

**CITY OF ROCKSPRINGS  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - With a quorum of the City Council present, Mayor pro tem LaWanda Goller called the meeting to order at 6:02pm, Monday September 9, 2019 at City Hall, 100 W. Austin St. Rocksprings, TX 78880. Mayor pro tem Goller requested all cell phones be turned off and/or on silent.

2. **ROLL CALL** - The City Secretary called the roll.

**Present:**

Mayor Pro Tem LaWanda Goller  
Council Member Emma Barnebey  
Council Member Brenna Bissett  
Council Member Reynaldo Chapa, Jr  
Council Member Sharron Croft

**Staff Present:**

Katherine Harris, Ed. D - City Secretary  
Rudy Ramirez, Public Works Director  
John Carre - Asst. Public Works Director

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and was led by Council member Emma Barnebey.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM** - Five residents were in attendance with one resident, Mr. Efrain Castillo signed up to speak during open forum re: his water bill. PWD Ramirez offered to meet Mr. Castillo at his residence to check out and try to determine any issues.

5. **REPORT FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** - PWD noted the sewer plant is properly maintained. There were issues with the previous PWD and the proper maintenance of the plant. Also, it was mentioned that a new aerator would need to be purchased, as poor maintenance has led to a situation where a new one is 6-12 thousand dollars. However, PWD assured council that he is moving forward to improve standards and maintain those standards. PWD noted that the City has 2 licensed operators.

PWD noted the Drought Report is a yearly plan in the event of a shortage of water. Water sampling and testing is done each week to assure the

health and safety of our drinking water for all residents. He noted that “conserving energy, conserving water is our main goal.”

PWD also noted that the transfer station revenue is approx. \$1500, with a monthly basis outgo of \$5,000. As a result, there will be some price increases effective October 1, 2019 to cover expenses and the cost of operating the transfer station as a benefit to city and county residents. PWD stated that water rates would also need to increase, but that Council could address that toward the end of the calendar year, for rate increases in 2020. It is costing the City more to produce and provide safe drinking water to all residents.

- 6. MONTHLY REPORT(S) FROM CITY SECRETARY** - All bank accounts were balanced and reconciled. City Secretary noted that finances were improving, and the city is slowly climbing out of a deficit situation in the Utility funds area. To keep up with the price increases to perform city services, there are price increases effective October 1, 2019.
- 7. DELIBERATE, CONSIDER AND/OR TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**
  - A.** Discuss/Approve Minutes from the August 12, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting. – Motion to approve Minutes by Brenna Bissett. Second by Sharron Croft. All in favor, none opposed.
  - B.** Discuss and Approve Final 2019-2020 Budget for General and Utility Fund Budgets. Motion to approve FY 2019-2020 Budget was made by Brenna Bissett. Second by Emma Barnebey. All in favor, none opposed.
  - C.** Review/Discuss/Approve proposed addition to Utility Ordinance, effective immediately upon Council approval, assessing a \$75.00 fine for any person vandalizing, unlocking, or otherwise unauthorized tampering of city water meters. A fine of \$200.00 shall be assessed for replacing a water meter and/or replacing or repairing city cutoff. Motion to approve by Emma Barnebey. Second by LaWanda Goller. All in favor, none opposed.

- D. Review/Discuss/Approve increase in trash bag bundles to \$15.00 for a bundle of 50 (.30cents each) and \$50.00 for a case of 200 trash bags, effective October 1, 2019. Motion to approve made by Sharron Croft. Second by Brenna Bissett. All in favor, none opposed.
- E. Review/Discuss /Approve City wide clean-up Fall 2019, coordinating roll-off dumpsters with Republic. PWD Rudy Ramirez indicated he would coordinate with Republic for a roll-off and that there was discussion of placing the roll-off at the transfer station for folks to bring their items to that location. Door-to-door pickup was not feasible nor cost effective. PWD also mentioned that special hours over a weekend could be arranged at the transfer station. No specific dates were finalized as the Republic contract formally begins November 1, 2019. It was also noted that during the “Fall Clean-up” weekend only there would be no cost to residents. However, the PWD also mentioned that according to TCEQ regulations, there are items we cannot accept at all.
- F. Review/Discuss/Approve amending Utility Ordinance for one load of brush pick up curbside and/or drop off at transfer station - \$35.00 per load. Household debris pick up curbside – \$55.00 per load. Motion to approve by Brenna Bissett. Second by LaWanda Goller. All in favor, none opposed.
- G. Review/Discuss/Approve rates for trailers, and additional items, other than trash bags, brought to transfer station. Discussions centered around mattresses, tires and other bulk items to have a price increase as they take up so much room in the trailer and the cost to haul off the trailer each week is \$675. Tires smaller than 15” is now \$5.00 per tire. Tires larger than 15” is now \$10.00 per tire. The trailer rates would remain the same as what is posted on the ordinance already. Motion to approve by Sharron Croft. Second by Emma Barnebey. All in favor, none opposed.

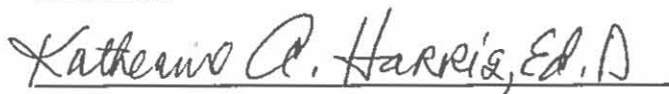
- H. Review/Discuss/Approve a Resolution by Council prohibiting the use of Engines brakes (also known as Jake Brakes) within the City Limits. City Secretary mentioned this would be a combined effort with TXDOT as signage would have to be approved. It is a lengthy process as the signage is on Highway property outside city limits. Motion to approve Resolution by Brenna Bissett. Second by Emma Barnebey. All in favor, none opposed.
- I. Review/Discuss/Approve electricity proposal (initial proposal and market info) with our broker ADK Solutions for a better rate re: future electricity needs. Motion to approve electricity proposal by ADK made by LaWanda Goller. Second by Sharron Croft. All in favor, none opposed.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** – Motion to adjourn made by Emma Barney. Second by Brenna Bissett. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.



LaWanda Goller, Mayor Pro Tem

**ATTEST**



Katherine A. Harris, Ed. D City Secretary