On the 9th day of June 2020, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Regular Session 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 Patrick R. Rios
Mayor Pro-Tem J.D. Villa, Ward 2
Council Member Michael Saski, Ward 1
Council Member Bob Cunningham, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
City Manager Kevin Carruth
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Finance Director Katie Griffin
Police Chief Greg Stevens
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez
Public Works Director Mike Donoho
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Opening Agenda

1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Rios at 6:31 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Saski led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

3. Presentation: Spirit of Rockport Award.

Mayor Rios stated the “Spirit of Rockport” award was developed to recognize individuals and organizations who exemplify the unique spirit of Rockport. Mayor Rios explained nominees are
those who go above and beyond to make our community a better place. Mayor Rios presented the first “Spirit of Rockport” award to Lisa Gordon, Jessee Pilgrim and Mary Theiss, founders of the Aransas County PPE Sewing Group. Mayor Rios said in less than two months, the three Rockport residents galvanized a community of sewers who provided more than 3,000 free masks for residents, nursing homes, government offices and businesses, and held four drive-by mask distribution events. Mayor Rios presented the “Spirit of Rockport Award” to Lisa Gordon, Jessee Pilgrim and Mary Theiss.

Ms. Gordon, Ms. Pilgrim and Ms. Theiss received a standing ovation.

Mary Theiss thanked the City of Rockport for the award and thanked everyone who pitched in and helped. Ms. Theiss said Michaels donated 80 yards of fabric for the masks.

Lisa Gordon thanked the Town of Fulton for loaning the Community Center, at no cost, to them for distribution of the masks. Ms. Gordon said her three children assisted with drop off and delivery.

4. **Presentation: Items from 1970 Centennial Time Capsule.**

City Manager Kevin Carruth stated the time capsule from the 1970 Centennial was unearthed from its burial place prior to the demolition of City Hall and taken to the Rockport Service Center. Mr. Carruth explained the capsule was a stainless-steel tube, approximately 48 inches high and 18 inches in diameter and was placed inside a concrete vault. Mr. Carruth called the Council’s attention to the pictures in the Agenda packet and said that despite the lid being tightly fastened and no apparent means for water intrusion most of the contents were wet and there was an accumulation of water at the bottom, likely from condensation. Mr. Carruth explained due to the moisture many of the items were dirty, rusted, and generally in poor condition; however, many items did survive. Mr. Carruth said the contents included many pieces of news media, budgets, audits, letters, coins, photos, etc. and staff has worked diligently to save as many items as possible and plan to bring forward different pieces for recognition and display these items to Council and public over the next several months. Mr. Carruth called the Council’s attention to the pictures in the Agenda packet of a promotional flyer, the Centennial Schedule, a reel to reel audio from a pageant produced for the event, and a cassette tape of interviews on KDOT radio. Mr. Carruth stated that despite the questionable condition of the two audio tapes, staff reached out to KCTA AM Radio in Corpus Christi and they were able to direct us to Mr. Jim Wilken at Trinity Recording Studio and he was able to clean, play, and re-record both tapes. Mr. Carruth said the audio is now available on the City’s website by clicking on the “Voices from the Past” link on the Sesquicentennial page.

Mayor Rios commented one interesting thing about the Centennial was the goal of $6,000 working capital for the celebration.

5. **Citizens to be heard.**

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. To address the Council, please sign the speaker’s card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center and deliver to the City Secretary before the meeting begins. Limit comments to three (3) minutes. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take any 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.
Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Donoho.

MOTION: Council Member Cunningham moved to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Aransas County for Bay Shore Final Engineering and Shoreline Restoration project. Council Member Saksi seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

12. Deliberate and act on first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, declaring a six month Moratorium on the acceptance of applications for the issuance of permits for the use of a location as an internet sweepstakes cafes or similar gaming machine establishments in the City of Rockport; directing City staff to study and make a recommendation to City Council regarding appropriate regulations for internet sweepstakes cafes or similar gaming machine establishments; providing for a method of repeal of this Moratorium; providing for severability; providing for a repealer clause and an effective date.

City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council staff has begun receiving inquiries from persons interested in opening game rooms inside the City limits. Mr. Carruth stated as noted in the memorandum from the City Attorney, included in the Agenda packet, there is no specific case law provision prohibiting sweepstakes Internet cafes or other game rooms and he therefore believes the City currently cannot prohibit the opening of such businesses. Mr. Carruth said if Council wishes to investigate the possibility of establishing an ordinance prohibiting game rooms or regulating them in some other manner, it would be prudent to enact a temporary moratorium to allow time to develop the research and draft appropriate ordinances.

Police Chief Greg Stevens addressed the Council. Chief Stevens said he could not emphasize enough the problems these types of businesses bring to a community; they tend to leach on people who are the least able to participate. Chief Stevens stated if these rooms every pay out any money, that is illegal. Chief Stevens expressed they victimize people who would have that money for the more normal things in life. Chief Stevens added they create violence and social ills that get put into the neighborhood. Chief Stevens declared as the City’s appointed law enforcement official he recommends the Council adopt the Moratorium until the development of appropriate ordinances.

Brief discussion was held among Council and Chief Stevens.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Rockport, Texas, declaring a six month Moratorium on the acceptance of applications for the issuance of permits for the use of a location as an internet sweepstakes cafes or similar gaming machine establishments in the City of Rockport; directing City staff to study and make a recommendation to City Council regarding appropriate regulations for internet sweepstakes cafes or similar gaming machine establishments; providing for a method of repeal of this Moratorium; providing for severability; providing for a repealer clause and an effective date. Council Member Saksi seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
There were no citizen comments.

**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.


9. Deliberate and act on a Resolution of the City of Rockport Texas, authorizing the Rockport Police Department to apply for and operate a Local Border Security Program (Border Star) administered by the Office of the Governor for Fiscal Year 2021; and authorizing the Mayor to act as the Executive Officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the participation in this grant program.

10. Deliberate and act to confirm Mayoral appointments to various City of Rockport boards, commissions, and committees.

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

12. Deliberate and act on approval of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement by and between Aransas County and City of Rockport for Bay Shore Final Engineering and Shoreline Restoration project.

13. Deliberate and act on approval of an Assignment Agreement between Aransas County and City of Rockport for Bay Shore Drive Final Engineering and Shoreline Restoration project.

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

Council Member Cunningham requested Consent Agenda Item #12 be removed for separate discussion.

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to approve Consent Agenda, minus Item #12, as presented. Council Member Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item #12.**

Public Works Director Mike Donoho stated prior to Hurricane Harvey the City had been participating in the Aransas County Coastal Resilience Initiative and seek grants. Mr. Donoho informed the Council a grant was awarded to Aransas County, but in the City of Rockport, and is being funded out of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Restore Act Bucket 1 program. Mr. Donoho explained the project includes rehabilitation of an existing failed groin within Reach 1 of the Key Allegro Peninsula.
13. Deliberate and act on approval of a Consulting Services Agreement between Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation and the City of Rockport for the purpose of promoting economic development of the Aransas County area.

Mayor Rios said this Agreement is the instrument to put into place a contract with the Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation for promoting economic development.

Council Member Cunningham said the Interlocal Agreement calls for the Agreement to be administered the entities representatives and they have a hand in dealing with contracts. Council Member Cunningham stated they are supposed to meet quarterly and asked if that has happened.

City Manager Kevin Carruth answered they had not met because each of the entities meet individually so there is not need for them to meet.

Mayor Rios added the contracts will go through the City Attorney for review.

Council Member Cunningham stated his other concern in the Agreement was under Section 1.1.(o). Council Member Cunningham said there was supposed to be a priority of a one-stop shop of all subscribing entities and a priority for work force and low-income housing critical to Rockport.

Discussion was held among Council.

MOTION: Council Member Cunningham moved to approve the Consulting Services Agreement between Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation and the City of Rockport for the purpose of promoting economic development of Aransas County area, with the following amendments: 1) Remove Section 1.1.(e) and add as #1 under Section 1.1.(o) -To establish a “one stop shop” where outside businesses can come for information compiled of all requirements for doing business in this area; and 2) Add as #2 under Section 1.1.(o) – To develop strategies that attract those segments of the workforce that left because of Hurricane Harvey. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Deliberate and act on an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rockport, Texas, extending a Declaration of Local Disaster for the period of June 9 – June 23, 2020; establishing rules and regulations for the duration of the disaster; restricting certain activities; and establishing penalties for violations.

Mayor Rios explained this is an extension of the Declaration of Local Disaster for the period of June 9 – June 23, 2020. Mayor Rios said this is the 6th extension, to ensure the City stays in compliance and is eligible to receive FEMA monies for disaster related expenses.

MOTION: Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to adopt an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rockport, Texas, extending a Declaration of Local Disaster for the period of June 9 – June 23, 2020; establishing rules and regulations for the duration of the disaster; restricting certain activities; and establishing penalties for violations. Council Member Saski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
15. **Hear and deliberate on status of COVID-19 and response efforts.**

Mayor Rios stated he spoke with Aransas County Judge Mills this morning and of the 126 tests conducted all were negative. Mayor Rios said he continues to have a steady series of meetings and phone calls. Mayor Rios informed the Council Corpus Christi had an increase of COVID-19 cases.

Mayor Pro-Tem Villa said Corpus Christi had three new cases today. Mayor Pro-Tem Villa said the parks and pool will be opening next week.

City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council the City will be opening the lobbies on Monday with social distancing restrictions.

16. **Reports from Council.**

At this time, the City Council will report/update on 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; Park & Leisure Services Advisory Board; Planning & Zoning Commission; Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Aransas County Storm Water Management Advisory Committee; Rockport Cultural Arts District, 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 Cunningham said he attended the Aransas County Navigation District meeting where Ed Rainwater reported the Key Allegro Homeowners Association was securing funding for removal of debris at Key Allegro. Council Member Cunningham stated the canal will be dredged in a different manner due to embedded material and with contained areas. Council Member Cunningham stated at the Aransas County Commissioners Court meeting yesterday Election Administrator Michele Carew talked about expenditures associated with additional work and preparations due to COVID-19.

Council Member Hattman stated she attended a ZOOM meeting for the Gulf Shore Villas project. Council Member Hattman said two points were lost due to incorrect facts and they are working on correcting that. Council Member Hattman expressed they are seeking letters of support; please send the letter to her.

Mayor Rios said staff is continuing to work on the sewer project. Mayor Rios stated he is spending quite a bit of time on the City Hall project. Mayor Rios expressed he is working with the City Manager and Finance Director on the best path for financing the project; hopefully it will be tax neutral. Mayor Rios stated the goal is to build a 75-100 year building that is built for the future.

Police Chief Greg Stevens addressed the Council. Chief Stevens stated the Council had probably seen on social media there is a citizen working to organize a demonstration and march in support of “Black Lives Matter.” Chief Stevens said he is working with her on getting her permit for the march and he appreciates the fact she is doing this in a proper and lawful manner. Chief Stevens said he will keep the Council updated and there will be a post on the Police Department Facebook page so the public is well informed.
Discussion was held among Council and Chief Stevens regarding the planned demonstration and march.

17. Adjournment.

At 8:04 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Villa moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Cunninham. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

[Signature]

Patrick R. Rios, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Teresa Valdez, City Secretary