

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

Present:

Councilmembers:

John King, Mayor
Belinda Hillhouse
Lin Perry, Mayor Pro-Tem
Brett Boren
Scott Starnes
Denise Wallace

City Staff:

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

Absent:

Michelle Larkin

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 5:30 p.m., April 11, 2022, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen Communications

- Dave Melton – Spoke about the Yard of the Month needing nominations from citizens. Earth Day Spring Celebration scheduled for April 19th from 9-11 AM at the Library. Earth Day event will kick off on Friday, April 22nd with over 60 student volunteers. Linwood Acres and others will host a Plant Exchange on April 23rd from 9 AM to noon at Wolf Park.
- Collier Perry – Distributed printouts with photos to Council members. Voiced complaints regarding code enforcement within the City, specifically the road/curbing across from Wal-Mart on Highway 79 and the residential property at the corner of Murray and Evelyn.
- Shannon Kornegay – Commented on the growth of Rockdale. Mentioned lack of housing and stated the City is not ready for growth. Asked the status of the home project on Pecan. Stated that there is no curb appeal along Highway 79. Questioned why the tire shop across from Brookshires was allowed to have excess tires in disarray on property while other business owners were required to follow the code. Stated that Budget Inn should not be allowed to have residents. Asked who is responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Encouraged Council members to drive down Spence Street.
- Chief Meadors introduced the following officers: Catherine Parker, Christian Fain, Lauren Hensley, and Corey Puente (with Roki). A K-9 demonstration will be held at the end of the Council meeting.

5A. Consent Agenda Approvals:

1. Minutes of regular meeting on March 14, 2022
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
13. MDD Quarterly Report

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 consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

9E. Receive an update from the Police Chief regarding emergency notifications

Chief Meadors reported that the Code Red notification system is online, but there have been numerous requests for the sirens to be utilized as well. Texas Electric is working with the Police Department to repair the siren at

Allday and Cameron. Once this siren is operational, repairs will begin on the remaining three (3) sirens throughout town. Future plans would include either weekly or monthly tests for the sirens instead of a daily test.

- 6A. Mayor to proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 6B. Mayor to proclaim April as National Library Month in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 6C. Mayor to proclaim April 22, 2022 as Earth Day in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 6D. Mayor to proclaim April 24-30, 2022 as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 6E. Mayor to proclaim May 1-8, 2022 as National Music Week in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 6F. Mayor to proclaim May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in the City of Rockdale, Texas**
- 7A. Conduct a workshop to discuss Council priorities, direction and timelines for the FY 2022-23 budget**

A workshop will be added to the May 9th Council meeting for discussion of priorities, goal setting and a mission statement. City Manager Holly will email the current priorities list to Council for their review. She asked Council to begin work on more defined priorities for the May workshop.

- 8A. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance by rezoning a certain parcel of land (property located at A3250 Duncan St. Clair, 3.647 acres – Property ID 16665 – property known as 331 West Highway 79) from zoning classification C-2 (Commercial – Intense) to M-2 with PUD overlay (Manufactured Home Park with Planned Unit Development overlay)**

Barbara Holly gave a brief summary of the PUD requirements. Councilmember Starnes requested the wall height requirements be increased to eight foot (8') instead of six foot (6').

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Boren, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance with changes to increase wall heights to eight foot (8'). Motion carried.

- 8B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 14 Zoning Ordinance, Section 14.02.078 Allowed Use Table to allow for the sale of hemp products**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes 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. Receive a Section 3 presentation from Langford Community Management Services as required by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) as a condition of funding for TxCDBG Contract 7219371**

Judy Langford gave the Section 3 presentation to Council and answered questions regarding same.

- 9B. Receive the annual audit for fiscal year 2020-21 from the City's auditor**

Don Allman presented the annual audit to Council for review. He gave a summary of the FY 2020-21 audit and answered questions.

The following excerpt is from the audit (page 5):

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The net position of the City increased by \$2,441,356 in the 2021 fiscal year for government-wide financial statements. As part of this \$2,441,356 total increase in net position, the net position of general fund activities increased by \$1,274,415 and the proprietary fund increased by \$1,166,941.
- The City's total net position of governmental fund activities increased by \$843,097 in the 2021 fiscal year resulting in an ending net position of \$3,023,677.
- Proprietary Fund and General Fund revenues increased substantially in fiscal year 2021, indicating economic growth for the City. General Fund and Proprietary Fund expenses increased only slightly in fiscal year 2021, indicating better fiscal management of resources.

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 approve the audit as presented. Motion carried.

9C. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission for a request submitted by Tony Ellis to allow a firearms store with an indoor shooting range at 1613 West Cameron Avenue by directing staff to prepare an ordinance adding the use to the zoning use table subject to design standards and safety considerations

Tony Ellis introduced himself and stated he was available to answer questions. If directed by Council, staff will research and draft an ordinance. Proposed ordinance will be reviewed by P&Z prior to being submitted to Council. Council had multiple questions regarding safety, employees, training, funding, etc. Doug Williams stated the Planning & Zoning Commission would need an ordinance created in order for the request to move forward.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Boren and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed to approve the concept and direct staff to create an ordinance for P&Z review. Voting for the motion were Boren, Perry, Starnes, and Wallace. Voting against was Hillhouse. Motion carried.

9D. Consider and take any necessary action on the award of bid for city property located at 1166 West Highway 79

Barbara Holly stated that two (2) bids were received. She recommends having both bidders give presentations to Council prior to award. Council suggested having an appraisal on the property prior to award.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Hillhouse, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to ask bidders to give presentations at the next Council meeting and to direct the city manager to proceed with getting an appraisal of the property. Motion carried.

9F. Consider and take any necessary action on an appointment to the MDD Board of Directors to fill a vacancy of an unexpired term (09/2022)

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to appoint Denise Monzingo to the MDD Board. Motion carried.

10A. At 7:59 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to:

1. **Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the city manager**
2. **Discuss the application of Sections 3.02 and 3.03 of the City of Rockdale, Texas Charter in regards to Councilmember Larkin**

10B. At 8:40 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to consider and take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding:

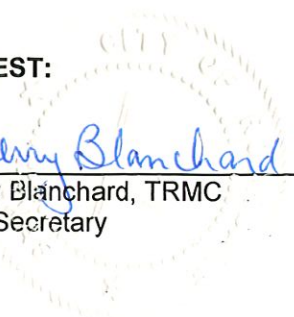
1. The appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the city manager
2. The application of Sections 3.02 and 3.03 of the City of Rockdale, Texas Charter in regards to Councilmember Larkin

No action was taken.

Adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 9th day of May 2022.

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard
Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary

APPROVED:

John E. King
John E. King, Mayor