

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

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

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

Absent:

Lin Perry

Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present

The City Council of the City of Rockdale, Texas conducted a hybrid meeting by in-person appearance and telephone conference on Monday, January 11, 2021. With a quorum of the Council members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 5:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

No comments.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on December 14, 2020
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Fund report
6. Library Report
7. Municipal Court Report
8. Police Department Report
9. Building Official Report
10. Public Works Department Reports
11. Hotel Tax Fund Report

Councilmember Larkin asked that the Code Enforcement Report be cleaned up by removing the older, completed items.

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

6A. Receive a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding a rezone request submitted by Larry Blevins, CEO of Redemption House, for property located at S08200 Dyer, Block 2, Lot 1 W 40' of and 23 & 24 (property ID 28364 – property known as 700 Dyer Street), City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas from zoning classification R-1 – Residential Single-Family to zoning classification R-3 – Residential Multi-Plex

Public hearing opened at 5:42 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission recommends denial of request. The following comments were received:

- Doug Blackstock – Opposed. Stated that the guy is a joke or a scam artist. There is no background for this type of business. No medical staff or professionals will be on site. The property was given to this person because of an ad in the newspaper (for use as a non-profit). Compared potential issues at this property to Budget Inn times ten. There are only seven parking spots at this location.

- Chris Scheffel – Illegal to spot zone. Over 82% of owners with adjacent properties are opposed. Property does not meet standards. Simple answer is no.
- Cheryl Blackstock – Concern for great-grandkids who play on property. School kids walk in this area every day. Concerned with size of rooms and restrooms within facility. Safety is the primary issue.

No further comments were received. Public hearing closed at 5:52 p.m.

7A. Workshop – Discuss potential grant administration options for the City of Rockdale

Councilmember Coppedge would like for Council to look at someone to help us with grants. Langford and Grant Works will assist with writing grants at no charge. The only charges would be once they become the grant administrators. Councilmember Larkin would like to see at least a part-time staff person actively working on grants.

7B. Workshop – Discuss calling a special election regarding a reduction of the MDD tax from ½ cent to either ¼ or 1/8 cent and the potential designated use for the ¼ or 1/8 cent sales tax

Mayor King stated that he doesn't think we should move forward at this time. There is too much uncertainty. Designated uses could be for streets or possibly cemetery. Council wants to give a future executive director for the MDD the tools and resources necessary to make for a successful MDD.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 14 Zoning, Section 14.02.055 Single-Family Residential – District "R-1", by making additions to Subsection (d) Accessory Structures and Uses

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

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance by rezoning a certain parcel of land from zoning classification R-1 (Residential Single-Family) to zoning classification R-3 (Residential Multi-Plex)

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

8C. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending Appendix A of the City's Code of Ordinances, the Fee Schedule, Article A2.000 Utility Rates and Charges and Article A3.000 Other Fees; amending and repealing conflicting ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing an effective date and an open meetings clause

Council discussed the summary of changes. Hot Spot for Library should be listed as a deposit instead of a fee. Animal control adoption fee includes inoculations. Barbara Holly would like to see the fee include spay/neuter services. Ms. Holly will research A1.011(a) Well-Related Fees prior to the next meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance with revisions. Motion carried.

8D. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance readopting the tax abatement agreement guidelines, criteria and procedures established by Ordinance 2013-02-11 (6B)

No changes. Ordinance must be reviewed and readopted every two (2) years.

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

- 8E. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance ordering and establishing procedures for a 2021 General Election to elect 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 Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) 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 Wallace and a second by Councilmember Larkin, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution amending the City of Rockdale Personnel Policy**

Councilmember Larkin questioned the take-home vehicle policy. Councilmember Hillhouse questioned why we have sick and vacation leave instead of personal time off. Councilmember Larkin asked if we keep notes on previous employees.

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

- 10A. 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 Larkin and a second by Councilmember Barcak, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

- 10B. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a short form subdivision request submitted by Milagro Del Transito Menjivar for property located at Garner Wells Addition, Block 2, Lot 12 East ½ of, Lot 13 All of, Lot 14 All of, and Lot 15 West ½ of, City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas into Garner Wells Addition, Block 2, Lot 13A (property known as 1006 Bullock)**

Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval.

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

- 10C. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Library Board**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Gloria Walker, Michelle Earley, and Don Stockton to the Library Board. Motion carried.

- 10D. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Leslie Davidson and John Williams, and to appoint Jason Barcak to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

- 10E. Consider and take any necessary action regarding various options to repay water and sewer loans**

Barbara Holly gave a brief summary. She stated that she is trying to meet Council objectives while being financially responsible. Councilmember Larkin asked for the summary to be made available to the press.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to allocate thirty (30) days of reserve from the Enterprise Fund to the Debt Service Fund as a pre-payment of future loan payments. Motion carried.

11A. At 6:50 p.m. Council convened into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 571.071 and Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Section 1.05: Consult with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, specifically Cause No. CV40539, Kara Z. Clore v. Rockdale Municipal District, et al., pending in the 20th Judicial District of Milam County, Texas

11B. At 7:38 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to consider and take any necessary action regarding pending litigation, specifically Cause No. CV40539, Kara Z. Clore v. Rockdale Municipal District, et al., pending in the 20th Judicial District of Milam County, Texas


There was no action taken.

Adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

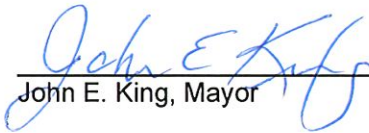
These minutes approved on the 8th day of February, 2021.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor