

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 7, 2021 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass and Via Video Conferencing Application ZOOM

Social distancing guidelines and the video conferencing application ZOOM are actions were taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Video conferencing capabilities were utilized to allow individuals to address the City Council. 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 7th day of September 2021, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center with social distancing guidelines and using the 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
Council Member Katy Jackson, Ward 1
Council Member Brad Brundrett, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Mayor Pro-Tem J.D. Villa, Ward 2

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Director of Finance Katie Griffin
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez
Director of Public Works and Building & Services Director Mike Donoho
Police Chief Greg Stevens
Police Officer Juan Canales
Police Lieutenant Nathan Garcia
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger

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 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas, and via video conferencing application ZOOM.

Mayor Rios said he had received an Appearance Before City Council card to address the Council on an item that is not on this Agenda.

Ken Baron, 402 Cascades, addressed the Council and commented: Want to verify we are getting budget money to do some stormwater work in the Rockport Country Club. Ask you to organize a citizen committee to review costs, highest areas of risk and a game plan on how to spend the money wisely. Will volunteer my services.

Mayor Rios added a Point of Information that there is a Stormwater & Floodplain Management Advisory Committee that has been active for years and is run by Aransas County. Mayor Rios stated the City is involved with this Committee. Mayor Rios informed Mr. Baron he could contact Aransas County Judge Mills or County Stormwater Management Engineer David Reid regarding the Committee.

Public Hearing

2. Conduct a Public Hearing on City of Rockport Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

Mayor Rios opened the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Rios said he had received the following Appearance Before City Council cards:

1) Russell D. Roberts, 210 Marion Drive, addressed the Council and commented: Emphasize what Mr. Baron said; there are significant amount of money being budgeted out of the CDL. Would like to see some sort of interchange between Council and citizenry so we can see what's happening going forward. If there are multiple buckets of money to assist with drainage, would like to see how those break out. Like to know some sort of mechanism, citizen committee, going forward to know how much is being spent on drainage.

2) Kathy Kane, 109 Boardwalk Avenue, addressed the Council and commented: This is a public hearing for citizens to tell you how they feel about the budget but it is hard to tell you because there are no details and all we have is a spreadsheet that balances to the penny, and there is nothing that shows the recommendations and challenges that were discussed over the last month, so I don't know how you want us to respond. Are we going to have that information at the next couple of meetings?

3) Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive, addressed the Council and commented: When I saw Agenda packet on Friday, I was really surprised; you are asking us to participate, and we have no information. This is our budget; we pay for it and this is not a legitimate public hearing. Transparency has to be your highest priority

Director of Finance Katie Griffin addressed the Council and explained there is a misunderstanding of the budget process; staff only provides one actual “proposed” budget to Council and the end result may change. Ms. Griffin stated the information staff left with from last Tuesday’s Special Council meeting was a tremendous amount, and the information that has to be provided for the next Council meeting Agenda packet has to be given to the City Secretary on the Wednesday before the meeting, so there was not sufficient time for all the information to be put together and put into the budget. Ms. Griffin said she provided the fund level budget, that is how we adopt a budget and is no different from what other municipalities do. Ms. Griffin stated she has given Council tonight a Revised Proposed Budget and a line-item revision showing the revisions Council discussed at the August 31, 2021, Special Meeting. Ms. Griffin reviewed and explained the line-item revision handout (below).

FY2021-2022 Proposed Budget
Line Item Revision between 8/10/21 Proposed and 9/7/21 Budget Public Hearing

GL Code	Description	8/10/21 Proposed	9/7/21 Proposed	Variance	Description of Line Item Revision
General Fund					
General Fund Revenues		\$ 13,152,932	\$ 13,625,334	\$ 462,402	
40001	Property Taxes			(20,794)	Decrease in property tax revenue due to change in tax rate, 99% Collection Rate
40001-40004	Delinquent and Penalty & Interest			20,000	Increase in collection of delinquent taxes & penalties & interests
40005				22,700	Increase in Business Property Tax Revenue - due to legislative changes
40310-40316	Building Permits			43,000	Increase in Building Permits due to analysis of permits applied for
40426	Intergovernmental			(10,000)	Correction to Fulton - Law Enforcement (ties to interlocal agreement)
40501-40503	Court Fees			33,475	Increase in Court Fees due to change in Warrant Officers
40701	Zoning & Platting			3,000	Increase in Zoning & Platting due to increase number requests submitted
40901-40914	Operating Transfers			(142)	Decrease in Operating Transfers - Verification of Transfers between units
43002	Insurance Claims			5,000	Increase in Proceeds from Insurance Claims due to anticipated claims
43004-43032	Misc Revenue			6,500	Increase in Misc Revenue - analysis of 3 yr trends
43014	Peace Officer Training			2,000	Increase in Peace Officer Training - State of TX
				\$ (178,083)	Total Decrease in General Fund Revenues
				\$ 662,485	Increase in use of Community Disaster Loan
General Fund Expenditures		\$ 13,152,932	\$ 13,625,334	\$ 462,402	
6081001-6081050	Personnel - Finance			(78,246)	Transferred from funding of Accountant to Utility Fund 01-651. Includes benefits
6081001-6081025	Personnel - City Manager's Office			(36,603)	Reduced Funding for HR Manager to 6 mo
6221001-6221050	Personnel - Building Inspections			(100,967)	Remove duplicate funding of Building Inspector (budgeted in 01-621)
6311001-6311050	Personnel - Streets & Drainage			99,507	Addition of 2 Field Service Technicians (Trans from Parks 01-661)
6611001-6611050	Personnel - Parks & Leisure Svcs			(107,768)	Reduction of 2 Field Service Technicians (Trans to Streets & Drainage 01-631)
1001-1050	Personnel - Various			(8,577)	Changes in FICA and TMRS due to changes in personnel
2036	Communication Services			(28,000)	Reduction in monthly fiber charges
6092045	Contract Services			(26,000)	Removal of Market Street Study
2029	FCA Grant Administration			(130,000)	Remove duplicate funding of FCA Grant Administration (budgeted in HOT Fund)
6313015	Drainage Maintenance			975,000	Increase for materials, contract services, etc
6130030	Mobile Surveillance Cameras			(45,000)	Removed mobile surveillance cameras
6610647	Park Improvements			(50,000)	Removed shade canopies at Memorial Park
6130033	Body Cameras - Grant Match PD			30,000	Grant Match for PD Body Cameras

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Utility Fund					
Utility Fund Revenues		\$ 12,250,000	\$ 12,136,250	\$ (113,750)	
42601	Interest Revenues			(340)	
40701	Water Revenue			(3,994)	
40703	Water Connection Fees			14,600	
40704	Wastewater Connection Fees			5,000	
40706	Wastewater Line Revenue			(5,000)	
40707-40708	Service Fees & Late Fees			(12,600)	
40711	Septic Tank Disposal Fees			(10,000)	
43032	Employee Equipment Buy Back			(500)	
Utility Fund Expenditures		\$ 12,250,000	\$ 12,236,250	\$ (13,750)	
6411001-6411050	Personnel Services - Water			(28,100)	Reduction of 1 Field Service Tech to 6mo and Receptionist to 11mo
6461001-6461050	Personnel Services - Wastewater			(8,577)	Reduction of 1 Field Service Tech to 6mo
6511001-6511050	Personnel Services - Utility Customer Svc			36,111	Addition of Accountant from (Trans from Finance 01-606)
6501-6550	Operating Transfers			(13,600)	Adjustment due to revisions in changes in revenues & expenses
Utility Debt Service Fund					
Utility Debt Service Fund Revenues		\$ 2,288,120	\$ 2,433,880	\$ 145,760	
40902	Transfer in from Utility Fund			\$ 129,337	
40904	Transfer in from Material Gas Fund			16,533	Increased due to revised annual projection
Utility Debt Service Fund Expenditures		\$ 2,288,120	\$ 2,433,880	\$ 145,760	
6996010	Bond Principal Paymts			\$ 61,207	Adjusted for debt payment requirements per debt schedule
6996013	Bond Interest Paymts			67,843	Adjusted for debt payment requirements per debt schedule

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GL Code	Description	8/10/21 Proposed	8/7/21 Proposed	Variance	Description of Line Item Revision
Natural Gas Fund					
Natural Gas Fund Revenues		\$ 2,886,214	\$ 2,886,214	\$ 0	
06730	Natural Gas Connection Fees		16,000	16,000	Increase due to projected increase in revenue growth
			16,000	16,000	Total increase in Natural Gas Fund Revenues
			(12,000)	(12,000)	Decrease in use of Community Disaster Loan
Natural Gas Fund Expenditures		\$ 2,898,214	\$ 2,898,214	\$ 0	
0402000	0401000 Personnel Services		18,234	18,234	Addition of 1 Full Service Worker - ID#
6400000	Utility Mapping/GIS		(17,000)	(17,000)	Project complete FY2020-2021
Fund Contingency Fee Fund					
Fund Contingency Fee Fund Revenues		\$ 1,430,000	\$ 1,430,000	\$ 0	
06730	Natural Gas Connection Fees		25,000	25,000	Decreased due to recent annual acquisition
Fund Contingency Fund Expenditures		\$ 1,430,000	\$ 1,430,000	\$ 0	
602000	Structure Stabilization		25,000	25,000	Increase for stabilization of structure

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GL Code	Description	8/10/21 Proposed	8/7/21 Proposed	Variance	Description of Line Item Revision
Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund					
VEB Replacement Fund Revenues		\$ 1,245,000	\$ 1,245,000	\$ 0	
00000	Transfer to General Fund		10,000	10,000	
00000	Transfer to Utility Fund		10,700	10,700	
00000	Transfer to Gas Fund		1,000	1,000	
VEB Replacement Fund Expenditures		\$ 1,245,000	\$ 1,245,000	\$ 0	
No revisions to VEB Replacement Expenditures					
Capital Improvement Projects Fund					
CFP Fund Revenues		\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 0	
Use of Reserves			1,000,000	1,000,000	Corrected due to error in calculation
CFP Expenditures		\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 0	
No revisions to CFP Expenditures					

Discussion was held among Ms. Griffin and Council regarding the amount of CDL (Community Disaster Loan) funds being placed in the budget and the number of full-time employees added to Public Works and Parks Departments.

Council Member Jackson stated she appreciated the detail and explanation given by Ms. Griffin. Council Member Jackson asked if we have a balanced budget.

Ms. Griffin answered we have a balanced budget and stated the City does not adopt a line-item budget, but instead a fund balance budget. Ms. Griffin stated the City still has some CDL funds in reserves for the next fiscal year.

Council Member Hattman thanked Ms. Griffin and stated this has been a long process. Council Member Hattman said what Ms. Griffin had prepared for Council was what they needed; it was simplistic, and she appreciated Ms. Griffin's hard work.

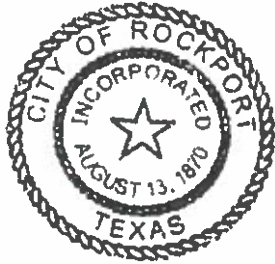
Mr. Roberts asked for future meetings if information shared with Council could be placed on the large screens for the audience to view.

Ms. Rutledge thanked Ms. Griffin for providing Council the information tonight.

Mayor Rios closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

3. Adjournment.

At 7:12 p.m., Council Member Brundrett moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.



APPROVED:



Patrick R. Rios, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Valdez, City Secretary