

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Nathan Bland
Doug Calame
Willie Phillips
Joyce Dalley, Mayor Pro-Tem
Leroy Phillips

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Sandra Ellis, City Treasurer
Zach Reeves, Public Works Director
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer
J.D. Newlin, Police Lieutenant

Absent:

Colby Fisher

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 5:36 p.m., September 12, 2016, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

The following citizens requested to address Council:

- Don Gooding – voiced concerns regarding Police Department and an incident that occurred on Labor Day. Reported a water leak on property. Stated that the money that was squandered on the Top Hat property could have been better served to hire additional police officer or public works employee.
- Warren Gillie – asked Council why they didn't annex property into the city. Stated that the city should annex all property within 100 miles of city limits. Feels that business properties should be paying more in taxes and would like for the Council to contact the County to have them adjust their rates.
- Collier Perry – contends that constituents should be able to visit with Council members at will. Mayor King stated that he is available to meet with constituents at City Hall if they will call and schedule an appointment.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on August 8 and special meeting on August 22 and August 29, 2016
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Tax collection report
5. Library Report
6. Municipal Court Report
7. Police Department Report
8. Code Enforcement Reports
9. Public Works Department Reports
10. Hotel Tax Fund Report
11. Receive reports from Tax Assessor for 2016

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

6A. Department Reports – Rockdale Municipal Development District

MDD President Adam Straznický gave a presentation to Council.

6B. Department Reports – Community Service Department

Lon Williams gave a brief summary on the new permit system.

- 7A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 1: General Provisions, Article 1.02 Administration by establishing a City Council Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy in the City of Rockdale Code of Ordinances; providing for a severability clause; providing for open meetings; and establishing an effective date and other related matters**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Voting for the motion were Bland, Dalley, W. Phillips, and L. Phillips. Voting against was Calame. Motion carried.

- 7B. Consider and take any necessary action on an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$2,950,000 "City of Rockdale, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016"; authorizing the sale thereof; and enacting provisions incident and related to the issuance of said certificates**

Jennifer Douglas distributed updated figures to Council. Revised amount is \$2,940,000. Five bids were received and she is recommending TIB for sixteen years. Tom Pollan informed Council about the process.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance in the revised amount. Motion carried.

- 7C. Consider and take any necessary action on an ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Rockdale, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016; authorizing certain parameters for the bonds; authorizing the redemption prior to maturity of certain outstanding obligations; authorizing the mayor or the city manager to approve the amount, the interest rate, price, and terms thereof and certain other procedures and provisions related thereto; authorizing the refunding of certain outstanding obligations; and enacting other provisions relating to the purposes of this ordinance**

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 refunding bond ordinance as presented at 5%. Motion carried.

- 7D. 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, 2016 through September 30, 2017; and possible discussion and action on ratifying the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Bland, by record vote, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the first reading on an ordinance adopting the 2016-17 budget for the City of Rockdale. Motion carried.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Bland, by record vote, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve ratifying the property tax revenue reflected in the budget. Motion carried.

- 7E. 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 2016, an occupation tax equal to one half the state levy, and split payment option for payment**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, by record vote, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented, adopting the City of Rockdale 2016-17 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.884889 per \$100 assessed valuation, the debt service portion being \$0.237920 per \$100 assessed valuation and the maintenance and operations portion being \$0.646969 per \$100 assessed valuation. Motion carried.

8A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution approving the appraisal roll taxable value of \$194,291,220 with tax levy of \$1,724,004.28 for the year 2016

Revised amount of tax levy to \$1,719,244.15.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution with revision. Motion carried.

8B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution adopting the City of Rockdale Investment Policy

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

8C. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for the purpose of participating in the Local Park Grant Program; certifying eligibility to receive program assistance; certifying that matching funds are readily available; authorizing the city manager to represent and act for the City in dealing with the TPWD concerning the program; and dedicating the proposed site for permanent public park and recreational uses

Janet Sheguit reported that this grant is for the splash pad at Sumuel Park. The City's portion is \$242,625 and the TPWD grant, if funded, is \$75,000.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember L. Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Voting for the motion were Calame, Dalley, W. Phillips, and L. Phillips. Voting against was Bland. Motion carried.

9A. Receive the annual audits from the City's and MDD's auditors

Alan Sanderson presented the City's audit to Council. An unmodified opinion was issued with no significant findings. Adam Straznicki reviewed the MDD's audit with Council. City Manager Whittaker recommends including the MDD with the City's audit in the future. Cost would increase by \$5,000 for inclusion.

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 audits as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to incorporate the MDD with the City's audit. Motion carried.

9B. Consider and take any necessary action on authorizing the city manager to make necessary transfers between funds to provide for a balanced budget for the 2015-16 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 Bland and a second by Councilmember Dalley, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to make transfers as presented and to report back to Council in November. Motion carried.

9C. Consider and take any necessary action on plans for water improvements under the 10-year Water Plan

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 water line from Main Street to the Mill Avenue ground storage tank to be funded from the 2015 Certificates of Obligation and the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District grant. Motion carried.

9D. Discuss and take any necessary action on the Governor's Office Tourism Assessment

Joan Ratliff reported to Council. Tourism Committee will make recommendations to Council after their next meeting. Councilmember Bland asked if the assessment had been distributed to the businesses that were mentioned in the report.

9E. Discuss and take any necessary action on sewer averaging

Council requested a workshop for this item.

9F. Consider and take any necessary action on extending and/or updating the solid waste disposal contract with Progressive

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to extend the Progressive contract for five (5) years. Motion carried.

9G. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for glass and windows at the library

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember L. Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to award the bid to Bland Construction for the entire project. Voting for the motion were Bland, Calame, W. Phillips, and L. Phillips. Voting against was Dalley. Motion carried.

Request was received to consider a fire escape for the upper floor at library.

9H. Consider and take any necessary action on the removal of a Tourism Committee member due to excessive absences without good cause

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 remove Mitul Patel from the Tourism Committee for excessive absences. Motion carried.

9I. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Tourism Committee regarding a request from the Rockdale Historical Society for funding from the hotel occupancy tax fund for restoration/preservation projects and utilities at the I&GN Depot Museum

Joan Ratliff reported that the Tourism Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$2,500 for utilities. The Tourism Committee requested a marketing plan be submitted with a new request for funds for restoration/preservation projects.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bland and a second by Councilmember Calame, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the Tourism Committee recommendation for \$2,500 for utilities. Voting for the motion were Bland, Calame, W. Phillips, and L. Phillips. Voting against was Dalley. Motion carried.

9J. Discuss and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Tourism Committee for proposed revisions to Resolution R2013-04-08 (8A) regarding the Tourism Committee

Joan Ratliff presented the following recommendations from the Tourism Committee: reducing the committee to seven (7) members; removing term limits; eliminate the secretary position and have the only officers as the chairman and vice-chair; and elect officers each year.

Chris Whittaker recommends a five (5) member committee and making no changes to the term limits or the officer positions.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed to hold a workshop on the Tourism Committee. Voting for the motion were Dalley, W. Phillips, and L. Phillips. Voting against were Bland and Calame. Motion carried.

9K. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Rockdale Municipal Development District Board of Directors

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 appoint Rickey Gaines. Motion carried.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Allan Miller. Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to reappoint Lisa Benford-Roberts. Motion carried.

9L. Discuss and take any necessary action on the purchase of the budgeted 2017 work truck for Public Works

Councilmember Bland has a conflict of interest and is in not eligible to participate in discussion or vote on this item.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the purchase of a ¾ ton Chevrolet to be delivered after October 1, 2016. Motion carried.

9M. Discuss and take any necessary action on ordering the police car from the FY 2016-17 budget

Councilmember Bland has a conflict of interest and is in not eligible to participate in discussion or vote on this item.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the purchase of a Chevrolet Caprice. Motion carried.

9N. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Tourism Committee regarding the proposal from Sparks Engineering, Inc. for structural engineering evaluation/consult of the Sheckles and Galbreath bridges

Item will go back to the Tourism Committee. No action taken.

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

No comments.

10A. At 9:40 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code for deliberation about real property and under Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code for deliberation regarding economic development negotiations

10B. At 10:25 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding the deliberation about real property and economic development negotiations

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Calame and a second by Councilmember Bland, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to explore the purchase of commercial property and negotiate with MDD for their possible right of way purchase. Motion carried.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the city manager to make any emergency decisions relating to Project Soul Roast for emergency development. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

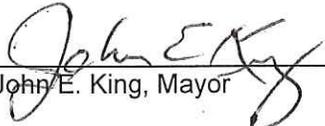
These minutes approved on the 10th day of October, 2016.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Nathan Bland
Doug Calame
Willie Phillips
Joyce Dalley, Mayor Pro-Tem
Leroy Phillips

City Staff:

Chris Whittaker, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary

Absent:

Colby Fisher

Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present

With a quorum of the Council members present, the Special Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 10:27 p.m., September 12, 2016, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

- 4A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the City of Rockdale beginning October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember W. Phillips, by record vote, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the second reading on an ordinance adopting the 2016-17 budget for the City of Rockdale. Motion carried.

- 4B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second 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 2016, an occupation tax equal to one half the state levy, and split payment option for payment**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember L. Phillips and a second by Councilmember Bland, by record vote, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented, adopting the City of Rockdale 2016-17 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.884889 per \$100 assessed valuation, the debt service portion being \$0.237920 per \$100 assessed valuation and the maintenance and operations portion being \$0.646969 per \$100 assessed valuation. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

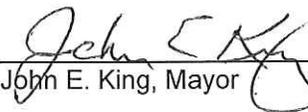
These minutes approved on the 10th day of October, 2016.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



John E. King, Mayor

