

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Sandra Ellis, Treasurer
Barbara Holly, Code Official
Jason Hubbell, Public Works Director
Stephen Goodrich, Lieutenant
Curah Beard, 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 5:32 p.m., April 8, 2019, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

Joyce Dalley gave a brief update on the CTCOG project for temporary assistance with water bills. The project has been approved, but they are waiting on the funds to come through.

5A. At 5:36 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for consultations with attorney

Council invited Roxana Perez Stevens, John Weed, Allan Miller, and Kara Clore into executive session.

5B. At 6:34 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

There was no action taken.

6A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular and special meetings on March 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
12. Marketing Director Report

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 consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

7A. Department Reports – Park Board

No representative in attendance.

7B. Department Reports – Administration

Sandra Ellis reported that a receptionist had been hired and would begin work on Tuesday. The new phone system will go live on April 17th. Early voting begins at City Hall on April 22nd.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Appendix A: Fee Schedule of the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances, Article A3.000 Other Fees, Section A3.009 Civic Center, Section A3.010 Library, and Section A3.018 Swimming Pool

The fee proposed for use of the Library sound system was removed. This system was donated by the Friends of the Library for public use.

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 approve the ordinance as revised. Motion carried.

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance 11.14.1988 for the requirement of a one-inch (1") meter for sprinkler systems

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 approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

8C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance 2016-04-11 (8B) for homestead exemptions for individuals who are 65 and older or disabled

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

8D. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance 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)

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 ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

9A. Receive the annual audit for fiscal year 2017-18 from the City's auditor

Don Allman reviewed audit with Council.

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 accept the audit. Motion carried.

9B. 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 installation of blinds

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 request in the amount of \$450.00. Motion carried.

9C. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for old City landfill properties

The following individuals provided comments regarding this item:

- Marlon – Opposed to shooting range. Safety issue.
- Vijay Ponnaiya – Strongly opposed to shooting range.
- Dennis Hart – Heard rumors of shooting range. Opposed to that plan.
- Louise Darcey – Distributed maps to Council. Submitted proposal to raise wildlife. Property continues to be unlawfully used by the public as a landfill. By law, property has limited use. Urges Council to keep residents in the area in mind as they plan for future use.

City manager reported that one proposal was received for wildlife area. There is an investor interested in the properties (combined with old City Hall building) for use as a "ranch" for orphans/boys. Property would be used for vocational or rehabilitative areas. Council was asked to wait on making a decision on future use of the properties.

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 reject all bids and reopen bid process at a later date. Motion carried.

9D. Consider and take any necessary action on award of bid for janitorial services at new Police Station

Three bids were received. Cruz Stewart was the low bidder.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Barcak and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to accept low bid and contract from May 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. Voting for the motion were Bland, Barcak, Calame, and Dalley. Voting against was Wallace. Motion carried.

9E. Consider and take any necessary action on hiring a student through the Texas A&M Marketing Internship Program for the Summer

Curah Beard gave Council a brief summary of request. Students must work at least 200 hours to receive 3 credits. Would need to provide for \$3,000.00 in budget to be able to offer \$15.00 per hour. This is an eligible use for HOT funds. Student may be hired as a "seasonal temporary" employee or as contract labor.

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 proceed with the guidelines as discussed and approve \$3,000.00 minimum salary with option for increase with satisfactory performance and city manager approval. Motion carried.

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

Gary Griesbach distributed photos to Council. Suggested looking at alternatives to patching roadways. Chris Whittaker recommends moving forward with the following projects and funding them with 2015 CO's for streets: North Avenue (curb & gutter), Ramsey Avenue (curb & gutter), Peach Street (widen, curb & gutter), and San Jacinto drainage.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the recommendation from the city manager and fund projects with the 2015 CO's for streets. Voting for the motion were Barcak, Calame, Dalley, and Wallace. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

9G. Consider and take any necessary action on purchasing ¾" meters

Chris Whittaker requests the purchase of 50 meters at approximately \$11,577.00 to be funded with 2015 CO's for water. We currently have 64 meters with bad registers that are still under warranty with Master Meter and have been sent off for replacement.

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 purchase 40 meters using funds from 2015 CO's for water. Motion carried.

9H. Consider and take any necessary action on an agreement and payment to Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) Grant for the Highway 79 project

Chris Whittaker reported that the City was awarded the grant from POSGCD. TxDOT will do the work through a sub-contractor. City must pay the full amount up front and request reimbursement from POSGCD for grant portion. City portion would be \$60,000.00 and POSGCD grant portion would be \$174,577.00.

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 approve the agreement and payment to TxDOT with the following funding arrangements: (1) Use 2015 CO's for water to fund the \$60,000.00 City portion; and (2) Use Reserves to fund the \$174,577.00 POSGCD Grant portion with the stipulation that the reimbursed grant funds go back into Reserves. Motion carried.

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

- New Police Station tentative move in date is April 17, 2019

Adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 13th day of May, 2019.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor