

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

City Staff:

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

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 5:30 p.m., May 13, 2019, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

4A. Canvass of votes for the General and Special Elections held on May 4, 2019

Mayor King read vote totals into the record as follows:

MAYOR AT-LARGE	Neil Switkowski	128 votes
	John E. King	264 votes
COUNCILMEMBER EAST WARD	Joyce Dalley	46 votes
	Michelle Larkin	72 votes
COUNCILMEMBER WEST WARD	Belinda Hillhouse	174 votes
	Nathan R. Bland	108 votes
PROPOSITION 1	For	235 votes
	Against	135 votes
PROPOSITION 2	For	280 votes
	Against	87 votes

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 accept Resolution R2019-05-13 (4A) as presented. Motion carried.

5A. Recognition of outgoing Council Members Joyce Dalley and Nathan Bland

Mayor King presented plaques and keys to outgoing Council Members.

5B. Swearing in of elected City officials (Mayor At-Large John King, Councilmember Belinda Hillhouse representing the West Ward and Councilmember Michelle Larkin representing the East Ward)

13E. Receive an update on the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) Grant Program for assistance with water bills

Joyce Dalley was appointed by the Governor to the Central Texas Council on Aging and updated Council on the following:

- \$19,000 in funds has been made available for assistance to the elderly/disabled citizens for temporary assistance with water bills

- Temporary assistance will be provided for 2 months (water bill difference of \$32.10/month x 2 months = total of \$64.20). Requires water bill, application, and approval into the program. More details will be available later this month.
- Friday Meals-on-Wheels was discontinued several years ago, but should be added back within the next month or two
- HOP bus received donations to keep the services running through March. Funding has been reinstated, but will only last through June.
- USDA loan on Ackerman Housing Authority project was in arrears. Judge Young wrote a mediation letter to USDA and is trying to secure funding to pay back the loan.

5C. Elect one Councilmember as Mayor Pro-Tem

Belinda Hillhouse nominates Denise Wallace. Denise Wallace nominates Richard Coppedge. Councilmember Coppedge accepts nomination.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Wallace and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to elect Richard Coppedge as Mayor Pro-Tem. Motion carried.

Citizen Communications

- Mayor King presented certificates in recognition of Earth Day participants.
- Dave Melton thanked the participants for a successful event.
- April Eschberger distributed photos to Council regarding water drainage that flows from Allday Street. Drainage issues have been occurring for the past three years (since new water tower was built) and has created exposed lines, water erosion in backyard, and flooding of property. She is asking for the item to be added to the June agenda and also asking for help filling in the hole created in her yard.
- Becky Zelisko (503 San Jacinto) spoke about the water drainage issue. Her house has not flooded yet, just the yards and street. Also, her mother's house on Alcoa is being flooded by drainage from Enfield.
- Lee "Sparky" Thomason stated that for the first time in fifteen years, his garage and house got water damage during the recent rains.

7A. Executive Session for consultation with attorney (under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code)

Item as removed from agenda

8A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular and special meetings on April 8, 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

Councilmembers Hillhouse and Larkin asked for detail list of check register items.

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 the consent agenda as presented. Voting for the motion were Barcak, Calame, Larkin, Coppedge, and Wallace. Voting against was Hillhouse. Motion carried.

9A. Department Reports – Planning & Zoning Commission

Doug Williams reported that the P&Z has a full Commission at this time. There was no meeting in April due to no items for the agenda.

9B. Department Reports – Library

Melanie Todd invited everyone to the Library. Upcoming events include 1st Friday Coffee each month and Texas reading club program in June. Reported that the landscaping work is being done and that the stained glass windows are on display.

10A. Conduct a workshop to discuss proposals for supplying water to Rockdale

Chris Whittaker asked Matthew Garrett (NewGen Strategies) to compare both proposals and TWDB project to get valid numbers for June Council meeting.

Paul Terrill with Blue Water and then Mike Irlbeck with EPCOR gave presentations to Council.

10B. Conduct a workshop to discuss the proposal received from Perry and Perry Builders for sale or swap of land to resolve East 1st Avenue issues

Chris Whittaker gave a brief review of issues at 1st Avenue. Lin Perry submitted the proposal of options. The following comments were received:

- Troy Zinn stated that the Perry's purchased land from Bryan Hose & Gasket to the cemetery. There is no way to get from 1st Avenue to 908 without crossing Perry property.
- Johnny Hill (President of RFA) – Fair event improves every year. He expressed concerns to Council regarding the options presented. RFA wants to exercise their First Right of Refusal and submitted a letter to the city manager. Wants to bring insight to other options.
- James Birkhead – Made Council aware of MOU between Fair Association and City. Spoke about the legacy and history of the Rockdale Fair. Need to investigate further into deed records for 1st Avenue property. If land swap is done, there is a \$40,000 fence that would need to be reworked.

11A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the need for a juvenile curfew ordinance and to consider the effects on the community and problems the ordinance is intended to remedy

Public hearing was opened at 7:07 p.m. Councilmember Calame asked to hear input from Chief Harris. Chief Harris feels the ordinance is very useful and the curfew prevents issues of misconduct. Chris Whittaker reported that the Rockdale ISD Superintendent thinks the ordinance is working and doesn't propose any changes. Councilmember Hillhouse would like to see a weblink for all proposed ordinances. Public hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m.

12A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance readopting and extending the current juvenile curfew within the corporate limits of the City of Rockdale as provided in the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8: Offenses and Nuisances, Article 8.02 Minors, Division 2 Curfew

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

13A. Consider and take any necessary action on proposals for supplying water to Rockdale

Council discussed hiring NewGen Strategies to conduct a rate study. Matthew Garrett recommends further review by a water law attorney. Chris Whittaker will clarify items in the proposals with Blue Water and EPCOR. Item will be added to the June Council agenda.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with NewGen

Strategies for a rate study (of the two proposals received) not to exceed \$20,000 without Council approval to be funded from Reserves. Motion carried.

13B. Consider and take any necessary action on the proposal received from Perry and Perry Builders for sale or swap of land to resolve East 1st Avenue issues

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to deny the request to sale or swap property and authorize the city manager to get an appraisal on property at East 1st Avenue. Motion carried.

13C. Consider and take any necessary action on a drainage study for the area between 2416 Post Oak Road and 503 San Jacinto Drive

Chris Whittaker recommends obtaining proposals for drainage for multiple areas. He will reach out to Freese & Nichols for more information on the new water tower. Councilmember Larkin stated that areas where water is draining needs to be cleaned periodically. Clogged areas need to be addressed. The City needs a Master Drainage Plan. Councilmember Coppedge will reach out to Tarleton State to see if any help is available for a hydrology study.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Barcak and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to go out for RFPs for drainage study. Motion carried.

13D. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the city manager regarding a request submitted by the Rockdale Historical Society for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for the weekend Visitor Center (January – September 2019)

City manager stated this was a routine proposal and he recommends the original budgeted amount.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request in the amount of \$3,000.00. Motion carried.

13F. Consider and take any necessary action on a request submitted by Richard Burns on behalf of the Rockdale Historical District for sales tax revenue sharing with the Rockdale Hospital District

Dick Burns distributed documents to Council and asked them to adopt an interlocal agreement to share tax revenues with the Hospital District. The District is asking for an annual amount of \$150,000 from the City and will be asking the same from the MDD. Council will look at this request during the budget cycle.


13G. Receive an update from the city manager regarding the Rockdale Projects List

- New Police Station is 98% complete
- Splash Pad – MSI is waiting to finish work
- Contractor for San Gabriel & Rice project was granted a 70 day extension
- CDBG project on-going
- "Safe Routes to School" Sidewalk Grant for Murray Avenue is 100% funded by TxDOT

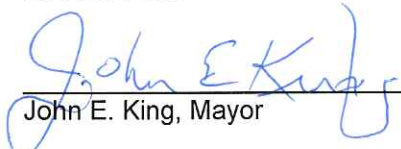
Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 10th day of June, 2019.

ATTEST:


Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary

APPROVED:


John E. King, Mayor