

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 18, 2020 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 either electronically submit a [Citizen Participation Form](#) or 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 entered in the minutes of the meeting.

On the 18th day of August 2020, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Special Session at 6:35 p.m., 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 Michael Saski, Ward 1
Council Member Bob Cunningham, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Finance Director Katie Griffin
Public Works Director Mike Donoho
Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Henry
Police Chief Greg Stevens

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Opening Agenda

1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Special Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Rios at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, via video conferencing application ZOOM.

Special Agenda

- 2. Deliberate and act on an Ordinance authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of “City of Rockport, Texas, Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2020”; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual *ad valorem* tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the City’s waterworks and sanitary sewer system; and approving and authorizing the execution of a paying agent/registrars agreement, a purchase contract, an official statement and all other instruments and procedures related thereto.**

Mayor Rios stated there were citizens who wanted to address the Council on this Agenda item.

Andrew Kane, 2106 Lakeview Drive, addressed the Council. Mr. Kane stated a Petition was started and filed with the City Secretary yesterday. Mr. Kane expressed he hoped Council would push back the vote today and respect the voters’ rights; citizens need to have a vote on large debt that will raise taxes. Mr. Kane declared citizens want to be heard, not left out of process. Mr. Kane stated the Notice of Intention had not been posed continuously for 45 days. Mr. Kane urged Council Member Cunningham to be a true representative of his constituents and vote their will. Mr. Kane added there is an outstanding will to stop spending money without our approval; please respect voters.

Mayor Rios stated Lynn Powers, 66 Blue Heron Drive, had submitted a Citizen Participation form and wants it read into the record. Mayor Rios read the following: “Kudos to the City officials for trying to raise money at historically low interest rates to make our City better, safer and more interesting while saving money in interest. I am disappointed in the reaction to the bond taking such a negative turn on social media with so much misinformation. We have a process in America called free elections. You have the right to vote for or against someone and the majority rules. Once that person is in office, they should be allowed to govern and not constantly be battling misinformation and roadblocks. I don’t understand how 5% of the population should stop progress for 95% of the population and would the 5% have signed a petition if there was not misinformation about \$71,000 slides out there. This City is a lovely place to live and work and is truly just now rebuilding from Harvey and getting back on its feet. We need to work together for progress and stop fighting for power and control. The Key Allegro Bridge is critical to our small island and the access for those that live on the island. Should that project be postponed for this or any other reason, there is a large elderly population on that island that need access to health care, or it can be life threatening. Is a slide in a pool (which is not even close to \$71,000) worth that risk? I think the timing and misinformation on this to be appalling when this bond has been out there for 6 weeks with several City Council meetings to have expressed concern and worked with the City to make the bond better; interest rates will start going up and this delay will cost the taxpayers more.”

Philip Salemi, 1913 Crescent Drive, addressed the Council. Mr. Salemi stated MS. Powers statement entered into the records is very accurate. Mr. Salemi expressed Council should vote in favor of the bond issuance. Mr. Salemi said both of the proposed structures, the County Courthouse and the City Hall will be full; the old Courthouse was built around 1955 at 30,000 square feet and it did last for 65 years, but if you interpolated those numbers to the population today that would mean you would need 165,000 square feet. Mr. Salemi stated the new buildings

will stimulate economic development growth and he does not believe it will make taxes go up. Mr. Salemi declared if there is no growth this is a recipe for economic disaster; we need to build and take advantage of that growth.

Executive Session

City Council will hold an executive session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this Chapter.

At 6:47 p.m., Mayor Rios convened the Rockport City Council into an executive session pursuant to provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this Chapter – Agenda Item 2.

Open Session

City Council will reconvene into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any actions necessary related to the executive sessions noted herein, or regular agenda items, noted above, and/or related items.

At 7:41 p.m., Mayor Rios reconvened the Rockport City Council into open session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to take any necessary actions related to the executive sessions noted herein, or regular agenda items, noted above, and/or related items.

Mayor Rios stated the City Secretary has acknowledged there were enough signatures on the Petition filed on August 18, 2020, but a complete verification of signatures had not been completed.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to table Agenda Item 2 until the August 25, 2020, City Council meeting. Council Member Saski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Adjournment.

At 7:44 p.m., Council Member Saski moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hattman. Motion carried unanimously.



APPROVED:


Patrick R. Rios, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Valdez, City Secretary