

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Belinda Hillhouse
Lin Perry, Mayor Pro-Tem
Michelle Larkin
Scott Starnes
Denise Wallace

City Staff:

Barbara Holly, City Manager
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director
Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director
Jerry Meadors, Police Chief
Ben Blanchard, Planning Technician
Jim Gibson, MDD Executive Director

Absent:

Brett Boren

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 5:32 p.m., November 8, 2021, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

- Kenneth Callahan – Spoke to Council about IOOF cemetery. Volunteer labor could help City workers with upkeep. Reach out for community care assistance.
- Dave Melton – Provided update on Earth Day and the partnership with the Kay Theater. Planted trees at the Kay and received donation for planting additional trees at One Stop. Mural project was a success. Planning for 2022 Earth Day is underway.
- Jeannette Behrens – Lives on Travis Street. Spoke to Council regarding people walking on railroad tracks and foot traffic in neighborhood. Tall grass near tracks needs to be addressed. Asking for wildlife cameras to be placed in the area. Also asked for community service individuals to be utilized for help in this area.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on October 11, 2021
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 & Code Enforcement Report
10. Animal Control Report
11. Public Works Department Reports
12. Hotel Tax Fund Report

Councilmember Hillhouse asked about the accident which damaged the bridge railing on Wilcox and the overflow issues at the Allday tower.

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 consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6A. At 5:48 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.071 if the Texas Government Code and Texas Disciplinary Rules and Professional Conduct Section 1.05 for consultation with attorney regarding appointments to Boards and Commissions

6B. At 6:16 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to consider and take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding consultation with attorney

There was no action taken.

- 7A. 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, by amending the fees charged for Section A2.004 Solid Waste / Garbage Collection and Disposal at City Yard; Article A3.000 Other Fees, by repealing the fees charged for Section A3.019 Rental Fees for Fair Park; amending and repealing conflicting ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing an effective date and an open meetings clause**

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.

- 8A. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution casting votes for candidates nominated to the Milam Appraisal District Board of Directors for the period ending December 31, 2023**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to cast 102 votes for Tim Arledge, 101 votes for Lisa Gerthe, and 101 votes for Mike Vance. Motion carried.

- 8B. Consider and take any necessary action on a resolution authorizing approval of the Building Contractor award for the HOME Program through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to award contract to RM Quality Construction (dba Randy Malouf Builders). Motion carried.

- 9A. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of contract for consultant/management services for pre-award and post-award grant management service pertaining to the preparation of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the management of the grant and project(s) if funded by FEMA through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Larkin, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to award contract to Langford Community Management Services. Motion carried.

- 9B. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of contract for engineering services to assist with pre-award and post-award engineering services pertaining to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to include the development of preliminary and final design plans, and necessary interim and final inspections as required by the City for its proposed project(s)**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to award contract to KPA Engineers. Motion carried.

- 9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a request submitted by Liberty Signs, Inc. for a sign variance at 1520 West Cameron Avenue (part of property ID 55115), City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas**

Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval with sign not extending above the roofline/ridgeline.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Larkin, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the variance with exception that sign may not extend above roofline/ridgeline. Motion carried.

9D. Consider and take any necessary action on a request submitted by Curah Beard on behalf of Vision Historic Preservation for a continuous road closure on Burleson Street for the Market at The 1895 on Saturdays (from 9 AM to 1 PM) beginning on November 6th until the end of February or March (when the Chamber Farmer’s Market reopens for their 2022 season)

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed with one (1) abstention to approve the request as presented. Councilmember Perry abstained. Motion carried.

9E. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation to City Council for allowing businesses to sell vape products

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed to allow existing business to stay and not entertain another vape shop at this time. Voting for the motion were Hillhouse, Perry, and Larkin. Voting against were Starnes and Wallace. Motion carried.

9F. Consider and take any necessary action on disposal of the old generator that was replaced at the radio station

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to give the old generator to KRXT as surplus equipment. Motion carried.

9G. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Building Standards Commission

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Larkin and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed with one (1) abstention to reappoint Richard Henderson and Ferlando Giles to the BSC. Councilmember Perry abstained. Motion carried.

9H. Consider and take any necessary action on an appointment to the Rockdale Municipal Development District Board of Directors

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hillhouse to nominate Raymon Puente to the MDD Board. Motion died for lack of second.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed to appoint Nathan Bland to the Rockdale MDD Board of Directors. Voting for the motion were Perry, Starnes, and Wallace. Voting against were Hillhouse and Larkin. Motion carried.


9I. Receive a report from the city manager regarding the close out of the FY 2020-21 budget and any necessary transfers between accounts

Barbara Holly presented report. No transfers were necessary. The General and Enterprise funds ended the fiscal year with revenues exceeding expenditures. Account balances will be swept into the “rainy day” funds.

Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 13th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary

APPROVED:



John E. King, Mayor