

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Present:**

**Councilmembers:**

John King, Mayor  
Belinda Hillhouse  
Lin Perry, Mayor Pro-Tem (❖ remote)  
Michelle Larkin  
Scott Starnes (❖remote)  
Brett Boren

**City Staff:**

Barbara Holly, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director  
Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director  
Jerry Meadors, Police Chief  
Melanie Todd, Librarian

**Absent:**

Denise Wallace

**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 5:38 p.m., July 26, 2021, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**4A. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding the voluntary annexation of the Industrial Park (110.362 acre tract) located in Milam County, Texas**

Public hearing was opened at 5:39 p.m. No comments. The public hearing was closed at 5:40 p.m.

**4B. Receive a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding a rezone request submitted by the Rockdale Municipal Development District (MDD) for property located at A3980 D.A. Thompson, 56.578 acres and A0740 T.S. Arnett, 110.362 acres (Property ID 56429 and 16861 – properties known as the Industrial Park – North FM 487) from zoning classification R-1 (Single Family) to I w/PUD overlay (Industrial with Planned Unit Development overlay)**

Public hearing opened at 5:40 p.m. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval. No comments received. Public hearing closed at 5:42 p.m.

**5A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance annexing 110.362 acres of MDD-owned land (property known as the Industrial Park); approving a service plan for the annexed area; making findings of fact; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date**

**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.

**5B. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance by rezoning a certain parcel of land (property known as the Industrial Park – North FM 487) from zoning classification R-1 (Residential Single-Family) to zoning classification I w/PUD overlay (Industrial with Planned Unit Development overlay)**

**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.

**6A. 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, 2021**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Perry, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the mayor and city manager to execute the Annual Audit Engagement Letter. Motion carried.

**6B. Consider and take any necessary action on the proposed FY 2021-22 budget submitted by the city manager and any related issues**

- Increased debt service
- Proposed rate of \$0.91
- Sales tax will be approximately \$900,000
- Will have telecommunication tax revenues for next fiscal year
- Would like to include 3% merit raise for employees based on evaluations
- General Fund deficit of approximately \$90,000 – transfer from Reserves of \$95,271 (will leave 115 days remaining in Reserves)
- Enterprise funds reflecting low revenues due to rain
- Need to increase water revenue by approximately \$30,000 and wastewater revenue by approximately \$25,000
- Propose raising water and sewer base rates by \$1 each – funds would be placed in the Contingency Fund
- Will need to consider a water tower maintenance contract in the near future

**6C. Consider and take any necessary action on the increase in tax revenues for the 2021-22 fiscal year that will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year’s tax rate (if necessary)**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Boren, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed that the proposed property tax rate be set by the approval of an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.91 per \$100 assessed valuation. Voting for the motion were Boren, Perry, Larkin, and Starnes. Voting against was Hillhouse. Motion carried.

**6D. Consider and take any necessary action to schedule a public hearing for the proposed FY 2021-22 budget and the proposed increase to total tax revenues**

**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 schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.


At 6:14 p.m., Councilmember Hillhouse asked to discuss budget line items (from agenda item 6A).

- Councilmember Hillhouse – Do public works employees get time charged to different departments if they are helping out on special projects or covering in various areas? *Barbara Holly – No. Time is only charged to the employee’s primary department.*
- Councilmember Perry left meeting at 6:18 p.m.
- Councilmember Hillhouse – Asked about lights at Moultry Park. *Councilmember Larkin stated that the MDD might be able to assist with cost of lights. Barbara Holly reported that lights and fence would cost approximately \$7,500.*
- A budget workshop for extended line item discussion will be added to the regular Council agenda in August along with an action item, in case any changes are necessary

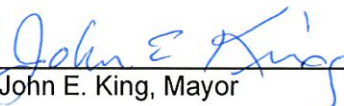
Adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

**ATTEST:**

  
Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
City Secretary

**APPROVED:**

  
John E. King, Mayor