

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 6, 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 6th day of October 2020, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Special Session at 6:30 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 Bob Cunningham, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Council Member Michael Saski, Ward 1

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Finance Director Katie Griffin
Public Works Director Mike Donoho
Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Henry
Parks and Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez

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 6:31 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, via video conferencing application ZOOM.

Mayor Rios led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

2. Citizen comments on agenda items.

At this time, written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is on the agenda, will be read by the Mayor and entered 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. 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.

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

Special Agenda

3. Deliberate and act to accept City Hall project schematic design.

Mayor Rios said this was an action item from last week's Council Workshop. Mayor Rios asked if Council had any questions.

Council Member Cunningham asked the following questions and Paul Bonnet with PGAL, Construction Manager at Risk Mike Bishop, and Mayor Rios provided the following answers:

1) What are the next steps?

Mayor Rios – Once we accept the schematic design we start working with PGAL on drawings; Broddus will be working with them.

Mr. Bonnet – The project will be put out for bid next Summer; hopefully they will also be moving forward with the Aransas County Courthouse and community building.

2) What will be going on between now and June?

Mr. Bonnet – Now proceed into design development; get the structural engineer, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, security and audio-visual consultants involved. Start producing drawings and meet with the City on more detailed information; gather materials for exterior – actual samples.

Mayor – These drawings are very detailed oriented.

Mr. Bonnet – This is a gradual process; Broddus will do a cost estimate to make sure it stays at budget. There is a point where it will be reviewed with the City, then move into final construction documents and then a bid set.

Mayor – Design documents have to be signed off by City before it goes to bid.

Mr. Bishop – Broddus is involved in entire process; for the duration. During design development we will do a cost estimate at the 50% mark that will give us an increased level of accuracy for the project and we will provide feedback. The construction documents are where the detail is added to the project. There are hundreds of different materials that go into a building. We will do another cost estimate at the 100% mark before it is put out to bid. Hopefully we will have a very accurate benchmark to judge bids. In bidding we are involved in putting bid documents together and regulations are followed. The more detailed set we put on the street the better the bids.

3) Does that normally include an element of community where the public is involved in seeing what is going on?

Mr. Bonnet – Often times to educate the citizens, as we are moving along. We have been receiving some input all along. Last week received input on parking and exterior

elevations. We can do that. One of the places that might be helpful for input is the plaza; how does the City and Courthouse want to use that area? We want to make sure the design works well for you.

- 4) All the different specialist are with PGAL? We don't need to be worried about bidding more out?

Mr. Bonnet – Not all are in-house. It will be the design team presented to the City Council when the presentations were made to Council.

Mayor – They brought all their different team members during the presentation and we don't anticipate any other members. That is one of the advantages of selecting PGAL.

Council Member Cunningham – I reached out to the City Manager of Navasota and he was very complimentary of PGAL.

- 5) For clarification, the concrete frame is at an additional cost of \$250,000?

Mayor – Yes, an analysis was done, and it will pay for itself. It is important to have this in the environment we are in.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa asked the following question Construction Manager at Risk Mike Bishop, provided the following answer:

Does Broddus work on behalf of the City and/or County?

Mr. Bishop – Both.

Council Member Hattman said she had no questions but liked the idea of a Town Hall meeting to provide information to the citizens.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to accept the City Hall project schematic design and include the concrete design as opposed to the steel design. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate and act on Amended Contract for election services between the Elections Administrator of Aransas County and the City of Rockport for the November 3, 2020 Election.

Mayor Rios stated the Amended Contract is included in the Agenda packet and reflects the changes in early voting dates and times, addition of an early voting branch location and addition of election day polling locations. Mayor Rios said the important thing is the cost because we are having a Mayoral election.

Council Member Hattman asked if this was the standard cost?

Mayor Rios answered that it was not the normal cost, it was more because this is a larger election; it is little more than double the cost of a May election.

Council Member Cunningham asked if the cost was proportional.

City Secretary Teresa Valdez answered the cost would be the same for this election whether the City was having one and/or two Ward elections and/or a Mayoral election.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the Amended Contract for election services between the Elections Administrator of Aransas County and the City of Rockport for the November 3, 2020 Election. Council Member Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Deliberate and act on an interlocal agreement with Aransas County, Nueces County, Refugio County, San Patricio County, and Victoria County to participate in an application to the Texas General Land Office Community Development Block Grant Hurricane Harvey State Mitigation Program for a project to design and construct a fiber optic loop.**

Mayor Rios noted one change to the interlocal agreement included in the Agenda packet. Mayor Rios said Nueces County is going to enter into their own separate agreement and the corrected Agreement had been emailed to Council yesterday. Mayor Rios stated the grant amount is \$47,804,441 through the General Land Office Community Development Block Grant Hurricane Harvey State Mitigation Program and the cost to the City is \$100,000.

Council Member Hattman commented she personally has a marketing business, and this will be really nice.

Council Member Cunningham asked for clarification because during the forty-minute presentation made to the Commissioners Court, it seemed as this was for emergency services only. Council Member Cunningham said Mr. Whitson was not very affirmative whether there would be access available to rent out.

Mayor Rios said that was the first he has heard of that; the original discussion was for entities, but always talked about excess capacity.

Council Member Cunningham expressed the \$100,000 is worth the engineering services and connectivity.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve an interlocal agreement with Aransas County, Refugio County, San Patricio County, and Victoria County to participate in an application to the Texas General Land Office Community Development Block Grant Hurricane Harvey State Mitigation Program for a project to design and construct a fiber optic loop. Council Member Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Deliberate and act to ratify the election of the Texas Municipal League Health Benefits Pool (TML-HB) Post-65 Retiree Option.**

Mayor Rios stated the information on this Agenda item is included in the Agenda packet. Mayor Rios said there is a choice of three packages and last year the Council had approved Package 3. Mayor Rios stated staff is recommending the Council ratify the accepted Texas Municipal League Health Benefits retiree medical plan Packet 3 as follows: 1) Medicare Advantage 2 (with Prescription Drug Plan), 2) Senior Supplemental Plan D, and 3) Prescription Drug Plan 3.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to ratify the election of the Texas Municipal League

Health Benefits Pool (TML-HB) Post-65 Retiree Package 3 Plan - Medicate Advantage 2 (with Prescription Drug Plan), Senior Supplemental Plan D, and Prescription Drug Plan 3. Council Member Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rios took a point of personal privilege. Mayor Rios said this is the first year in many years where the City Council is not personally sitting as a Council and wearing pink to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Mayor Rios expressed this cancer has touched all of us in some way and he asked everyone to remember everyone who has been affected in one way or another by it. Mayor Rios thanked everyone for wearing pink.

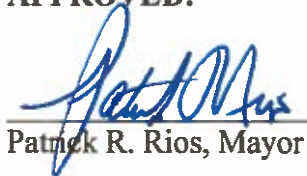
Council Member Hattman commented her sister-in-law is a survivor; "Go Team Leslie!" Council Member Hattman expressed her appreciation to Mayor Rios for his comments and recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness month.

7. Adjournment.

At 7:07 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hattman. Motion carried unanimously.



APPROVED:


Patrick R. Rios, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary