

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Present:**

**Councilmembers:**

John King, Mayor  
Nathan Bland  
Denise Wallace  
Willie Phillips  
Joyce Dalley, Mayor Pro-Tem

**City Staff:**

Chris Whittaker, City Manager  
Terry Blanchard, City Secretary  
Sandra Ellis, City Treasurer  
Thomas Harris, Chief of Police  
Lon Williams, Code Enforcement Officer

**Absent:**

Colby Fisher  
Doug Calame

**Call to Order and announce a Quorum is Present**

With a quorum of the Council members present, the Special Meeting of the Rockdale City Council was called to order by Mayor King at 5:30 p.m., August 21, 2017, at City Hall, 505 W. Cameron Ave, Rockdale, Texas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**4A. Conduct a public hearing on:**

- i. **The proposed 2017-18 Budget (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018) for the City of Rockdale**
- ii. **A proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year for the City of Rockdale**

Public hearing opened at 5:32 p.m. The following comments were received:

- Neil Switkowski – It is disrespectful to constituents to have a meeting at 5:30 (when most people are just getting off of work or driving home from work). Meetings should be held no earlier than 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.
- Belinda Hillhouse – Taxes have increased every year since 2010. When property or items are donated to the City, Council should consider the additional "hidden" costs of maintenance before accepting donation.

Public hearing closed at 5:36 p.m.

**4.1A. Consider and take any necessary action on FY 2017-18 special fund budgets**

Dr. John Weed spoke regarding the marketing director. Advertising and marketing are different. Marketing sells a product and that product is Rockdale. We live within sixty miles of one million people. We need to be looking at weekenders and utilize the Fair Park, tennis courts, Patterson Center, Kay Theater, Depot, etc. We need to recruit people to come to Rockdale.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dalley and a second by Councilmember Phillips, the Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to approve the MDD and Municipal Court fund budgets and postpone HOT fund discussion. Motion carried.

**4.2A. At 5:54 p.m. Council convened into executive session under Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code for deliberations regarding economic development negotiations**


**4.2B. At 6:18 p.m. Council reconvened in open session to take action if, and as deemed appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding economic development negotiations**

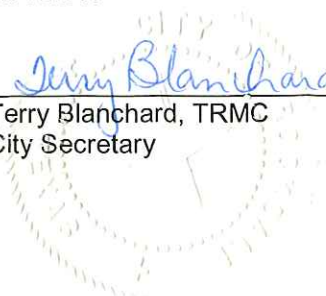
No action taken.

Adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

These minutes approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Terry Blanchard, TRMC  
City Secretary



**APPROVED:**

  
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John E. King, Mayor