

Meeting June 22, 2026, 6:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Robert Lee, Texas met in Regular Session at the City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on June 22, 2026.

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

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

Citizens: Michael R. Wooly, Bart Grimes, Justin Skipworth, Renea Maxcey, and Aaron Hood.

Citizen Comments: Mr. Aaron Hood expressed his appreciation to the city staff on behalf of the RLISD for conducting the 2026 May Election. Mr. Hood also was present on behalf of the RLVFD to update council on the upcoming renewal of the agreement between the city and the VFD. The board will be reviewing the current agreement and making proposed changes for the renewal to present to the city council. The VFD feels that the city has too much oversight of the department and would like to eliminate sections in the agreement that are not necessary.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes – June 1, 2026
- B. Code Enforcement Report
- C. Municipal Court Report
- D. Financial Report

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Regular Agenda:

A. Water Updates

Mayor updates council on the following items: Oak Creek Water level is at 1,976. The rate of decline these past couple of days that had a temperature of 100 degrees and higher has increased from .02 per day to almost .05 per day. 1,975 is the next target for stage 4 drought contingency. The next 2 weeks forecast is shown to have temperatures of over 100 degrees every day. The goal in our stage 4 response is to reach a 50% reduction in daily use. The city had EHT do a PIF to get an estimate of what it might cost to build a pipeline to a new water source located in Nolan County. Depending on the size of the pipe that is needed, ranging from 6 inch, 8 inch, or 10 inch is estimated to start at \$18 million to \$25 million. This is a preliminary estimate. A project estimate is required to be presented to get funding from Congressman Pfluger's office. At the start of every new congress, they can earmark funds for their state, the deadline is February. Before then,

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his office wants to have a meeting with all the parties involved in this project to get cost estimates.

Superintendent of Bronte went to visit the Sweetwater Water Department to discuss our desire to purchase water from the Nolan County field and they said they were interested. They are verifying to see if moving water between regions might incur additional cost, we are region "F", they are region "G", depending on the conclusion there may need to be an upcharge. Also, they are having a study done to see if the water table is stable and how much usage it will support. I do not have all the particulars regarding the data centers, but I am being told that they are coming.

B. Bulk Water Sales- Consider New Regulations

Discussion Only: Council would like to see more oversight of bulk water sales to ensure that all water is being accounted for. Council has requested the following changes: A smart meter be installed at this site, add a lock to the meter where bulk water purchases occur and require all bulk water customers to schedule their purchases only during business hours with city personnel present at the time of fill up. All bulk water customers shall receive a notice by letter of these changes prior to being effective. These requests will be added to the Water Ordinance and be brought back to council to review and make action.

C. Meeting Management Software Retirement & Potential Migration

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to cancel Civicplus and seek other software to be presented next year. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

D. Sanitation Ordinance Enforcement- Consider Customer Requests for Exemptions

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to deny the request for exemptions that were presented for account # 003961 and 003971-1, and to also send a letter on this decision along with a copy of the Sanitation Ordinance. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

E. WCCEMS Property Agreement

Tabled, send a copy of the agreement to WCCEMS to review.

F. Vehicle Repair or Purchase for Code Enforcement/Animal Control

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to not repair the 2018 F-150, but to approve the trade in of said vehicle and a purchase up to \$40,000 through Ivery Motors. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

G. 14-26 Budget Amendment Ordinance FY 25-26

Motion by Council Member Megan Sheppard to approve the 1st reading of 14-26 budget Amendment. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

H. TWDB WSIG Program Application- Resolution

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Motion by Council Member Skyler Rainwater to approve the Resolution for the TWDB WSIG Program Application and Authorized Representative. Seconded by Josh Tennison. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

I. Air Med Care- Business Plans for Group Coverage

Discussion: This item was brought back with the corrected invoice amount- \$75.00 per employee making a total of \$525.00 for 1-year coverage.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to approve the 1-year group coverage as presented. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

J. 1st National Bank of Ballinger- Open & Close CD Accounts

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to Close the following CDs at the 1st National Bank of Ballinger: General Fund CD 15084 during the maturity grace period and Water Fund CD 15072 during the maturity grace period. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

K. Texas State Bank- Close CD

Motion by Skyler Rainwater to close the CD at the Texas State Bank of San Angelo upon maturity for CD ending 5332. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 5-0, motion carries.

L. Bronte Pump Station- Purchase Request

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve the purchase estimate for a new pump for the Bronte Pump Station in the amount of \$27,847.00. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

M. 2027 City Contribution Rate- TMRS

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to adopt the 2027 City Contribution Rate of 3.79%. Seconded by Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

N. USDA Community Facilities Direct Grant Program

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens to apply to the USDA grant for the reimbursement of the Code Enforcement/Animal Control vehicle purchase. Seconded by Council Member Megan Sheppard. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

O. Drought Contingency Stage 3- TxDOT Bulk Water Exemption

Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to deny the exemption request made by TxDOT for the usage of water to be used in need of emergency for construction on a highway that will be performed next week. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Reports

Mayor – SB3 siren grant: It is progressing. Concho Valley COG has retained an engineering firm. This will be applied at the county level to cover all coke county. The grant requires flood gauges with dual power sources and can be used to upgrade current systems as well. The engineering firm will be doing studies to see what will be needed in each county covered by this funding. 30 counties will need to be compliant with SB3 to receive other grant

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opportunities. This is being administered by TWDB. The fund expires in August 2027, we should be seeing some progress by December this year. Opportunity Zone 2.0: Coke County is eligible to be designated as an Opportunity Zone (OZ) with the designation, investors can get relief from capital gains taxes by investing in an OZ. Example; Investor sells property and has capital gains, "if" he reinvests in an OZ, they will delay paying the tax and can get a 30% reduction of tax owed if left in an OZ 5-10 years. Dam Project: Still reviewing options. Need to have engineer complete a PIF on which is financially feasible. Next steps in discussion, we have until September to make plans to submit to TCEQ for approval. Water Conservation Education (WCE): As a part of any TWDB and our ordinance, we have and need to be compliant with WCE. I met with Morgan Runyan of the A&M Extension office, here in Robert Lee, on how we can get more information about water conservation. Some ideas were to get more information on drought tolerant landscaping, Water saving devices, rainwater catchment systems. Offering a meeting at the county library for anyone to attend. Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP): Our current HMP has expired, and a new one has to be created and approved by FEMA, to apply for grants from disaster declarations. We had applied for an HMPG under the last Disaster Declaration; we were put on the alternative list. Last week we were notified that additional funds are available and we are now on the primary list to receive grant funds.

Administrator –

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. Specific documentation have been requested from Gordian via BuyBoard to be submitted and reviewed by TDA to verify if Gordian is eligible to conduct the RFQ for construction bids. CDBG 3rd Street Grant Project- A new sub-contractor has been hired to finish the paving. Primary Contractor NAC is working closely with our GrantWorks to ensure all documents and interviews are scheduled for sub-contractors and completed to bring this project back into compliance.

Superintendent – Bronte Pump Starter was replaced. CCR's were mailed out this week with Lead Inventory Notices. New meter was installed for Rural Water along with a shut-off valve on city side. The Clearwell motor needs repairing. Generators that were ordered were the wrong size, the voltage was incorrect, there will need to be a swap out which will have costs associated with it. Generators are ready to be delivered & there is a possible \$6,000.00 for conversion. Bac tease total coliform came back positive; testing was repeated and results showed positive for coliform. TCEQ has been notified, no action is needed on the city side, however a water assessment will be required by TCEQ. A boil water notice was issued for the entire city since partial boil water cannot be issued due to shutting off water from 6th street to Riverview to install the Rural Water meter and shut-off valve. Due to the meter failing Rural Water will be billed according to their 2nd pump station reading which will not include any water usage or loss between our meter and the location of the 2nd pump station. Material was added to the downtown

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sidewalk to make a smoother transition between the elevated area where potential danger hazards were reported.

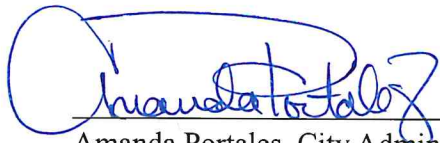
Request for Future Agenda Items

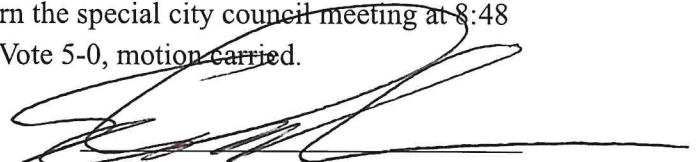
Water Updates

Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to adjourn the special city council meeting at 8:48 pm. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stephens. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

ATTEST:


Amanda Portales, City Administrator


Steven Arens, Mayor