

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Belinda Hillhouse
Denise Wallace
Michelle Larkin
Jason Barcak
Richard Coppedge, Mayor Pro-Tem
Doug Calame

City Staff:

Barbara Holly, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director
Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director
Lon Williams, Building Official
Jerry Meadors, Police Chief
Melanie Todd, Librarian
Curah Beard, Marketing Director

Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present

The City Council of the City of Rockdale, Texas conducted a meeting by telephone conference on Monday, September 14, 2020. With a quorum of the Council members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 5:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

Mayor King read an email statement from Dr. Monzingo on behalf of the Rockdale Independent School District thanking the City for funding that was provided through the CARES Act.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on August 10, 2020
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Fund report
6. Sales Tax averaging report
7. Library Report
8. Municipal Court Report
9. Police Department Report
10. Building Official Report
11. Public Works Department Reports
12. Hotel Tax Fund Report
13. Marketing Director Report

Mayor King removed four (4) HOT fund requests for the FY 2020-21 budget that had been included with the consent agenda items.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the amended consent agenda with the removal of the FY 2020-21 HOT fund requests. Motion carried.

6A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the City of Rockdale beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021; and possible discussions and action on ratifying the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget

Council had questions regarding the Rockdale Municipal Development District (MDD) budget and the special fund budget for the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds. Both items were requested to be removed from the overall budget and to be considered separately.

MOTION BY RECORD VOTE: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Hillhouse and a second by Councilmember Larkin, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the amended ordinance without the MDD or HOT Fund budgets included. Motion carried.

Council discussed HOT fund requests that were pulled from consent agenda. Two (2) requests were approved for inclusion in the budget (GoDaddy and Hoteliers Association) and two (2) requests were denied and removed from the proposed budget (Texas Society of Association Executives Ad Campaign and Wedding Wire/The Knot Wedding Website bundle annual renewal).

MOTION BY RECORD VOTE: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the amended HOT Fund budget with the GoDaddy and Hoteliers Association requests included. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hillhouse would like for Council to reject the summary budget as submitted by the MDD and request a line item budget showing more detail. Council discussed who should be presenting the MDD budget to Council.

MOTION BY RECORD VOTE: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Hillhouse and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to request a more detailed, line item MDD budget. Motion carried.

MOTION BY RECORD VOTE: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget. Motion carried.

- 6B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance for the levying of an Ad Valorem tax upon the real, personal and mixed properties in the City of Rockdale, Texas for the year 2020, an occupation tax equal to one half the state levy, and split payment option for payment**

MOTION BY RECORD VOTE: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented, adopting the City of Rockdale 2020-21 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.9074 per \$100 assessed valuation, the debt service portion being \$0.25672 per \$100 assessed valuation and the maintenance and operations portion being \$0.65070 per \$100 assessed valuation, which is effectively a 7.3% increase in the tax rate. Motion carried.

- 6C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance ratifying an amendment to the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12: Traffic Control, Section 12.02.035, for the purpose of establishing school zones and regulating speed therein; and providing for related matters**

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

- 7A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Project Application (CDBG-MIT) to the General Land Office (GLO); 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 CDBG-MIT Program**

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

- 7B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing the adoption of the Financial Management Policy for the City of Rockdale pertaining to the CDBG-MIT Program administered by the GLO**

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

7C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Rockdale

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

7D. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution approving the appraisal roll taxable value of \$234,949,618 with tax levy of \$2,136,424 for the year 2020

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

7E. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution adopting the City of Rockdale Investment Policy and Strategies

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

8A. Consider and take any necessary action authorizing the city manager to make necessary transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year and to provide a report to Council regarding said transfers at the regular meeting in November

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Hillhouse and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to make necessary transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for FY 2019-20 and to provide a report to Council in November. Motion carried.

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on suggestions and potential projects for the use of CARES Act (CRF) funds

- Rockdale ISD asked for ½ of the costs for Chromebooks. Barbara Holly reported that there is not enough money in the account for this expense. She will continue to work with the school district for assistance with other needs.
- Barbara Holly is requesting \$50K to purchase body cams for the Police Department. Once purchased, we would ask for reimbursement through the CARES Act funds.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the purchase of body cams for the Police Department. Motion carried.

8C. Consider and take any necessary action to authorize the mayor and city manager to execute the Annual Audit Engagement Letter with Donald L. Allman, CPA for the year ending September 30, 2020

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Hillhouse and a second by Councilmember Coppedge, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the mayor and city manager to execute the Annual Audit Engagement Letter as presented. Motion carried.

8D. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of proposal for purchase of the Historic City Hall building at 140 West Cameron Avenue

The following comments were discussed by Council:

- Mayor King stated that original proposal was for the Historic building/property with an option to add the back lot for an additional fee. Properties were bid together.
- Barbara Holly stated that the Colliers initially asked for a six-month delay for closing, but has withdrawn that portion of the request.
- Deed restrictions would require the additional (back) lot to be used for parking, and that the lot be open for public use.

- Councilmember Larkin stated that the City would be better off selling the property.
- Councilmember Calame requested that the timeframe for initiating improvements be reduced to 5 years.
- Proceeds from sale of property would go into reserves

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Coppedge and a second by Councilmember Larkin, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed with one (1) abstention to approve the proposal with a revision to start date within five years. Councilmember Barcak abstained. Motion carried.


8E. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Rockdale Municipal Development District Board of Directors

Mayor King recommended postponing vote until Council had time to review the applications. Councilmember Barcak would like to rank/interview candidates individually before making a decision. Staff will develop a questionnaire to be sent to each candidate with questions posed by Council. Council members were asked to submit their questions by Friday, September 18th so the questionnaire could be sent out as soon as possible. Answers received will be sent to Council for inclusion in their ranking. Item will be postponed until October meeting.

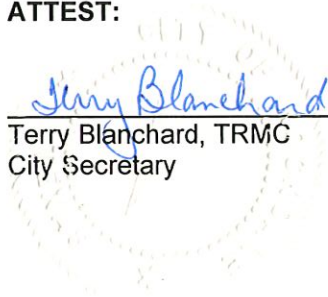
Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 12th day of October, 2020.


ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



APPROVED:



John E. King, Mayor