

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Rockport City Council will be held on 12/13/2022, at the Rockport City Hall, 2751 Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, TX 78382, for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect unpaid municipal special assessments as provided in Texas Property Tax Code 33.41(c) and authorizing the execution of such agreement.

The agreement to be considered is necessary for the unpaid city liens owed to the City of Rockport to be collected in the most effective manner. The City desires that such unpaid city liens be collected as provided in the Texas Property Tax Code 33.41(c).

The Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP firm is fully qualified to provide this representation, being the largest law firm specializing in the collection of governmental receivables in the State of Texas, as well as the United States, and having been engaged in this specialized legal service for more than 46 years. In addition, the Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP firm possesses infrastructure and technology, such as call center technology, that the City does not currently possess.

The specialized legal services required by this agreement cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the City due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house attorneys and staff with the level of experience and competence necessary to perform these activities.

Linebarger will be compensated on a contingent fee basis at the same rate as the contingent fee authorized by the Texas Property Tax Code for the collection of delinquent tax accounts. This Article specifically provides for an additional collection fee in the amount of 20 percent in certain cases to compensate collection attorneys. A contract to pay inside or outside attorneys on an hourly basis would represent an additional cost to the City.

Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the residents of the City because the unpaid fines, fees and court costs will be professionally and competently collected without the additional costs to the City of implementing infrastructure and technology, and employing in-house personnel or paying outside counsel on an hourly fee basis which would otherwise be required.