

April 10, 2023

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:**

**Councilmembers:**

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

**City Staff:**

Barbara Holly, AICP, City Manager  
Shanna Johnson, City Secretary  
Roxanne Proudley, Finance Director  
Jerald Brunson, Public Works Director  
Ben Blanchard, Planner  
Jerry Meadors, Chief of Police

**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 Boren at 5:31 p.m., April 10, 2023, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Citizen Communications**

- Shanna McQuinn – spoke about an incident involving her nephew and their treatment from CPS and Rockdale PD.
- Hellen Phillips – spoke about the Washington Heights survey. She requested having another townhall for the community to receive more information.
- Dale Mantey – spoke about his concerns about the perpetrator who drove through his family’s home last summer. Questions were asked about utilities and a flood plain on the potential land swap between the Mantey family and the City.
- Dave Melton – spoke about the First Friday Coffee sponsored by Earth Day on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the t-shirts are for sale.
- Veronica Rivera – spoke about her son being stabbed outside of Gill’s gameroom and all the trash laying around in the back area.

**Consent Agenda Approvals:**

1. Minutes of regular meetings on March 13, and Special meeting on March 20, 2023
2. City bills paid
3. Investment report
4. Fund report
5. Tax collection report
6. Hotel Tax Fund Report
7. Library Report
8. Municipal Court Report
9. Police Department Report
10. Animal Control Report
11. Public Works Department Reports
12. Municipal Development District report
13. Building & Code Enforcement Report

**7D. Consider and approve a resolution authorizing the submission of the Community Development Block Grant application to the Texas Department of Agriculture.**

The MDD will contribute up to \$50,000 for the grant.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Perry, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

**7E. Consider and approve a resolution opposing Senate Bill 1751.**

Director Gibson discusses how the proposed bill would take away local control for giving incentives to Bitcoin companies and taking away the company's ability to sell back electricity during peak times.

Pierre Rashard, VP Research for Riot, confirmed the negative impact the Senate Bill would have on Bitcoin companies.

Kara Clore, Whinstone, spoke about the many monetary donations given by Whinstone.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

**8A. Receive the annual audit for fiscal year 2021-2022 from the City's auditor.**

Don Allman first thanked Finance Director Proudly for her work on preparing for the City's single audit. Mr. Allman gave an overview of the audit.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Wallace and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the audit as presented. Motion carried.

**8B. Consider and take any necessary action on a street naming policy.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Wallace and a second by Councilmember Starnes, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the audit as presented. Motion carried.

**8C. Consider and take any necessary action on a recommendation to the City Council regarding a request submitted by Rosie Hardway to rename East 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Gertrude Calvin Hardway Street.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivarez and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the sign dedication. Motion carried.

**8D. Consider providing direction to the Planning Commission on ordinances to update sidewalk widths; establish street light standards; require street trees and**

**underground utilities for new development; provide standards for wayfinding signs and designating certain streets as corridors deserving special treatment.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the Planning and Zoning Commission to continue drafting ordinances on sidewalks, trees and lighting for the City and to research the effects on the current residents. Motion carried.

**8E. Consider and take any necessary action on the Airport RAMP grant application.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Perry, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the grant application and to meet FAA regulations.

**8F. Consider and take any necessary action on submitting a grant application for a project to Post Oaks Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD).**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Wallace, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the POSGCD application for a grant of \$350,000 with a co-pay of 20% (\$70,000) by the City of Rockdale.

**8G. Consider and take any necessary action on selecting a realtor/broker for the City's 6 acres.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted four (4) for and two (2) opposed to approve hiring the commercial realtor. Two opposing were councilmember Ruelas-Olivarez and Councilmember Starnes.

**8H. Consider and approve a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission on a plat submitted by C.D. Caffey for property located at S13450 Linwood Acres 3 Blk A Lot 17-20, 1.6921 Acres (Property known as - 1101 Cady Rd) and property located at A0520 Robertson, Sterling, 4.0 Acres (Property known as - Property ID 71839) Rockdale, Milam County, Texas into Lots 18A, 19A, 20A and 20B.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Starnes and a second by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivarez, the Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to approve the plat. Abstaining from voting was Councilmember Caffey.

**8I. Consider and approve the annual appointments for the Housing Authority Board.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Walker, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve Mrs. Ortega, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Starr for the Board.

**8J. Consider and take any necessary action on a Lead Service Line Replacement**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruelas-Olivarez and a second by Councilmember Perry, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve the line replacement.

**8K. Consider approving an additional staff member, an Assistant to the City Manager.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Caffey, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve moving the discussion to the next meeting.

**8L. Consider and take any necessary action on bids received for Phase 1 of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund-Pipe Replacement Project.**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Perry and a second by Councilmember Caffey, the Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed to approve to reject the current bids and publish a new bidding schedule.

**9A. At 8:13 p.m. Council convened into Executive Session under Sections 551.072, 551.087, 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to:**

1. Deliberate about economic development negotiations for Project Bluebird.
2. Deliberate about the Moore litigation case.
3. Deliberate about training of elected city officials.
4. Discuss the duties of the City Manager.

**9B. The City Council reconvened in Open Session at 9:38 p.m. to consider and take any necessary action related to and take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding:**

1. The deliberation of economic development negotiations for Project Bluebird.
2. The deliberation of the Moore litigation case.
3. The deliberation on training of elected city officials.
4. The discussion on the duties of the City Manager.

No motion made.

Adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

These minutes were approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Shanna Johnson  
City Secretary

**APPROVED:**

  
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Brett M. Boren, Mayor