

**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
Barbara Holly, Code Official
Stephen Goodrich, Lieutenant

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 5:37 p.m., February 11, 2019, at the George Hill Patterson Community Center, 609 Mill Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance**Citizen Communications**

Dave Melton – Earth Day activities were started in Rockdale 5 years ago and have grown from 25 to 100 volunteers. Gave a brief summary of upcoming events.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on January 14, 2019
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Library Report
6. Municipal Court Report
7. Police Department Report
8. Racial Profiling Report
9. Code Enforcement Reports
10. Public Works Department Reports
11. Hotel Tax Fund Report
12. 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. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application

Public hearing was opened at 5:45 p.m. The following comments were received:

- Matthew Garrett with NewGen Strategies and Solutions gave a brief presentation
- Belinda Hillhouse – Did you factor in for loss of hospital? *Matthew Garrett replied yes – approximately 2%. Rate increases for future projects were factored in as well.*
- John Shoemake – 2000 gallons is part of the current base rate. Needs more clarification. Wants to see the calculation for larger meter sizes. Asked if the entire \$48 million is being borrowed at once or in stages. Supports everything the Council is looking at. There have been upgrades over the last several years. Advised against advertising that the water will no longer be red. Water coming out of the aquifer is going to be slightly red due to the minerals.
- Kenneth Callahan – Asked who was considered an average user. Wanted to know the cost of a ¾" meter.
- Doug Calame – Water that is filtered through the system will have constituents removed and should solve the red water issue.

- Bob Lane – Water is high in iron and manganese. Sand and green sand filter have been improved over the past 40 years. Dual media bed will help to eliminate red water.
- Maggie Shackelford – Is there any way to get into a deeper aquifer?

Public hearing was closed at 6:28 p.m.

7A. Conduct a workshop to discuss the proposed rate adjustments for the Texas Water Development Board application

Workshop opened at 6:28 p.m. Chris Whittaker reported that there are 440 meters over ¾". Bulk meters could be purchased at \$225 per meter. He proposes that the City pay for meter and send letter to customers with larger meters. Also, getting estimate for contract to replace meters. Matthew Garrett advised Council that if too many meters are swapped to a smaller size, then the cost for the ¾" class rate would need to increase. Chris Whittaker recommended paying for the meters and contract labor out of the Contingency Fund. Mayor King stated that Council could declare a 1" meter standard and keep from having to swap out meters at City's expense. Council discussed the size of standard meter and the impact on the funding amount for the application. Workshop was closed at 7:12 p.m.

7B. Conduct a workshop for a quarterly review of the FY 2018-19 budget

Workshop opened at 7:26 p.m. Reviewed line items with totals through January 2019. Workshop was closed at 7:43 p.m.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second 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 Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second 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 Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

8C. Consider and take any necessary action on the second 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 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.

8D. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance establishing a tax for telecommunications in Rockdale, Texas

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

8E. 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, 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.

- 8F. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance closing, vacating, and abandoning a 2.70 feet, more or less, portion of street right-of-way commonly known as Meadow Drive; authorizing conveyance to the abutting property owner in proportion to abutting ownership; approving a variance to the 25' setback requirements for the existing structures; providing findings of fact; authorizing conveyance of such abandoned street right-of-way by Special Warranty Deed; providing severability, effective date and open meetings clauses; and providing for related matters**

Barbara Holly reported that latest survey shows encroachment into right-of-way. Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval.

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.

- 9A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution establishing a joint election agreement with the Rockdale Independent School District**

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 resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution expressing opposition to legislative interference with local services, local revenue, and local control**

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

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing the submission of a Groundwater Conservation Grant Application to the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) and authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager, and the Public Works Director to act as the City's representatives to perform all reasonable and necessary actions with respect to the administrative consideration of the application, and to perform the terms and conditions of the award of the Conservation Grant, if approved by the POSGCD**

Chris Whittaker reported that this would be for the replacement of water lines under Highway 79.

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 resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9D. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the Community Development Fund; and authorizing the city manager to act as the City's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Texas CDBG Program**

Chris Whittaker stated that this would tie into the Rice Street project.

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

- 10A. Receive an update from the city manager and take any necessary action on the Water Action Group**

Chris Whittaker provided comments and suggestions from the W.A.G. meeting. No action was taken.

10B. Consider and take any necessary action on options to replace/downsize meters for customers to ¾" meters

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 set the standard of ¾", change out meters as they come up, buy meters as needed at the discretion of the city manager and public works director, and change rate at customer's written request for a specific meter size once verified and approved by the city manager and building/code officials, and have a deadline of May 1, 2019 to retro rates back to the March 1, 2019 start date. Motion carried.

A form will be prepared and available at City Hall and on the City's website.

10C. Consider and take any necessary action on The Y pool management operations and The Y rec center operations

Allen Sanders with RISD reported on the 21st Century Learning Center Grant. The summer program runs from June 3-27, Monday-Thursday from 8 AM to 12 noon. Grant may be used to offset some of the costs for The Y (funded on a per student basis). Chris Whittaker recommends moving money from 624-203 and 621-203 to fund program. Worst case scenario would be \$37,000. Not sure how programs may increase revenue. Dr. Weed stated that the MDD is willing to put in money for the project. Kara Clore volunteered to present the project to the Rotary Club. Allen Sanders volunteered to present the project to the Lions Club. The city manager and mayor will look at budget areas that could be used. Will review the new police station budget for any excessive funds. Charles Miles stated that we need more activities for kids in town.

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 try The Y proposal for one year and fund out of the existing budget. Motion carried.

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

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 approve the RFP as presented. Motion carried.

10E. Consider and take any necessary action to authorize the city manager to sign the contract for joint election services with the Milam County Election Officer

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

10F. Consider and take any necessary action on fuel sales at the H.H. Coffield Regional Airport

Chris Whittaker recommends \$4.00 per gallon. Doug Calame volunteered to build a spreadsheet to assist with tracking fuel.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve a rate of \$4.00 per gallon. Motion carried.

10G. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for steel pipe and rack (located at airport)

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 award to high bidder (Richard Melton). Motion carried.

10H. Consider and take any necessary action to possibly change the regular Council meeting date for November

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to change meeting to November 12, 2019. Motion carried.

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


- TML Region 10 Meeting in Rockdale on March 7, 2019
- New police station is on track
- Need to lock in dates for Oncor power, AT&T internet, and Verizon (PSAP and 911 system) before the move

Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

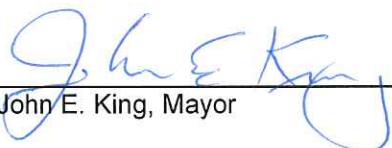
These minutes approved on the 11th day of March, 2019.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor

