

Thursday, September 25, 2025, Regular Meeting

The City Council of the City of Robert Lee, Texas, met in Regular Session at the City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on September 25, 2025.

Present: Mayor Steven Arens, Council Members: Mike Stephens, Skyler Rainwater, Jonathan Torres and Megan Sheppard  
Staff: City Administrator Amanda Mendoza, City Superintendent Clayton Brickey

Absent: Council Member Josh Tennison

**Call to Order, Quorum Determined, Meeting Declared Open**

**Proclamations and Presentations**

**Citizen Comments**

**Consent Agenda:**

A. Minutes - August 28, 2025

B. Code Enforcement Report

C. Financial Report

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve of the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

**Regular Agenda:**

A. Tax Deed R7664- 1702 Washington Street

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve of the bid submitted by Javier Siller in the amount of \$9,300.00. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

B. National Opioids Settlement Participation: Purdue

*Discussion: City Attorney advises the city to join, as there are no negative drawbacks to joining. If there is a case in the city limits, the city will receive a portion of the settlement.*

Motion by Council Member Megan Sheppard to approve the city participating in the Opioid Settlement. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

C. Health Benefits- Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal for 2026

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to renew the health benefits with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Seconded by Council Member Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

D. TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant - Design Options

*Discussion: David Young with WTC presented 3 design options to the council to consider for the Downtown grant. The City's priorities for this project is to address the storm water drainage and make the sidewalks more accessible for visitors. Design One will include: extending the 10' wide sidewalks to 16' wide, install storm drainage that will redirect the water that runs down Austin down 8<sup>th</sup> St to the creek near Chadbourne, install 3 ADA compliant ramps, install 8 new light poles with advertising brackets and replace the entire sidewalk from 7<sup>th</sup> street to 8<sup>th</sup>. The total cost of designing one would be*

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*\$580,000. Design 2 will include keeping the 10' wide sidewalks, install storm drainage that will redirect the water that runs down Austin down 8<sup>th</sup> St to the creek near Chadbourne, install 3 ADA compliant ramps, install 8 new light poles with advertising bracket, and replace two worst sections of sidewalk. The total cost would be \$325,000.00. Design 3 will include replacing the entire 10' wide sidewalk from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, install storm drainage that will redirect the water that runs down Austin down 8<sup>th</sup> St to the creek near Chadbourne, install 3 ADA compliant ramps, and install 8 new light poles with advertising bracket. The total cost will be \$475,000.00.*

*Downtown business owners were present to discuss their concerns about the recently replaced sidewalk, and whether they would remain. There was also concern with the budgeted cost for replacing the sidewalks, as a business owner already experienced replacing parts of the sidewalk on their own and cannot reason the cost. It was explained that with grant money, there are more requirements and filing costs, so it unfortunately raises the prices for governments to complete the same type of project. Another concern regarding widening the sidewalk was brought to Council's attention, as it will narrow the road by 6 feet. It was also mentioned how much harder the sidewalk would be to travel if an ADA ramp was placed at the ends and in the middle of the walkway, rendering part of the sidewalk inaccessible if mobility-impaired individuals were traveling side-by-side.*

*Council requested an additional design from WTC to present to EDC for consideration.*

*Motion Council Member Jonathan Torres to table this item for EDC determination.*

*Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 4-0, motion carried.*

**E. EDC A FY 25-26 Budget**

*Tabled, pending approved budget from EDC A.*

**F. EDC B FY 25-26 Budget**

*Tabled, pending approved budget from EDC B.*

**G. 11-25 Water Rates & Taps 2nd Reading**

*No changes from first reading.*

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 11-25, Water Taps & Rates. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 4-0, motion carried.*

**H. 12-25 Sewer Rates & Taps 2nd Reading**

*No changes from first reading.*

*Motion by Council Member Skyler Rainwater to approve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 12-25, Sewer Rates. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 4-0, motion carried.*

**I. 13-25 Sanitation Rates 2nd Reading**

*No changes from first reading.*

*Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 13-25, Sanitation Rates. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.*

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J. 15-25 FY 24-25 Final Budget Amendment 2nd Reading

*No changes from first reading*

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve of the second reading of 15-25, final budget amendment. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

K. 16-25 FY 25-26 Budget 2nd Reading

*Only change includes the total purchase of the vehicle for the public works department discussed in Item O.*

Motion by Council Member Megan Sheppard to approve of the second reading of Ordinance 16-25, FY 25-26 Budget. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

L. 17-25 TMRS Contribution Rate 2nd Reading

*No changes from first reading*

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve of the second reading of Ordinance 17-25, TMRS Contribution Rate. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

M. 20-25 Fee Schedule 2nd Reading

*No changes from first reading*

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve of the second reading of Ordinance 20-25, Fee Schedule. Seconded by Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

N. Stage 3 Drought Contingency - Consider Exemption

*Discussion: Ivey Motors stopped using water to detail vehicles with the initiation of Stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan. They have asked the council to consider waving the restrictions to allow them to continue detailing their sold/re-sold vehicles for buyers. A history of their historically low water usage was provided to council for consideration*

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to exempt Ivey Motors from Stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

O. Purchase Request- Public Works Vehicle

*Discussion: Water Department has presented a quote from Ivey Motors for the purchase of a new vehicle, as their current spare vehicle is unreliable. They would like to purchase the vehicle outright and allow the Code Enforcement Department to utilize grants for the purchase of a new animal control vehicle.*

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve of the purchase of a new vehicle for the Public Works department not to exceed \$55,000.00. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

## Reports

**Mayor** – Mayor Arens and Council Member Stephens attended a seminar presented by Scott Galaway about different funding opportunities for water sourcing through the Texas Water

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Development Board. A representative from TEEEX was also present to answer questions from the attendees. Water from Spence will most likely need to be pretreated before being sent to Bronte for full treatment. Mayor Arens and Martha have started working on an emergency response committee in response to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July flooding in Angelo.

**Administrator**

- A. August 2025 – Deputy Admin and Financial Advisor visiting Crane Texas on September 16 to do an in-depth demo for FundView, their billing and account software. 3<sup>rd</sup> street water improvements have been completed. North American Contractors have begun demoing 3<sup>rd</sup> street and submitted a payment request for the first payment. Inspections have been completed for the Sewer plan to close out the ARPA grant.
- B. Code Enforcement – Met with DSHS to review the Animal Facility to determine what needs to be done to register the pound as a quarantine facility. Martha mentioned the runs would need to be solid concrete rather than grass and Robert Lee would qualify.

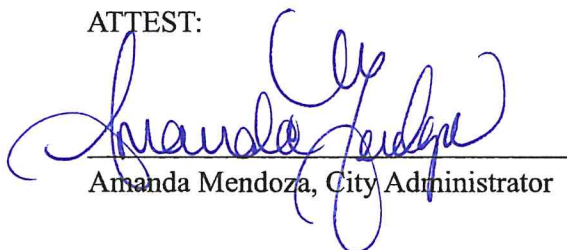
**Superintendent** – Boil water notice was issued after the water line was broke because of 3<sup>rd</sup> party boring, estimated water loss 75K. 3rd street water project completed, 3 additional main water crossings was tied into the newly laid 6” main. Clean Infusion has completed work at the Sewer Plant: Clarifiers were pumped down, drive and motor replaced, rakes leveled and coated with epoxy paint, and wires sealed. Sewer Plant is running normally, and samples are coming back good. Zero turn is out of commission with a damaged PTO spindle, waiting for parts. Backhoe is out of operation again from a blown hydraulic seal, 2 cylinders were taken to Machine Works in San Angelo for repacking. Samples were collected from EV Spence and submitted for testing. Leak at Euel and 9<sup>th</sup> is on the schedule to be repaired, currently waiting on parts that are on back order. The Aquazyme dewatering tank will be emptied and cleaned for pickup in October.

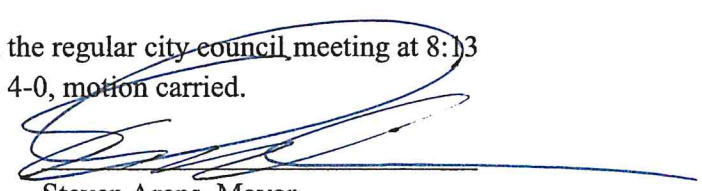
**Request for Future Agenda Items**

**Adjournment**

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to adjourn the regular city council meeting at 8:13 PM. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

ATTEST:

  
Amanda Mendoza, City Administrator

  
Steven Arens, Mayor