

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

Present:**Councilmembers:**

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

Council-Elect:

Bradley Caffey
 Esme Ruelas-Olivares

City Staff:

Barbara Holly, City Manager
 Terry Blanchard, City Secretary
 Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director
 Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director
 Ben Blanchard, Planner
 Jerry Meadors, Police Chief
 Jerry Waggoner, Municipal Court Judge
 Melanie Todd, Librarian
 Jim Gibson, MDD Executive Director

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 5:30 p.m., June 6, 2022, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

Pledge of Allegiance

4A. Conduct a workshop to discuss Council priorities, direction and timeline for the FY 2022-23 budget


The following items were discussed:

- City fund structures and types of accounts
- Reviewed Projects list
- Explained two (2) parts of the tax rate – debt service and M&O
- Reviewed table of combined tax rates. Working towards lowering tax rate.
- Recommendation by city manager is to get into the \$0.60 range as a long term goal
- Reviewed tax debt printouts. City can use excess funds to pay down debt or to funnel into projects.
- Recommend setting aside funds from sale of 6-acre City property to use for projects
- The City could create a Capital Improvements Program with the excess funds
- Councilmember Starnes mentioned that Alpha One owns Alpha Paving out to Austin. He will check with owner to see if they might be willing to donate to the community.
- Reviewed 2018 City Council Priorities
 - Curb Appeal / Code Enforcement – Councilmember Boren suggested the allocation of one employee to be assigned to clean downtown area at least twice per week (weeding, painting, etc.)
 - Safety
 - Infrastructure (streets)
- Police Department salaries need to be increased and additional officers are needed
 - Salary range needs to be competitive with Sheriff's Department
 - Need to be proactive in law enforcement
 - Chief will provide detailed analysis at next meeting
- Public Works Department
 - Additional employees in Water, Wastewater, and Streets/Parks would be useful
 - Need individuals who can pass test for licensing
- Explained process for correcting water leaks
- Council asked for information on departments and if they are staffed at the correct level
- Need to be proactive City-wide in all departments
- Barbara Holly has been working on forecasting

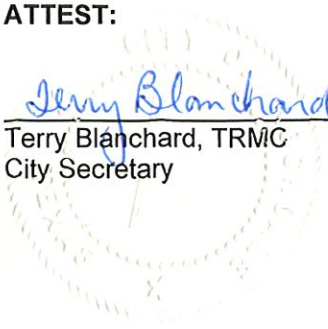
Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 11th day of July 2022.

ATTEST:



Terry Blanchard, TRMC
City Secretary



APPROVED:



Brett Boren, Mayor