Neil Wettstein – Does Scenario 2 include repairs for WWTP that must be done? *Matthew Garrett replied that it does include design component for water and wastewater. Worked with financial advisor on analysis which includes both.*
- Doug Calame stated that the age of system was not factored in for other city comparisons.

Public hearing was closed at 6:52 p.m.

**8A. Conduct a workshop to discuss the proposed rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application**

Workshop opened at 7:03 p.m. Chris Whittaker reported that information is being sought for outsourcing water. Southwest Milam, Blue Water, and Aqua America proposals are due in April. Chris Whittaker and Bob Lane met with TWDB today on the Clean Water project. WWTP is not in compliance. Can apply next year for up to \$4M to correct clay lines. Loan forgiveness is up to \$500,000. Can keep reapplying to TWDB for additional projects. Can use EPA notice on application to increase points. Will continue with applications to POSGCD and CDBG. Workshop was closed at 7:19 p.m.

**9A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second 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**

Belinda Hillhouse spoke about the amount of sensationalism in the press regarding Rockdale.

**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 approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance ordering and establishing procedures for a 2019 General Election to elect one (1) Mayor At-Large, 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 Wallace, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance ordering and establishing procedures for a 2019 Special Election for amendments to the Charter for the City of Rockdale, Texas**

**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 revised ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 9D. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance readopting the tax abatement agreement guidelines, criteria and procedures established by Ordinance 2013-02-11 (6B)**

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

- 9E. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance establishing a tax for telecommunications in Rockdale, Texas**

Kara Clore reported that this is not a new tax. It has been around since the 1980's.

**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 approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 9F. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Appendix A of the City's Code of Ordinances, the Fee Schedule, Article A2.000 Utility Rates and Charges, by amending the fees charged for Utility Accounts, and Monthly Water and Wastewater Charges; 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 Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- 10A. Mayor to proclaim the week of January 20-26, 2019 as Rockdale School Choice Week in Rockdale, Texas**

- 10B. Consider and take any necessary action on YMCA pool management operations and TMCA rec center operations**

- Chris Whittaker – Pool has been transformed over the past few years. Tripled attendance over the last 2-3 years. Staffing is an issue. The pool is a huge benefit to the City.
- David (VP of Operations for the Y) – Excited for opportunity to partner with the City. Multi-year contract. Look to staff pool with Rockdale citizens/youth (16 YOA and over). Some successful events include obstacle course, snack shack, movie night, and lessons.
- Chris Whittaker – Pool revenue is approximately \$22,000 per year. Cost for the Y would be about \$60,000 per year (based on hours of operation). Open in May. Would need time to recruit and train. The Y would assume all liability.

- City is responsible for chemicals, but the Y would administer them.
- Mayor brought up the approximate \$38,000 difference that would be needed for operations. Should be addressed in the next budget.
- Jeff gave a presentation to Council. Williamson County is the benchmark facility for the Y partnerships.
- Need a cost analysis to see what can be done and how much it will cost. Needs to be built into the next FY budget.

Postponed vote until the February meeting.

**10C. Consider and take any necessary action on a draft RFP (Request for Proposal) for lease of the old City Hall building**

Postponed until the February meeting.

**10D. 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**

Dr. Weed stated that construction should begin within the next 30 days.

**10E. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for City property (at IOOF cemetery)**

No bids were received.

**10F. Consider and take any necessary action on repairs to Meadow Drive/Murray Avenue and Rockdale Road/Yokley Road intersections**

Patin Construction gave a bid of \$80,000 for work at Murray/Meadow intersection. MSI gave estimates for both intersections of \$74,500 (\$42,000 for Meadow/Murray and \$32,500 for Yokley/Rockdale Rd). Need to divert water away from houses that are having flooding issues. Drainage work is also needed. Chris Whittaker proposed taking funds from the 2015 Tax Notes.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted five (5) for and one (1) opposed to approve two (2) patches to be funded from the 2015 Tax Notes with a maximum of \$85,000. Voting for the motion were Barcak, Calame, Dalley, Coppedge, and Wallace. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

Public Works equipment needs will be added to the February Council agenda.

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

**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 reappoint Sharon Cloud, Sherilyn Johnson, and Delores Sonntag to the Library Board. Motion carried.

**10H. 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 Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Barkley Lagrone and Doug Williams to the P&Z Commission. Motion carried.

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

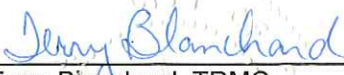
- Police Station on track for March
- New phone system should be installed beginning in February
- Open House is scheduled for the new Police Station in April
- Reimbursement for the North Burleson project has been submitted
- TML Region 10 meeting will be hosted in Rockdale on March 7<sup>th</sup>

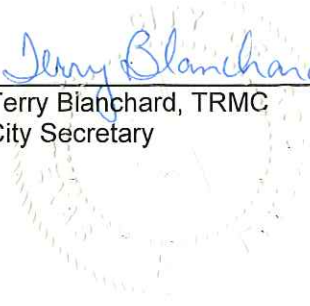
- W.A.G. (Water Action Group) Meeting will be held at the Library on January 31<sup>st</sup>

Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.


These minutes approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

**ATTEST:**

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



**APPROVED:**

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