

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2021 Rockport Service Center, 2751 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 10th day of August 2021, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Regular Session at 6:36 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
Director of Public Works & Building Services Mike Donoho
Director of Finance Katie Griffin
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger
Chief of Police Greg Stevens

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 6:44 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 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. 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.

Citizens to be heard either from Mayor or Council Members reading their statements aloud or them making their own statements were: Kimber Clark of 510 and 580 Scott Street, Ben Smith as Attorney for Robert Hewitt of 401 S. Fulton Beach Road, Judy Bell of 103 Sugar Creek (accompanied by Judi Morrison of 155 Pueblo Drive), Sandy Swanson of 112 Lee Circle, Kristen Barnebey of 130 Cedar Ridge, Jeanne Hooker of 210 Oak Bay # 603, Karen Foster of 219 Olympic Drive, Helen Nerod of 116 Cedar Ridge, Adelaide Marlott of 456 Augusta, Ken Baron of 402 Cascades, and Dennis Parker of 203 Olympic Drive. Items of concern were: concern as to whether the Future Land Use Map aligns with the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Floodplain Management Plan and requested that areas of Fulton Beach Road be reconsidered; concern of additional drainage through Country Club Square HOA and their need for contractors to maintain their drainage, flooding of First Presbyterian Church due to possible blocked culverts at Magnolia and Highway 35, flooding that caused elderly people to be stranded from medical assistance, noted that there was some type of settlement agreement between the City and residents regarding drainage, increase the funds for drainage within the budget, regular maintenance of drainage ditches and overflow ponds, natural debris and sediment needing to be cleaned out of drainage ditches and ponds, and to have standby pumps to help drain the Rockport Country Club.

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.

4. Deliberate and act to confirm Mayoral appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission.

5. Deliberate and act on Resolution authorizing publication of delinquent taxpayers' names.

Mayor Rios called for requests to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. There were none.

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

Public Hearing

6. Conduct a Public Hearing on a proposal to possibly increase solid waste, water, wastewater and natural gas rates for all customers.

Mayor Rios opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Finance Director Katie Griffin provided an overview of each of the proposed rate increases that were discussed recently at the budget workshop with Matthew Garrett NewGen Strategies and Solutions:

Water	2%	\$0.87 increase of average residential bill
Wastewater	3.25%	\$1.55 increase of average residential bill
Gas	12.5%	\$5.92 increase of average residential bill
Solid Waste	3.5%	\$0.75 increase of average residential bill

It was noted that other than a direct pass through of an increase to Solid Waste accounts, there were no increases in utility rates last year. In December of each year, the San Patricio Water District notifies the city of any rate increase they may require. At that time, the city will consider whether to increase with a direct pass through or to absorb that possible increase. We have been given no indication whether they plan to provide an increase or not. These rates are based on day-to-day expenses and capital improvements needed and required.

Accounts outside the city limits are charged at a higher rate. The rates noted above are for city residents only. The city does not provide solid waste removal to those outside city limits. County residents choose their own provider and negotiate their own rates for that service. The City’s contract with Republic Waste Services is up for renewal in August 2023.

Mayor Rios closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Regular Agenda

7. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1st Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at 1906 Mallard Drive; also known as 0.153 acres of land remaining out of Lot No. 38, Block No.1, West Terrace Acres Subdivision Unit 1, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to B-1 (General Business District) to develop office and warehouse space; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

The only individuals speaking in favor of this agenda item was Travis Kelly of 2124 Saint Charles. He stated he respects the neighborhoods concerns with the noise from Bypass 35 and noted that is why this piece of property is better as a business than as a residential lot. If this were a personal home, there would be concern of children running out in front of cars; whereas a business is better suited for frontage property along a busy roadway.

Those individuals speaking against this agenda item were: Karen Lee Rystad of 1915 Mallard Drive and Paul Beard of 1915 Mallard Drive. Their concerns were this area was all residential when they purchased the land and they want it all to remain residential, increase in business would be an increase in noise, possible increase in theft, the ramp traffic is already 55-75 mph and a driveway into a business would be dangerous at those speeds.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho introduced Carey Dietrich to the Council and Public as the new Community Planner and Assistant Director for Building and Development. Mr. Donoho noted that there was a Joint Public Hearing on July 27, 2021, and a Planning and Zoning Commission on August 2, 2021, at which time the recommendation was made to deny the request for a zoning change. The staff concurs this is a low-density residential area and supports the Planning and Zoning recommendation.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to deny the request for the change in zoning of land from R-1 (1st Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at 1906 Mallard Drive; also known as 0.153 acres of land remaining out of Lot No. 38, Block No.1, West Terrace Acres Subdivision Unit 1, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to B-1 (General Business District) to develop office and warehouse space; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1st Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at 1502 Sixteenth Street; also known as Lot 53, Block 251, Swickheimer Subdivision, being 10.014 acres, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to R-2M (Manufactured Housing District) to allow for placement of manufactured homes; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.**

Public Works Director Mike Donoho noted that there was a Joint Public Hearing on July 27, 2021, and a Planning and Zoning Commission on August 2, 2021. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the need for low to moderate housing. With a four to one (4:1) vote from Planning and Zoning Commission, the staff concurs to approve this request for zoning change.

Property owner Mr. Les Selensky reiterated his previous statements that there is a need for affordable homes in this community. The average cost for these homes will be \$144,000 to include half acre lots with their own septic system and connections for city water. Any additional costs of engineering for drainage and/or other needs will be incurred if this is approved.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance

amending the official zoning map as stipulated under Article 4.1 of the City of Rockport Zoning Ordinance Number 1027 by changing the zoning of land from R-1 (1st Single Family Dwelling District) for property located at 1502 Sixteenth Street; also known as Lot 53, Block 251, Swickheimer Subdivision, being 10.014 acres, City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, to R-2M (Manufactured Housing District) to allow for placement of manufactured homes; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9. Deliberate and act on award of bid for sale of property on Young Street. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to sign the appropriate deed(s) and other such closing documents as required to sell Lot 5-R, Block 115, Doughty and Mathis Division, being 0.287 acres according to the replat recorded in Volume 7, Page 149, Plat Records of Aransas County Texas, also known as 1017 Young Street; and providing for an effective date.**

City Manager Kevin Carruth explained this property was previously a larger lot that included a city lift station. The city has fences off the lift station and divided this property for other use. Four bids were received, and staff recommends sale to the highest bidder of \$38,500 to David Hays.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the second and final reading of the Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to sign the appropriate deed(s) and other such closing documents as required to sell Lot 5-R, Block 115, Doughty and Mathis Division, being 0.287 acres according to the replat recorded in Volume 7, Page 149, Plat Records of Aransas County Texas, also known as 1017 Young Street to David Hays in the amount of \$38,500. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article II. “Water Service”, Division 3. “Service Charges” by Amending Water Rates for all Customers; Providing for the Validity of Said Ordinance; Repealing all Prior Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article II. “Water Service”, Division 3. “Service Charges” by amending water rates for all Customers; providing for the validity of said Ordinance; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Mayor Rios seconded the motion. (NOTE: Motion carried unanimously after discussion – see below)

There was only one citizen asking to speak on this item: Kristie Rutledge of 1411 Dana Drive. Areas of concern were to know exactly what the increase was to be spent on, if this supports the infrastructure, and asked if these funds were to be transferred elsewhere.

Finance Director Katie Griffin explained there is not an exact science to specify where the penny for penny is spent. The only transfer of funds anywhere is for direct expenses of administrative costs and franchise fees. Just as household cost of living increase so do business expenses. The cost of lumber, pipe, oil, gas, and more have all increased. The city did not increase the rates last year due to COVID. If the city continues to not increase with the cost of doing business, eventually

there will be a need for a large increase to catch us up. The citizens who are using the products now, need to pay for what is being used now; not the future users paying for the past.

City Manager Kevin Carruth also noted that the Utility Funds are regulated and if we do not raise rates appropriately to cover expenses, eventually, the State will step in and not only raise our rates for us, but also fine the City a hefty fine.

Council Member Brundrett questioned if this 2% increase was all towards bonds, capital items, line replacement, staff, or where? Ms. Griffin stated it is spread over everything. The water fund is in the best shape of all the utility funds; however, when sales are down because we have heavy rains, the pipes still have to be maintained or replaced as needed, the bonds still have to be paid, the staff still have to be paid, and electricity still have to be paid. The winter freeze we experienced earlier this year caused a lot of lines to break; some on the public side, some on the city side. We still have to pay for all of the water that went through our lines. We are still recovering from that large water bill.

Mayor Rios called for the vote, and it was approved unanimously.

11. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article III. “Wastewater Service”, Division 4. “Service Charges” by Amending Wastewater Rates for all Customers; Providing for the Validity of Said Ordinance; Repealing all Prior Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and Providing for an Effective Date.

There was only one citizen asking to speak on this item: Kristie Rutledge of 1411 Dana Drive. Areas of concern were the same as item #10 above, to know exactly what the increase was to be spent on, if this supports the infrastructure, and asked if these funds were to be transferred elsewhere.

Finance Director Katie Griffin explained the wastewater needs are similar to the water needs with the exception that we do have additional infrastructure needs with the wastewater system. There are necessary upgrades needed at the wastewater treatment facility. Rockport is a little different than most small-town communities in Texas in that we have high influx of residents at multiple times of the year for high tourism. Our wastewater treatment facility has to be able to maintain usual low flow rates on normal (residents only days/weeks) and the very high flow rates when tourism peaks. The capital improvements needed to have duplication of everything within the plant is within these rates. With recent retirement of certain positions, we are revamping some of the other positions to allow for additional supervision and more staff. There is still the transfer of administrative and franchise fees built into this budget.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article III. “Wastewater Service”, Division 4. “Service Charges” by amending wastewater rates for all customers; providing for the validity of said Ordinance; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport

Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article V. “Natural Gas Service”, Division 3. “Service Charges” by Amending Natural Gas Rates for all Customers; Providing for the Validity of Said Ordinance; Repealing all Prior Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Of all the utility funds, Finance Director Katie Griffin explained, the Natural Gas fund is the most regulated. Whereas water and wastewater are regulated by TCEQ only, the Natural Gas is regulated by both TCEQ and the Railroad Commission. This system is very old and there are a lot of lines that have to be replaced. A plan to replace a percentage of the old steel lines each year has been approved by the Railroad Commission. We have even found PVC in some areas and that all has to be replaced. If the city continues with the next five to six years of capital improvements, we should have all lines replaced and be at the 180 reserve days needed for emergency purposes.

There was only one citizen asking to speak on this item: Kristie Rutledge of 1411 Dana Drive. Areas of concern were that the 12.5% was too much at a single rate increase, she doesn't care for gas, where is it within the budget, and asked if this is just going to salaries and frivolous things.

Council Member Brundrett asked about the 23.5% increase in maintenance. Ms. Griffin explained this is specific to maintenance and is approved by the Railroad Commission.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 “Utilities”, Article V. “Natural Gas Service”, Division 3. “Service Charges” by amending natural gas rates for all customers; providing for the validity of said Ordinance; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances, Chapter 82 “Solid Waste” Article II. “Refuse Collection”, Section 82.39 “Fee Schedule” Setting New Fees For Service; Repealing all Prior Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and Providing for Publication and an Effective Date.

Finance Director Katie Griffin explained this is a straight pass through of a 3.5% CPI. The budget includes the respective revenue increase in Franchise Fees.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances, Chapter 82 “Solid Waste” Article II. “Refuse Collection”, Section 82.39 “Fee Schedule” setting new fees for service; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for publication and an effective date. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Deliberate and act on presentation of proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

Mayor Rios noted that the Charter requires the staff to provide a balanced budget. Major items such as drainage projects and out Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are separate from the balanced budget, which is located at the end of the budget.

Citizens to be heard either from Mayor or Council Members reading their statements aloud or them

making their own statements were: John Heffron of 210 Champion, Kristie Rutledge of 1211 Dana Drive, Tom Rodino of 183 Heron Oaks, and Adelaide Marlatt of 456 August. Areas of concern were: not enough funds for drainage maintenance, increase in employee costs, purchasing human resources software, and a request to have more time to review the budget.

Mayor Rios recessed the regular meeting at 8:47 for a short break.

Mayor Rios reconvened the regular meeting at 8:57 p.m.

City Manager Kevin Carruth provided a handout and a similar, but reduced presentation, that was provided at the Budget Workshop of August 2, 2021. He explained the difference between CPI and MCI, the uses allowed by the CDL, that most service organizations run at staff costs of 75% but Rockport is a 34-37% overall, the need for a Human Resources Manager, and several other items from the previous Workshop.

Council Member Hattman requested the Market Street Corridor Study and the two shade structures within the Parks Department be removed from the budget.

Council Member Brundrett requested the need for more money within the drainage budget. Mr. Carruth noted there are \$10Million of drainage projects out for bid at this time. As well as the fact that the staff are having difficulty finding drainage contractors available for the smaller projects right now.

Public Works Director Mike Donoho requested if there is an increase within the drainage budget, that the line-item increase be within Contractual Services. His staff can clean ditches and blow out the culverts, but he needs contractor funds to repair the sink holes that are too deep for his staff to safely repair. Mr. Donoho explained that when a sink hole is found, the staff dig out the hole, fix the issue, and fill it with sand and rock. The staff let it sit there for weeks to settle and make sure the fix held. The staff will fill the hole as needed for a period of several weeks to make sure the fix held solid and the sand and rock are settling properly. Eventually, the crew comes back with blacktop and fixes it permanently. They do not put blacktop on the hole immediately because they don't want to waste product and time in case the situation is still sinking and to allow the sand and rock to better settle in the bottom of the hole.

There was additional discussion regarding whether the proposed staff should be added to parks or drainage. Mr. Donoho and Parks and Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez explained that the Parks Department already have the necessary equipment, knowledge, and herbicide certifications to provide the necessary mowing and herbicide treatment to the ROW throughout Rockport. They plan to have the proposed Parks staff perform the regular maintenance of all of the flat ROW. The current and proposed Drainage staff will perform the mowing along the sloped areas with the larger equipment they have within their department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa and Council Member Jackson requested that any new drainage projects need to be started on the South side of town. Mr. Donoho agreed that is an area that needs a lot of work; however, over the years the city has not been able to get land owners to work with the city to provide the necessary ROW for larger ditches. There is a drainage plan in place, we just need the funds in order to implement the projects. They are in order of life safety and working the downstream area before working upstream.

Council Member Brundrett requested the two proposed Parks staff be added with the one proposed drainage staff for a total of three new employees in the Streets/Drainage Department. Council Member Hattman requested more funds be added to the Drainage Maintenance line-item. Mr. Carruth asked if an additional \$100,000 from the CDL to Drainage Maintenance would be sufficient. Mr. Donoho requested the funds be added to Contract Services instead of Maintenance because he doesn't have the \$100,000 piece of equipment needed to keep his staff safe when digging more than three to four feet deep to fix sink holes. Council Member Brundrett stated that contractors are hard to find right now due to low labor pool. He understands that nobody can plan for the 500-year rain event like we recently had, but he feels the staff can better maintain our existing ditches, ROWs, and ponds to better handle the typical rains we get. Council Member Jackson agreed better planning is needed.

Mr. Carruth noted that a plan for regular maintenance was adopted in 2017, prior to Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Donoho explained that even with all of the maintenance performed, some of the old culverts are too small for the current flow due to the growth of Rockport. Additional funds will be need in order to purchase ROW, build larger ditches, and bigger culverts. He also feels more funds will be needed for contractors to fix all of the sink holes and similar breaks caused by the 500-year flood event we recently had. Mr. Donoho feels if the contractors can fix the sink holes, dig out the sediment within the ponds, and similar large projects, his staff can maintain these areas, but contractors are needed first. If the flat ROW maintenance staff is moved into Streets and Drainage Department, additional equipment and training for certifications will be necessary.

Finance Director Katie Griffin explained the only action necessary for this agenda item is to approve the receipt of the budget. From tonight's discussion, there will be changes and you still have at least two more meetings to make changes as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa requested that the position of Human Resource Manager stay within the budget. This has been shifted from year to year too many times. We need to fill this position.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to accept the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget, as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Deliberate and act by taking record vote on proposed 2021 ad valorem property tax for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget and scheduling dates for two required public hearings on proposed tax rate.

Finance Director Katie Griffin stated the current proposed FY 2021/2022 budget is based on, and the staff is recommending, the Voter Approved Tax Rate of 0.418347/\$100 of valuation which provides an additional \$392,823 of tax revenue. She asked that the Council take a vote to set a not to exceed proposed rate and a date for a public hearing.

Council Member Brundrett questioned what the No New Revenue Rate looked like, and Ms. Griffin stated it was not a pretty budget. There were additional questions regarding voter approved bonds and how to back load them for when other debt payments are scheduled to fall off.

Council Member Brundrett asked what could be done with the No New Revenue Rate. Ms. Griffin explained that due to changes at the State Legislature in 2019 and now 2021, there have been huge

changes that really restrict a community. We must fund things slowly because we cannot raise our rates very much. If a city keeps putting increases off, they may never get their projects done.

Only one citizen asked to speak during this agenda item: Kristie Rutledge of 1211 Dana Drive. Her concern was to not consider anything other than the No New Revenue tax rate.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved that the proposed property tax rate of No New Revenue rate of \$0.392720. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa requested staff prepare a document showing the changes from the staff recommended tax rate to the No New Revenue Rate and Ms. Griffin agreed to do so.

Roll call recorded the vote as follows:

FOR MOTION: Council Member Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem Villa, Council Member Brundrett, and Council Member Hattman.

AGAINST MOTION: Mayor Rios

Ms. Griffin stated that the Council still needed to vote to set the Public Hearing date of August 24, 2021 and asked that the motion include the tax rate.

MOTION: Council Member Hattman moved that the public hearing be scheduled for August 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the regular Council meeting and that the proposed property tax rate of No New Revenue rate of \$0.392720. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. Roll call recorded the vote as follows:

FOR MOTION: Council Member Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem Villa, Council Member Brundrett, Council Member Hattman, and Mayor Rios.

AGAINST MOTION: None

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

Mayor Rios stated there have now been 1215 confirmed cases in Aransas County, which is up by 16 from yesterday and 138 since the last Council Meeting. There are currently 177 active cases, and there have been 46 fatalities. There is a free testing and vaccination clinic this Thursday, August 12, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Fulton Convention Center.

17. 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 Jackson stated she would be leaving tomorrow to attend the New Council Members Orientation.

Council Member Brundrett thanked the staff for all their work on the Budget.

Council Member Hattman also thanked the staff and stated she knows these are difficult conversations. She also noted school will be starting next week.

Mayor Rios stated he would be attending the new teacher pep rally this Thursday. The thanked the staff for their hard work on the budget and the public for providing their input. He also recognized is wife for their 49th Anniversary tomorrow.

18. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Mayor Rios adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.



ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Patrick R. Rios, Mayor