

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Rockport Service Center, 3751 State Highway 35 Bypass
and
Via Video Conferencing Application ZOOM

A temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or video conference public meetings was granted by Governor Greg Abbott. These actions were being taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the attorney general has said: "statutes that may be interpreted to require face-to-face interaction between members of the public and public officials are suspended; provided, however, that the governmental bodies must offer alternative methods of communicating with their public officials." Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item can electronically submit a Citizen Participation Form in order to register to speak by going to <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CouncilCitizenParticipation> or scanning the QR code provided on the Agenda, or if attending the meeting in person register at the meeting. Using the same form, citizens can also provide written comments to the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The Mayor will read the comments and they will be summarized in the minutes of the meeting.

On the 8th day of June 2021, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center and via video conferencing application ZOOM, and notice of meeting giving time, place, date and subject was posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Patrick R. Rios
Mayor Pro-Tem J.D. Villa, Ward 2
Council Member Katy Jackson, Ward 1
Council Member Brad Brundrett, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Director of Public Works & Building Services Mike Donoho
Director of Finance Katie Griffin
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez
Police Commander Larry Sinclair
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger
Chief of Police Greg Stevens – *Via ZOOM*

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Opening Agenda

1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Rios at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas, and via video conferencing application ZOOM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

3. Presentation: Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award.

Mayor Rios presented the Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award to City Secretary Teresa Valdez.

City Secretary Teresa Valdez said this is an office award and Rockport's Municipal Clerk Department could not have achieved this without the dedication and hard work of former Assistant City Secretary Ruby Beaven, and the Administrative Assistant Kaycee Eddins.

4. Citizens to be heard.

At this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from the audience from persons who have signed the speaker's card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Service Center and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins, or written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read by the Mayor and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Citizen Participation Form will have up to three minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited, disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

Mayor Rios said one Citizen Participation Form had been received from Lyn Powers, 66 Blue Heron Drive, Key Allegro Homeowners Association President. Mayor Rios read Ms. Powers' comments that expressed concerns regarding the street closures and traffic plan at the Key Allegro bridge.

City Manager Kevin Carruth made a Point of Information and stated the City was not informed by the contractor until right before the street closures happened. Mr. Carruth said a detailed traffic plan had been shared with the Key Allegro Homeowners Association and has been on the City's website. Mr. Carruth added when the City was informed of the street closures, we contacted the Homeowners Association and school district.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho stated some changes have been made to the signage and message board and Republic Services was also notified.

Virginia Easton-Smith, 1413 Dana Drive, addressed the Council. Ms. Easton-Smith commented there had been a lot of trees cut down in the last years and she asked that Council take action to make the City ordinance stronger.

City Manager Kevin Carruth made a Point of Information and stated the Council will be reviewing a proposed revised tree ordinance in the next several months.

Consent Agenda

All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- 5. Deliberate and act on approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021.**
- 6. Deliberate and act on Amendment to Section 125 Flexible Spending Arrangement agreement with TML Health Benefits Pool.**
- 7. Deliberate and act to confirm Mayoral appointments to various City of Rockport boards, committees, and commissions.**
- 8. Deliberate and act to confirm Mayoral appointments of City Council liaisons to various boards, committees, and commissions**

Mayor Rios called for requests to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

- 9. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, amending Chapter 70 "Parks and Recreation", Article II "Park and Leisure Services Advisory Board", Section 70-42 "Function; Organization"; providing for cumulative and conflicts and severability clauses; and providing for an effective date.**

Mayor Rios stated the recommendation to move the Park and Leisure Services Advisory Board meetings to quarterly was brought to Council by Mayor Pro-Tem Villa.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa said the Park and Leisure Services Advisory Board meetings were becoming repetitive and Board Members were finding it difficult, because of their busy schedules, to attend meetings. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa states some members were contemplating resignation, but had said they would continue to serve if the meetings were quarterly.

Park & Leisure Services Director reiterated what Mayor Pro-Tem Villa had stated.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, amending Chapter 70 "Parks and Recreation", Article II Park and Leisure

Services Advisory Board”, Section 70-42 “Function; Organization”; providing for cumulative and conflicts and severability clauses; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Deliberate and act on an interlocal agreement with Aransas County for a CDBG-DR grant to develop a parking lot located at 106 S. Magnolia Street and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents.

City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that Aransas County has agreed to use Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) money to develop the parking lot that surrounds the former Rockport train depot. Mr. Carruth stated this will add 60 off-street spaces and will support the new Rockport Center for the Arts and adjoining events center that is being built with the City’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Mr. Carruth added no match is required from the City and future maintenance will be the responsibility of the City.

Council Member Brundrett asked if the County will construct the parking lot.

Mr. Carruth answered the job will be bid.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve an interlocal agreement with Aransas County for a CDBG-DR grant to develop a parking lot located at 106 S. Magnolia Street and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Deliberate and act on a ground lease agreement with Aransas County for construction of a radio tower at 1130 State Highway 188 and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents.

City Manager Kevin Carruth called the Council’s attention to the map showing the location of the proposed ground lease agreement with Aransas County. Mr. Carruth explained this lease would allow the County to lease a portion of the area at the southeast corner of the City’s ground storage facility at 1130 State Highway 188 and construct a 190-foot tower for use by emergency services, primarily members of the Aransas County Emergency Corps. Mr. Carruth said the initial term is for 15 years with up to five additional 15-year renewals.

Council Member Brundrett asked who owned the property located to the west and would there be a need to expand.

Mr. Carruth said he did not know who owned the property located to the west, but there would be no need for expansion.

MOTION: Council Member Hattman moved to approve a ground lease agreement with Aransas County for construction of a radio tower at 1130 State Highway 188 and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Hear and deliberate on status of COVID-19 and response efforts.

Mayor Rios reported Aransas County is a little ahead of the State averages in every category for COVID-19 vaccinations.

City Manager Kevin Carruth gave the following statistics for vaccination rates in Aransas County:

- 65+ years old fully vaccinated – 74.22%
- 65+ years old with at least one vaccination – 84.45%
- 12+ years old fully vaccinated – 46.62%
- 12+ years old with at least one vaccination – 55.64%

Mr. Carruth stated this was especially good since we are going into tourist season.

13. Reports from Council.

At this time, the City Council will report/update on all committee assignments, which may include the following: Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation; Aransas Pathways Steering Committee; Building and Standards Commission; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program; Coastal Bend Council of Government; Coastal Bend Mayors Group; Park & Leisure Services Advisory Board; Planning & Zoning Commission; Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Aransas County Storm Water Management Advisory Committee; Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee; Tourism Development Council; Tree & Landscape Committee; YMCA Development Committee; Texas Maritime Museum, Fulton Mansion, Rockport Center for the Arts, Aransas County, Aransas County Independent School District, Aransas County Navigation District, Town of Fulton, and Texas Municipal League. No formal action can be taken on these items at this time.

Council Member Hattman announced the clean-up for Tule Park Trail is scheduled for June 26, 2021.

Council Member Jackson thanked everyone who participated in the Memorial Day event and who came out and helped place flags at the cemetery; Council Member Brundrett participated in the placing of the flags at the cemetery. Council Member Jackson said the American Legion will be having a Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14, 2021.

Council Member Brundrett said he was glad to see the Key Allegro Bridge project started.

Mayor Rios said the Council heard Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) requests today at the Special Meeting. Mayor Rios stated the Council will have an opportunity to discuss the requests at the Budget Workshops. Mayor Rios informed the Council he will be attending the Friends of Scouting Luncheon tomorrow where Representative Geanie Morrison will be the guest speaker.

13. Adjournment.

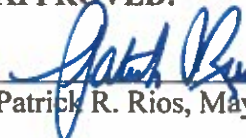
At 6:59 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hattman. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary



APPROVED:


Patrick R. Rios, Mayor