

Thursday, September 19, 2024, Regular Meeting 6:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Robert Lee, Texas, met in Regular Session at the City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steven Arens, Council Members: Josh Tennison, Skyler Rainwater, Brantly Robertson, Mike Stephens, City Attorney Jeff Betty

Absent: Council Member Jonathan Torres

Presentations and Proclamations

A. FY 24-25 Budget Hearing

The budget, as summarized below, is the proposed Budget for the FY 24-25

Income, Revenue: \$1,799,130.00

Expense: Payroll \$460,039.00, M & O \$1,339,091.00, Debt \$0.00.

Budget Hearing was open to the public for comments. No citizen comments were made, the hearing closed.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes - August 15, 2024 & August 26, 2024

B. Code Enforcement Report

C. Financial Report

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

Regular Agenda

A. WTC Engineers Project Design for 3rd Street Grant

Discussion: Randy Shaffer was present to propose the fourth design the council requested. WTC expects the project to exceed the cost of the grant, and the city will have to either have to pay for the additional cost with their budget or find an alternative way to pay for the surplus cost. EDC has spoken about helping with the project, but no action has been taken by their board.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve of the design as presented and request that the Engineers present a change order for the additional cost of grading and labor to complete the work on 3rd Street. Seconded by Council Member Brantly Robertson. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

B. Event Contributions

Discussion Only: The City will no longer be contributing to events, EDC will be handling all requests and contributions. Requests do not need to be represented to City Council so long as they are acting within their approved budget.

C. 21-24 - Budget FY 24-25 - 2nd Reading

Discussion: Changes were made to reflect the proposed projects the council agreed on during the previous meeting.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 21-24, Budget for Fiscal Year 24-25. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

D. New City Website Proposal

Discussion Only: The city cannot have a tourist type website. It must be strictly informative and governmental. Website Project will be presented to the EDC for consideration of a new city website to promote growth and tourism.

E. 22-24 - Tax Rate 2024 - 2nd Reading

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Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to approve the second reading of Ordinance 22-24, setting a tax rate for 2024. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

F. 26-24 - Repeal Curfew Ordinance 1047 - 1st Reading

Discussion: HB 1819 prevents municipalities from enforcing curfews on juveniles.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve the 1st and final reading of Ordinance 1047, repealing the curfew ordinance. Seconded by Council Member Brantly Robertson. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

G. Building Code Ordinance

Discussion Only: the City Attorney does not advise that the city adopt a Building Code. It cannot be adopted partially. If the City would like to adopt the international building code. The city would be adopting the plumbing code and electrical code as well and a city of this size cannot realistically enforce a building code of that nature with one Code Enforcement Officer. However, he did mention the Solicitors' Ordinance can be amended to require all commercial buildings to get a permit prior to starting construction.

H. Municipal Court Judge Application

Discussion: Council would like for the Mayor to interview the applicants along with a minimum of one alderman.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to allow the Mayor and an alderman to interview the applicants and report back to the council on their choice. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 4-, motion carried.

I. Palm River Group - Proposed Partnership to Provide Electric Car Chargers

Discussion: City Attorney Jeff Betty does not recommend the city agrees to the proposal. It would increase the City's liability, and it is not a proprietary function of the Government.

Motion by Council Member Brantly Robertson to deny the proposed partnership with Palm River Group for electric car chargers. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

J. RLVFD Agreement

Discussion: On the agreement, amend the section about the E1 truck. Consider who would be responsible for maintenance. City Attorney Jeff Betty explained that landowners are typically responsible for walls and roofs, while the renters are responsible for items like HVAC and lighting.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve the contract with the amendments to change the dates and clean it up, and to authorize Mayor Arens to execute the contract with the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

K. 27-24 Sanitation Ordinance 2nd Reading

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 27-24, Sanitation Rates. Seconded by Council Member Brantly Robertson. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

Reports

Mayor – The grant application submitted to the LCRA for the VFD roof repair has been submitted to the CDPP for review. The county is required to renew the hazard mitigation plan every 5 years, the mayor is working with the County for the City's portion. For the Comprehensive plan, the mayor created a SWOT worksheet so the council can list the City's strengths and weaknesses for the Comprehensive Plan. Lori Summerlin has started working on Robert Lee's 2025 visitors guide.

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Administrator – 576 bills issued. 126 late bills issued. 8 meters disconnected due to nonpayment. 1 abatement invoice sent out. Fireproof Filing Cabinet has been Received as well as the two computers ordered for the front office and public works department. Code Enforcement Official Martha Grimes passed her state exam is officially the Code Enforcement Officer.

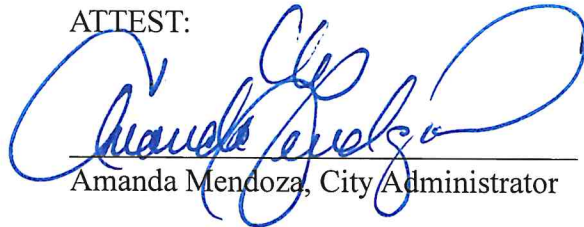
Superintendent – 38 work orders completed; 16 were sanitation work orders, 8 were disconnects. 1 minor leak repaired. 1 sewer stop cleared, 2 lines located for customers, 3 datalogs captured. North pump was pulled on August 8th after discovering the shaft did not move freely. Received quotes on the new back up pump and motor. During the august heat wave the soft started on South pump began tripping off due to over voltage, electricians called out to bypass electrical cable from north pump soft started to south pump motor. North pump installed on August 30th. Hole cut in pumpstation roof on Previous day, it's sealed and covered. A metal hatch will be fabricated as soon as we get materials needed. Both pumps are running normally as of last week. Online Backhoe Safety training completed. Burnout Scheduled for November. A Camera system ordered and received for the convenience center but has not been scheduled to be installed.

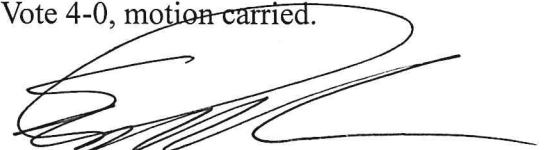
Request for Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting at 9:02 PM. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

ATTEST:


Amanda Mendoza, City Administrator


Steven Arens, Mayor