

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass

Members of the public could view the meeting via live stream. Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item could 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 before the meeting begins. Using the same form, citizens could also provide written comments to the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The comments were read at the meeting.

On the 11th day of July 2023, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center 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 Tim Jayroe
Mayor Pro-Tem Andrea Hattman, Ward 4
Council Member Stephanie Rangel, Ward 1
Council Member Danielle Hale, Ward 2
Council Member Brad Brundrett, Ward 3

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Vanessa Shrauner
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry
City Attorney Art Rodriguez, Jr.
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Director of Public Works and Building & Development Services Mike Donoho
Parks & Leisure Services Director Gene Camargo
Parks & Leisure Services Assistant Director Brittany Elkins
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger
Parks & Leisure Services Aquatics Manager Joe Riekers
Parks & Leisure Services Aquatics Staff: Karlie Griffin, Lisa Lind, James Savage, Michelle Darsey, Beau Blankenship, Brandon Barringer, Mikayla Molina, Stehle Snyder, Devon Clark, Ryan Ramirez, Ashley Wells, Milana Klanica, Aubrie Martinez, Boden Klanica, Connor Chaney, Anne Spangler, Hunter Gullen, Madison Brown, and Mark Perlotto
Chief of Police Greg Stevens

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Opening Agenda

1. Call meeting to order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Jayroe at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

3. Presentation: American Red Cross 2023 Guardian Partnership Award – Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Department.

Mayor Jayroe stated the City of Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Department recently received the American Red Cross 2023 Guardian Partnership Award. Mayor Jayroe presented the award to the Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Aquatics staff.

4. Presentation: Lifeguard Rescue Awards to Madison Brown and Justin Reikers.

Mayor Jayroe presented Lifeguard Rescue Awards to Madison Brown and Justin Reikers' brother (standing in for him due to a prior commitment) for their professionalism and skill in rendering aid for distressed swimmers and preventing potential drownings.

Aquatics Manager Joe Riekers addressed the Council and audience and explained the three different types of drowning: Fatal, Non-Fatal, and Dry. Mr. Riekers stated Lifeguards are trained to be pro-active to prevent any of the three types of drowning and these two lifeguards utilized their training and saved two lives.

5. Citizens to be heard.

At this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from the audience from persons who have signed the speaker's card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Service Center and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins, or written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any Agenda item or any subject matter, will be read at 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. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. 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.

Ken Baron, 402 Cascades, addressed the Council. Mr. Baron commented he would like the Council to allocate money in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to solve some of the drainage problems in the Rockport Country Club. Mr. Baron said he has provided the City Secretary with a list of projects and if they are implemented it would eliminate all flooding in the Country Club.

Darrell Dean, 408 Cherry Hills, addressed the Council. Mr. Dean stated he would like to know when the Budget Workshop and Public Hearing is scheduled because the Rockport Country Club would like to be present to present their project requests.

Skip Carrier, 122 Cedar Ridge Drive, addressed the Council. Mr. Carrier stated there is an extremely dangerous deer situation in the area where he lives, and it is going to come to a hard head with someone getting hurt. Mr. Carrier expressed that something has to be done and that is why he is bringing his concern to Council tonight; at least it will provide a date-stamp – you have been warned.

Scott Hime, 1901 FM 3036, addressed the Council and commented on Agenda Item 11. Mr. Hime stated if the City has a legitimate need to borrow the storm-recovery money, then do so, but do not borrow the money if it will not be for storm-recovery things.

Consent Agenda

All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- 6. Deliberate and act on approval of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023.**
- 7. Deliberate and act on 3rd quarter Report from Rockport Center for the Arts for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 marketing expenditures.**

Mayor Jayroe called for requests to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as presented. Council Member Hale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

- 8. Deliberate and act to confirm Mayoral appointments of City Council liaisons to various boards, committees, and commissions.**

Mayor Jayroe made the following City Council liaison appointments to the various boards, committees, and commissions:

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| 1) ARANSAS PATHWAYS
Council Liaison: Mayor Jayroe | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Hale |
| 2) COASTAL BEND BAYS AND ESTUARIES
Council Liaison: Council Member Rangel | Alternate Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman |
| 3) COASTAL BEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Council Liaison: Mayor Jayroe | Alternate Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman |
| 4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Council Liaison: Mayor Jayroe | Alternate Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman |
| 5) PARK AND LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Council Liaison: Council Member Brundrett | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Hale |

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| 6) PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Council Liaison: Council Member Hale | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Rangel |
| 7) ROCKPORT CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT
Council Liaison: Council Member Rangel | Alternate Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman |
| 8) ROCKPORT-FULTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Council Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Brundrett |
| 9) TREE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
Council Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Brundrett |
| 10) BUILDING & STANDARDS COMMISSION &
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Council Liaison: Council Member Brundrett | Alternate Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem Hattman |
| 11) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Council Liaison: Mayor Jayroe | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Hale |
| 12) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Council Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Rangel |
| 13) SWIMMING POOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Council Liaison: Council Member Rangel | Alternate Liaison: Council Member Hale |

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointments of City Council liaisons to various boards, committees, and commissions. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Deliberate and act to re-appoint and appoint members to various City of Rockport boards, committees, and commissions.

Discussion was held among Council regarding the re-appointment and appointment of members to various City of Rockport boards, committees, and commissions.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to re-appoint the following: Shelly Schubert-Steckler to the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Board; Warren Hassinger, Thomas Blazek, and Patricia A. Impens to the Planning and Zoning Commission; Shelly Steckler, Carla Rinche, and Ginger Easton Smith to the Tree and Landscape Committee; and Warren Hassinger, Patricia Bemrose, and Brandi Picton to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Building and Standards Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Hear, deliberate and act on requests for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 grant funds from the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Account from the following entities:

- a. Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce -Marketing**
- i. Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce – Seafair**
- j. Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce – Hummerbird**

Shanon Biggerstaff, Tourism Coordinator, and Shelly Stuart, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce addressed. They presented a request for \$385,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

b. Texas Maritime Museum

Justin Parkoff, Executive Director of the Texas Maritime Museum, addressed the Council. Mr. Parkoff presented a request for \$100,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

c. UTMSI – Bay Education Center

Sara Melendez, Education Specialist with the Bay Education Center addressed the Council. Ms. Melendez presented a request for \$15,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

d. Friends of the Fulton Mansion - Fulton Mansion State Historic Site

Pamela Black, Board President for the Fulton Mansion State Historical Site, addressed the Council. Ms. Black presented a request for \$50,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

e. Rockport Center for the Arts – Arts, Culture & Humanities

Luis Purón, Executive Director of the Rockport Center for the Arts, addressed the Council. Mr. Purón presented a request for \$250,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

f. Rockport Conference Center – Hotel & Convention Industry

Luis Purón, Executive Director of the Rockport Center for the Arts, addressed the Council. Mr. Purón presented a request for \$170,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

g. Aransas County Council on Aging – Bountiful Bowl

Ms. Mary Ellen Nies, Executive Director for Aransas County Council on Aging, addressed the Council. Ms. Nies presented a request for \$5,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

h. Rockport Yacht Club – Nautical Flea Market

There was no one at the meeting representing the Rockport Yacht Club to present their request for \$1,800 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

i. Tropical Christmas

Gene Camargo, Director of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, addressed the Council. Mr. Camargo presented a request on behalf of the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Services Department for \$70,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the annual Tropical Christmas event.

j. Kite Festival

Gene Camargo, Director of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, addressed the Council. Mr. Camargo presented a request on behalf of the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Services Department for \$6,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the Kite Festival.

Council took a recess from 7:43 p.m. until 7:53 p.m.

k. Whooping Crane Strut

Gene Camargo, Director of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, addressed the Council. Mr. Camargo presented a request on behalf of the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Services Department for \$7,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the annual Whooping Crane Strut event.

l. Public Art

City Manager Vanessa Shrauner addressed the Council. Ms. Shrauner presented a request on behalf of the City of Rockport for \$5,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for Public Art for the new City Hall.

m. Event Support

Gene Camargo, Director of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, addressed the Council. Gene Camargo presented a request on behalf of the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Services Department as well as other City Departments for \$35,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for City Departments providing support in events held within the City of Rockport.

n. Rockport Cultural Arts District

Jennifer Day, Executive Director of the Rockport Cultural Arts District, and Warren Hassinger, Board President, addressed the Council. Ms. Day presented a request for \$129,900 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

o. Christmas on the Beach

Marissa Hunter, President, and Shiloh Mitchell, Secretary for Christmas On The Beach, addressed the Council. They presented a request for \$8,190 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

p. Rockport Little Theatre

George Sherman, Board President, addressed the Council. Mr. Sherman presented a request for \$94,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

q. Wendell Family Fund – 4th of July Fireworks

City Secretary Teresa Valdez stated Lisa Wendell had emailed and said they would not be able to attend the meeting tonight. Ms. Valdez said the Wendell Family Fund is requesting \$1,600 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

r. Airplanes & Coffee

Cody Stewart, representing Airplanes & Coffee, addressed the Council. Mr. Stewart presented a request for \$25,000 grant funds from the City of Rockport Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

Discussion was held among Council.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman moved that the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget provide Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund grant funds for the full amounts requested by the entities. Council Member Brundrett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jayroe commented that the City has never been in a position where requests could be fully funded. Mayor Jayroe expressed it was important for everyone to know that this cannot be done every year.

Council Member Hale encouraged those entities that use billboards to talk to each other and maximize efforts and not duplicate things.

Council Member Rangel encouraged proper use of the funds and wise use when it comes to advertising.

Council Member Brundrett commented the City is extremely blessed this year, but there may be lean years. Council Member Brundrett stated everyone should understand the City may not be able to do this in future years.

11. Deliberate and take action to either draw or reject the Community Development Loan (CDL) funds.

City Manager, Vanessa Shrauner noted a correction to the Agenda Item; it is a Community Disaster

Loan, not “development”. Ms. Shrauner stated the City was awarded \$5,000,000 to be spent by September 2022, and according to FEMA regulations, the City does not qualify for the forgiveness program. Ms. Shrauner said the loan is set at 3% and must be paid back by September 2028. Ms. Shrauner explained that in researching City Council Minutes, the money was included in budgets and spent, but never drawn from the loan. Ms. Shrauner stated a decision needs to be made as to whether to draw from the Community Disaster Loan for reimbursement to ourselves, or to decline the loan altogether.

Discussion was held between the Council and Ms. Shrauner.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to follow staff’s recommendation to not withdraw from the Community Disaster Loan and work on a conservative budget until we are able to replenish our reserves. Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. City Manager Report:

A. Projects.

City Manager Shrauner said she did not have a report.

13. Reports from Council.

At this time, the City Council will report/update on activities in respective Wards, and all committee assignments, which may include the following: Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation; Aransas Pathways Steering Committee; Building and Standards Commission; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program; Coastal Bend Council of Government; Coastal Bend Mayors Group; Park & Leisure Services Advisory Board; Planning & Zoning Commission; Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Aransas County Storm Water Management Advisory Committee; Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee; Tourism Development Council; Tree & Landscape Committee; YMCA Development Committee; Texas Maritime Museum, Fulton Mansion, Rockport Center for the Arts, Aransas County, Aransas County Independent School District, Aransas County Navigation District, Town of Fulton, and Texas Municipal League. No formal action can be taken on these items at this time.

Council Member Rangel reported last weekend there were a lot of events and a lot of traffic. Council Member Rangel said she is working with residents and things are getting taken care of.

Council Member Brundrett reported the City had another successful and busy 4th of July.

Mayor Jayroe reported he had attended the Stormwater Board meeting and they are still looking at coming up with a Master Drainage Plan for the County.

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:

14. **Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney seeking the advice of attorney about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer; and 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: A) Concho Street & General Land Office (GLO) drainage projects; and B) Stormwater permitting and related matters.**

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.

An Executive Session was not held.

15. Adjournment.


At 8:36 p.m., Council Member Brundrett moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hale. Motion carried unanimously.



APPROVED:


Tim Jayroe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary