

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Barbara Holly, Code Official
Lon Williams, Building Official
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police
Curah Beard, Marketing Director

Absent:

Doug Calame

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 5:32 p.m., March 11, 2019, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

No comments

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular and special meetings on February 11, 2019
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Library Report
6. Municipal Court Report
7. Police Department Report
8. Code Official Report
9. Building Official Report
10. Public Works Department Reports
11. Hotel Tax Fund Report

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland 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.

Chris Whittaker introduced Marketing Director Curah Beard.

6A. Department Reports – Municipal Development District

Dr. Weed reported on the annual workshop and the renewed focus of the MDD.

6B. Department Reports – Community Services

Lon Williams reported on the building permits and substandard structures. Barbara Holly reported on the number of active cases for code compliance.

6C. Department Reports – Public Works

Jason Hubbell reported on the on-going and completed projects.

7A. Conduct a workshop regarding the proposed ordinance requiring house numbers to be displayed

Workshop opened at 5:45 p.m. Council members discussed the size and location requirements listed in the proposed ordinance. Barbara Holly stated that first responders recommend the 6" reflective numbers to assist in locating addresses, specifically in non-apparent emergencies. Council suggested that number could be smaller and placed on either house, mailbox, or curb. Staff will look into Council recommendations and item will be placed on April agenda for another workshop. Workshop was closed at 5:57 p.m.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution appointing election judges and early voting ballot board for elections on May 4, 2019

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

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on an Application Filing and Authorized Representative Resolution for the Texas Water Development Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to fund work on the City's wastewater treatment facilities

Bob Lane with KSA reported that the application is in the process of being assembled.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland 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 from Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) and take any necessary action on temporary utility funding for citizens age 60 and over, the HOP voucher program, and affordable housing opportunities

Kerry Phillip, Director of the Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas and The Central Texas Aging, Disability and Veterans Resource Center gave a brief presentation to Council. Information was provided on programs that may be available to some Rockdale residents. Ms. Phillip will provide further information that will be placed on the City's website.

9B. Receive an update from the Retail Coach on activities in Rockdale

Kyle with Retail Coach gave a brief presentation to Council.

9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a proposal to amend the ordinance requiring a one-inch (1") meter for sprinkler systems

Barbara Holly reported findings to Council. Chris Whittaker updated Council on the number of requests that have been received by staff for meter reductions.

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 begin the process to amend the ordinance removing the 1" meter requirement for sprinkler systems. Motion carried.

An ordinance will be prepared for the April Council meeting.

9D. Discuss and take any necessary action on a potential amendment to Ordinance 2016-04-11 (8B) for homestead exemptions for individuals who are 65 and older or disabled

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to begin the process to amend the ordinance for an additional \$5,000 exemption. Motion carried.

An ordinance will be prepared for the April Council meeting.

9E. Consider and take any necessary action on a RAMP Grant for repairs to the lighting system at the H.H. Coffield Regional Airport

Cost of the lighting system repairs will be \$17,500. Chris Whittaker reported that one-half of the costs are currently in the City's budget. The City will pay for the repairs in full and the RAMP Grant will reimburse the City for one-half of the repair costs.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve funding the airport lighting system repairs as presented. Motion carried.

- 9F. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for one-half of the costs for replacement of gas lines, repair of chimney and roof, and installation of blinds**

Joan Ratliff stated that she doesn't think the application meets legal criteria for use of HOT funds.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the amount requested excluding window blinds. Motion carried.

- 9G. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by Cassie Caffey for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for the Rockdale Fall Music Festival**

Joan Ratliff, Cassie Caffey, and Kara Clore spoke to Council in favor of the event.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Coppedge to fully fund the event in the amount requested. Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION: A motion made by Councilmember Bland to approve \$6,500 for advertising with Festival Committee to work with marketing director, and if room nights exceed, then ask for additional funds. Motion was withdrawn.

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 funding in the amount of \$9,500 (\$6,500 for advertising plus \$3,000 for projected room nights) with the ability to ask for additional funds. Motion carried.

- 9H. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a variance request submitted by Steven M. Schwartz on behalf of Karmjeet Gill for property located at Griffis Acres, Block 1, Lot 11 Pt of, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property known as Budget Inn, 716 West Cameron Avenue)**
- 1. Variance – Fence height from 3' to 6' around pool and dog walk area**

P&Z recommends denial.

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

- 9I. Consider and take any necessary action on a request submitted by Linda Butler for an alley abandonment of Ramsey, Block 2, Lots 1, 8, and 25' of 2, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas (property known as 527 Bowser Street)**

Barbara Holly reported on an unbuild alley in the Ramsey Subdivision that separates Ms. Butler's properties. There are also unbuild streets within the same subdivision that would be beneficial to the Rockdale ISD if the abutting property owners were willing to relinquish their portion of the abutting right-of-way in favor of the school.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to begin the process to abandon the alley. Motion carried.

9J. Consider and take any necessary action on a request submitted by the American Legion Carlyle Post 358 for permission to move the flagpole from the corner of Main and Milam to the Post's current location at 2534 N FM 487

Jim McKimney with the American Legion stated that the flagpole was donated to the American Legion when they occupied the Wolf Hotel. The American Legion will assume all responsibility and liability for the pole removal.

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 allow the American Legion to remove the flagpole as long as they are willing to bear all costs, liability and responsibility for the removal. Motion carried.

9K. Consider and take any necessary action on replacing the filter media (rock) at the Mill Street Water Treatment Plant as an addition to the 2017-18 CDBG Grant currently under way

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 to be funded with 2015 Certificates of Obligation. Motion carried.

9L. Consider and take any necessary action on Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) contracts with KSA

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to accept the contracts as revised by KSA. Motion carried.

9M. Consider and take any necessary action on the two (2) vehicles that were seized by the District Attorney's Office and titled to the City of Rockdale

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 place both vehicles up for bid and decide at a later date to either accept or reject bids. Motion carried.

9N. Consider and take any necessary action on equipment needs for the Public Works Department

Jason Hubbell spoke with Council regarding equipment needs. Harold Barber with Purple Wave Auctions gave Council a brief summary of their online auction services.

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 allow the public works director (with approval of the city manager) to list surplus equipment on the Purple Wave Auctions website (for As Is/Where Is sales) with proceeds to go towards the purchase of a new small backhoe and look at budget to figure out a way to purchase a roller. Motion carried.

9O. Consider and take any necessary action on street repairs

Chris Whittaker reported that North Street needs improvements (curb and gutter). He will come back to Council with estimates. Also, Peach Street needs to be widened with curb and gutter.

9P. Receive an update on the FY 2019-20 Budget schedule

Council reviewed the budget schedule.

9Q. Consider and take any necessary action on lighting needs at the Senior Center

Joyce Dalley stated that the Senior Center is owned by the City, but Hill Country usually funds the maintenance needs. The west end of the building has little lighting and is in great need of upgrades. The Council may want to think about adding funds to the next budget for upgrades. Kerry Phillip reported that the USDA has grant programs for electrical needs. City manager will get more information and this item will be added to the April agenda.

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


- New PD estimated completion date is March 24th
- CTCOG 9-1-1 install is scheduled for April 4th
- Cornerstone Ceremony will be on March 30th
- Open house will be in April/May
- Project is on budget – expect to have funds left over for parks

Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

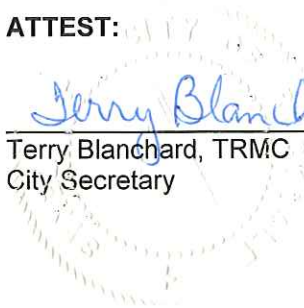
These minutes approved on the 8th day of April, 2019.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary





John E. King, Mayor