

February 13, 2023

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:**

**Councilmembers:**

Lin Perry, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Denise Wallace  
Brad Caffey  
Kyle Walker  
Scott Starnes  
Esme Ruelas-Olivarez

**City Staff:**

Barbara Holly, AICP, City Manager  
Shanna Johnson, City Secretary  
Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director  
Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director  
Ben Blanchard, Planner  
Stephen Goodrich, Police Captain  
Melanie Todd, Library Director

\*Mayor Pro Tem Perry abstained from voting while acting as Mayor

**Absent:**

Brett Boren, Mayor

**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 Pro Tem Perry at 5:31 p.m., February 13, 2023, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations**

Jim Smith and James Schiele with JBS presented their findings in the water audit. No single element was discovered to pinpoint the largest cause of Water Loss. The recommendation is to overhaul the system so that the process from beginning to end are more controlled.

**Citizen Communications**

- Danny Mitchell Sr. spoke of concerns involving Sumuel Park's restrooms and trash bins.
- Weston Pokorny informed Council of the Rockdale Leadership program and their class project. There will be a volunteer drive at the March 4<sup>th</sup> Farmers Market.
- April Stewart spoke about her concerns on the Volunteer Fire Departments change to the Junior program.
- Jeannette Behrens thanked the Public Works department for their hard work during the debris clean up from the ice storm. Ms. Behrens also would like the City to search for grants for funding and for the City to continue to improve notifying the residents of events.
- Kenneth Callahan would like to see the stop and yield signs on Ackerman Street enforced to keep people from running through the.
- Belinda Hillhouse thanked Director Brunson and City Manager Holly for their efforts in coordinating during the ice storm and the cleanup after.

- Mary Lou Lehr addresses Mr. Mitchell's concerns and informed him Sumuel Park will be on the agenda for the next Park's Board meeting.
- Collier Perry suggests a resolution be posted that states no public funds will be given by the City to any group or individual that does not off financial transparency.
- Tatiana Olivarez speaks about the Earth Day group starting the Yard of The Month in April and hosting a First Friday coffee at the library.

**6A. Consent Agenda Approvals:**

1. Minutes of regular meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> & special meeting on January 13, 2023
1. City bills paid
2. Investment report
3. Fund report
4. Tax collection report
5. Hotel Tax Fund Report
6. Library Report
7. Municipal Court Report
8. Police Department Report
9. Animal Control Report
10. Public Works Department Reports
11. Municipal Development District report
12. Building & Code Enforcement Report

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

*(ordinance)*

**7A. Conduct a public hearing on the creation of the PID for the Cornerstone subdivision.**

The public hearing opened at 6:45 p.m. Bart Fowler spoke about the creation of the Public Improvement District (PID). The public hearing closed at 6:47 p.m.

**8A. Consider and approve a resolution for the Cornerstone Public Improvement District.**

Bart Fowler with McCall Parkhurst had met with staff and will provide a schedule. Groundbreaking is planned for June 1, 2023.

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

**8B. Consider and approve a resolution for Black History Month.**

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

**9A. Consider and take any necessary action on the first reading of an ordinance updating the fee schedule.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Caffey, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the first reading of the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

**9B. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance and establishing procedures for a 2023 General Election to elect one (1) Council Member for the East Ward and one (1) Council member from the West Ward in the City of Rockdale.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

**9C. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance regarding standards for tire producers and distributors.**

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

**9D. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 Building Regulations, Section 3.12 Commercial Properties for Vacant Commercial Property registration requirements.**

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

**9E. Consider and take any necessary action on the second reading of an ordinance amending the Allowed Use Table to add Boat & RV storage to the list of allowed uses.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the ordinance with the adding amendments of an eight (8) foot sight barring fencing. Motion carried.

**10A. Consider and take any necessary action on an Interlocal Agreement for a joint election between Milam County and the City of Rockdale.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

**10B. Consider and take any necessary action of the Chamber of Commerce request of HOT funds for \$75,000 to replace the roof.**

Item moved to next Council Meeting on April 14, 2023.

**10C. Consider and take any necessary action on a Downtown Parking workshop.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the Kay Theater and East Bell Taphouse to work with the County Judge to share the One Stop parking lot and to come back to Council with an agreement. Motion carried.

**10D. Consider and take any necessary action on appointments to the Parks Board.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to accept Janie Mendoza to the Parks Board. Motion carried.

**10E. Consider and take any necessary action on approving the FY 2023 Rockdale MDD budget amendments.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares and a second by Councilmember Caffey, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the amended budget. Motion carried.

**10F. Consider and take any necessary action on approving the Request For Proposals (RFP) for grant writing administration services.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve Langford Community Development Services and KSRB. Motion carried.

**10G. Consider and take any necessary action on a Drought Contingency extension.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Caffey and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the extension to the end of March 2023. Motion carried.

**10H. Consider and take any necessary action on the 2023 HOME program.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Walker and a second by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve \$40,000 from the AARPA program for the HOME program. Motion carried.

**10I. Consider and take any necessary action on declaring items as surplus.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivares and a second by

Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve auctioning the items and proceeds to be used towards new equipment. Motion carried.

**11A. At 8:06 p.m. Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to:**

1. Deliberate about Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Section 1.05 for consultation with attorney regarding potential litigation, Cause No. CV41326, *Moore v. Rockdale*
2. Deliberate about complaint against city manager.

**11B. The City Council reconvened in Open Session at 8:54 p.m. to consider and take any necessary action related to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding:**

1. The deliberation of consultation with attorney, Cause No. CV41326, *Moore v. Rockdale*
2. The evaluation of complaint against city manager.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Caffey, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve applying a cease and desist order for the Mantey family, and found no merit to the complaint. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the attorney to draft a notice for no further communication between complainant and the City. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

**ATTEST:**



Shanna Johnson  
City Secretary

**APPROVED:**



Brett M. Boren, Mayor