

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 13 , 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 and summarized in the minutes of the meeting.

On the 13th day of December 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
City Attorney Art Rodriguez, Jr.
Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Henry
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell
Police Patrol Captain Nathan Garcia
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger

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 Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Jayroe said at this time citizens could address the Council regarding items not on the Agenda.

1. Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive: I recognize the way the utility rate petition was handled went different from the way the City handled the city hall petition; Thank you and look forward to things to come; You did the right thing on postponing the short-term rental ordinance – don't be afraid to put that off even longer.
2. Patrick Kane, 1123 East Cedar Street: Thank you for extending the deadlines for appeals on short-term rentals; Appreciate the City Manager clearing up the City's intent on the number of occupants, except that is not what the ordinance states; How do I get the disconnect fixed with regard to accessory dwellings – needs to be addressed across the board before going to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Jayroe announced that Agenda Items 7, 9 and 10 have been removed from the Agenda.

Regular Agenda

3. **Deliberate and act on second and reading of an Ordinance granting to AEP Texas, Inc., its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive franchise to construct, maintain and operate lines and appurtenances and appliances for conducting electricity in, over, under, and through the streets, avenues, alleys and public places of the City of Rockport, Texas.**

Mayor Jayroe said there had been no changes in format or content of the Ordinance since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on December 12, 2023.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance granting to AEP Texas, Inc., its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive franchise to construct, maintain and operate lines and appurtenances and appliances for conducting electricity in, over, under, and through the streets, avenues, alleys and public places of the City of Rockport, Texas. Mayor Pro-Hattman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 "Utilities", Article IV "Surcharge Revenue Account" Section 102.404 "Penalties" relating the consequences of opting out; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date.**

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell said there had been no changes in format or content of the Ordinance since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on December 12, 2023.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance amending City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 "Utilities", Article IV "Surcharge Revenue Account" Section 102.404 "Penalties" relating the consequences of opting

out; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Rangel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. ***Postponed – November 14, 2023:*** Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102, ‘Utilities’, Article IV. ‘Surcharge Revenue Account’, by amending Section 102-401 “Surcharge”, to increase surcharge fee repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

Director of Finance Robbie Sorrell said this is the second reading of the Ordinance increasing the Utility Bill Surcharge from \$1.35 per utility bill to \$2.00 per utility bill. Mr. Sorrell stated this will be reflected in the February utility bill.

Council Member Hale asked if there was a required notice for this.

Mr. Sorrell answered he was not aware of one.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman moved to approve the second and final reading of an Ordinance amending City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102, ‘Utilities’, Article IV. ‘Surcharge Revenue Account’, by amending Section 102-401 “Surcharge”, to increase surcharge fee repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Council Member _____ seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance partially repealing Ordinance No. 1909 regarding water rates for ratepayers located out of the city; providing for refunds; providing for the validity of said ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date.**

Mayor Jayroe said two Citizen Participation Forms had been received and he read them:

1. Kathy Kane, 109 Boardwalk Avenue: Thank the Council for their actions last night regarding the water and wastewater rates for out of City customers; encourage you to pursue a full rate study; encourage you to consider a customer-based board.
2. Mary Clare Kane, 38 Primrose Circle: Thank the Council who reached a compromise with the water rate issue at last night’s meeting.
3. Leonard H. Sims, 46 Primrose Circle: Rate increases should be applied equitably for all customers; urge the Council to vote no on the proposed rate increases.

The following citizens addressed the Council and commented:

1. Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive: If you can incorporate a rate study in the second and final reading of the Ordinance to ensure it is done; your administrative fees need to be justified by the rate study.

2. Andrew Kane, 2106 Lakeview Drive: Not going to say thank you because I wanted the petition to go to the Public Utility Commission, but you did what was best for the City; Sounds like you discredit the citizens and take staff's word which is all false.
3. Patrick Kane, 1123 East Cedar Street: Thank you for your actions last night; There is a lot of animosity toward the City – let's put that behind us by moving forward in an open, honest and transparent manner.

Council Member Brundrett asked City Attorney if the rate study needed to be put in the motion.

City Attorney Art Rodriguez, Jr. answered that will be brought back to Council asking them to approve the Request for Proposals for a rate study.

Council Member Rangel asked how long it will be before that comes to Council.

City Manager Vanessa Shrauner answered probably January or February.

MOTION: Council Member Brundrett moved to approve the second reading of an Ordinance partially repealing Ordinance No. 1909 regarding water rates for ratepayers located out of the city; providing for refunds; providing for the validity of said ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Rangel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 "Utilities," Article II. "Water Service." Division 3. "Service Charges" by amending Water Rates for out of City Customers; providing for the validity of said Ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date.**

Removed from Agenda.

8. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance partially repealing Ordinance No. 1910 regarding Wastewater rates for ratepayers located out of the city; providing for refunds; providing for the validity of said ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date.**

Mayor Jayroe said there had been no changes in format or content since Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance on December 12, 2023.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman moved to approve the second reading of an Ordinance partially repealing Ordinance No. 1910 regarding Wastewater rates for ratepayers located out of the city; providing for refunds; providing for the validity of said ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date. Council Member Hale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Deliberate and act on an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 102 "Utilities," Article III. "Wastewater Service." Division 4.**

“Service Charges” by amending Wastewater Rates for out of City Customers; providing for the validity of said Ordinance; repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing for an effective date.

Removed from the Agenda.

- 10. Deliberate and act on second and final reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Rockport Code of Ordinances Chapter 26 “Businesses” by adding Article III Short Term Rentals; repealing all ordinances to the extent they are in conflict; providing for severability; providing for penalties; and providing an effective date.**

Removed from the Agenda.

11. Adjournment.

At 6:53 p.m., Council Member Brundrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hattman. Motion carried unanimously.



APPROVED:


Tim Jayroe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary