

Special Meeting June 1, 2026, 6:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Robert Lee, Texas rescheduled the Regular May Meeting on May 25, 2026 to June 1, 2026, due to a federal holiday. The City Council met in Special Session at the City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on June 1, 2026.

Present: Mayor Steven Arens, Council Members: Mike Stephens, Jonathan Torres, Josh Tennison and Skyler Rainwater

Absent: Council Member Megan Sheppard

Staff: City Administrator Amanda Portales, City Superintendent Clayton Brickey, Code Enforcement Officer Martha Grimes, & Deputy City Administrator Kiara Burns

Citizens: Rance Rasmussen, Kim Stephens, Bronte Mayor Dan

Citizen Comments

Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes - May 11, 2026 Canvas Meeting & May 11, 2026 Special Meeting
- B. Municipal Court Report
- C. Code Enforcement Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Regular Agenda:

- A. Utility Customer Request - Leak Consideration

Discussion: Customer's utility account was in vacation mode while they were out of town. Customer requested the office to turn the water back on the Friday before the homeowner returned (4-10). A leak started a few hours after the Public Works Department opened the valve and verified no flow through the meter. Customers noticed the leak when bills were read that month (4-22) and scheduled the plumbers to replace all of the lines beneath the house but it will be a while due to their full schedule. The customer has requested the council to waive the \$50 base fee for water while they wait for the plumbers to replace the water lines.

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to deny the request to waive the base fee for the water bill but allow the customer to have one free service charge to put the account in and out of vacation mode while the property owner waits for the water line repairs.

Seconded by Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

- B. Water Updates

Mayor updates council regarding his research into water sources. A 90-day extension was granted by TCEQ to formulate a plan to either repair or destroy Mountain Creek Dam due to the amount of vegetation growing on the dam and spillway. Mayor Arens is currently working with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to add the dam

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improvements to the regional flood plan in 2028 to qualify for state funding alongside the Flood Infrastructure Fund for flooding along Riverview and Zero Street. Due to the flood history in Coke County and the area median household income is 42.54%, Robert Lee ranks in the top 10 rural communities for region 9 that need assistance preparing for potential floods and would qualify for a 100% grant. Mayor will be in attendance of the Concho Valley Council of Government's training on 6-10-2026. The most promising plan for water according to engineers and research is the Nolan County Pipeline. City is getting a PIF completed to present to Congressman Pfluger's office for additional assistance. The mean water level at Oak Creek Reservoir is 1,976.15 ft, and decreased about .01 ft per day. If we do not receive rain or hotter temperatures, the city will likely implement Stage 4 of the drought contingency plan during the summer.

C. Sealed Envelopes in the Safety Deposit Box

D. Safety Deposit Box

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to close the empty safety deposit box at the Robert Lee State Bank. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

E. Municipal Judge Appointment

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to reappoint Karol Allen as the Municipal Court Judge to run concurrently with the Mayoral Term. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 4-0, motion carried.

F. Mayor Pro Tem Appointment

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to reappoint Michael Stephens as Mayor Pro Tem to run concurrently with his newly elected term. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 3-0, 1 abstain by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens.

G. WCCEMS Property Agreement

Tabled, pending agreement review from Attorney.

H. 11-26 - Vendor & Door to Door Sales Ordinance

Tabled, pending review from Attorney.

I. 13-26 - Food Truck Ordinance

Tabled, pending review from Attorney.

J. Mountain Creek Dam – Plan

Discussion Only: TCEQ gave the city three options for the dam after the inspection. 1. Destroy it completely, 2. Remove the dam to 6ft tall, or 3. Repair. The city would like to repair it and use it as an additional storage tank with the projected water sourcing improvements. The lake will also need to be dredged, and in previous minutes, Reese Albert has offered to dredge for free so long as they can keep the material.

K. 14-26 - Budget Amendment Ord. FY 25-26

Discussion: Paired with item L.

L. General Purchase - Truck for Animal Control/Code Enforcement

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Discussion: The 2018 Ford F150 that belongs to the Code Enforcement Department is out of service. This truck is the eldest in the city fleet and was scheduled to be replaced in FY 26-27, however on 5-29 while responding to a dog call, the truck locked up and stopped working. With the county's assistance, the truck was towed to Ivey Motors where it was determined the vehicle had been hydro locked, and there was 2 gallons of gas mixed with engine oil. Options for repair, or replacement have been presented.

1. Replace the busted engine with a refurbished engine from Ivey. Would cost the city \$13,504.18.
2. Buy a used 2019 Ford F-150 with from Ivey Motors for \$31,400. The trade in value for the 2018 would be \$1,400, making the cash purchase \$30,228.
3. Buy a new truck from other dealers. Two demonstration vehicles were presented to council to consider. 2026 Ford F-150 from Jim Bass with 1,346 miles for \$42,015.75 and no trade in price for the 2018. Another quote was presented for a 2026 Chevrolet from Lawrence Hill with 4,730 miles for \$43,659 with a trade in value of \$5,000 for the 2018 Ford F-150.

Council tabled as they wanted a second opinion on what happened with the truck and got an itemized diagnosis.

Council exits regular session at 7:21 PM to open sealed envelopes from the safety deposit box in executive session.

Council returns from executive session at 7:53 PM.

Reports

Mayor – The Concho Valley Council of Government is hosting a meeting on June 10, at 10:30 AM to discuss the funding for flood sirens. City staff will post a quorum in case more members would like to attend.

Administrator – Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) Bluebonnet chapter will meet on June 10, 2026. City Hall will be closed to allow both employees to attend the meeting at Ford Chadbourne. Mrs. Portales also reminded council of the CVCOG meeting on June 10 as a result of the floods last July. Senate Bill 3 was passed, and the funds are being administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Although the funds are being distributed independently, many counties have expressed interest in collaborative projects and in response the CVCOG has submitted RFQ's for engineers to oversee these joint projects.

Grant Updates: ARPA for the WWTP is still in the close out phase. The design for the Downtown Revitalization project is still being reviewed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Due to the approaching time restraints, RFQ's can potentially be submitted through Texas Buy Board to accelerate the process with council approval. Engineers EHT have applied to both the TWDB Drinking Water State Revolving Fund & Clean Water State Revolving Fund on behalf of Robert Lee. The city has submitted RFQ's for engineering firms for the TWDB Water Supply & Infrastructure Grant to apply prior to the deadline of 7/30/2026. Due to Robert Lee ranking in the

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top 10 cities for region 9, we will be recommended to the TWDB to have a Flood Management Evaluation with the community affirmation form submitted on 5-1-2026.

Superintendent – The Bronte pump Station electrical breaker was replaced 5-5. Condition of the soft starter is still unknown, and the pump motor is sparking on startup. All American pump was contacted to present an estimate to swap out the pump and motor. Baldor Motor can build a new motor to fit the existing stack pump for \$11,971, if the pump is in good working order. Alternatively, a new pump and motor from Grundfos Pump was \$25,000 6 months ago. Snead Corbin meter pulled 5-13 and sent off to core and main on 5-18 to be tested. Damaged pump and motor removed from the Bronte pumpstation on 5-21. New pump was attempted to be installed; the new pump did not line up with the flange gasket. Sent off single reducer to have flange machined down to fit. Later installed on 5-27 and startup is set to bypass soft starter as the auto soft start did not respond. Electrician will be contacted tomorrow.

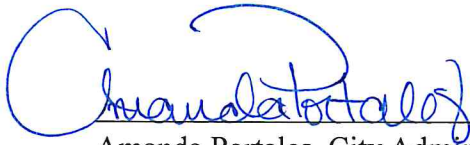
Request for Future Agenda Items

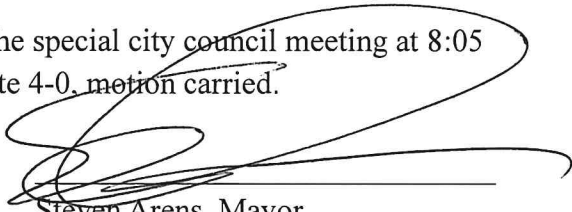
Water Updates, Bulk Water Sales Report

Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to adjourn the special city council meeting at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 4-0. motion carried.

ATTEST:


Amanda Portales, City Administrator


Steven Arens, Mayor