

Regular Meeting, August 24, 2026, 6:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Robert Lee, Texas, met in Regular Session at the City Hall at 6:31 p.m. on August 24, 2026.

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

Staff: City Administrator Amanda Portales, City Superintendent Clayton Brickey, Code Enforcement Officer Martha Grimes, Deputy City Admin Kiara Burns, Public Works Operator Jose Morales and Don Lofton

Absent: Council Member Megan Sheppard and Mike Stephens

Citizen Comments

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: 7/27/2026 Regular Meeting
- B. Code Enforcement Report
- C. Municipal Report
- D. Financials: June 2026 & July 2026

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

Regular Agenda

- A. Citizen Agenda Request- Sewer on City Property

Discussion only: The property owner is replacing their private sewer lines due to recurring drainage issues resulting in sewer backups. The property owner replaced approximately half of the sewer line on the property with PVC and requested that the City replace the remaining Orangeburg line on the property and re-tap the sewer main.

The City Superintendent explained the City does not replace private sewer lines and would not re-tap the main because the existing tap was not determined to be defective. The property owner was advised that they could pay for a new tap if desired. The Superintendent also explained that the City would mark the location of the property tap, while the property owner would be responsible for excavating the tap and connecting their private sewer line to the main.

The property owner requested the City replace the tap, expressing concern about potential liability for damage to the City's main during excavation. The Superintendent explained the City could not perform the work because the sewer lines and related infrastructure on the property are the property owner's private infrastructure. The property owner subsequently contacted members of the City Council.

At the request of the Council members contacted by the property owner, the City Superintendent revisited the property and used a sewer camera through the customer's cleanout to check for obstructions. The camera showed that the tap had shifted slightly on the sewer main in the alley; however, there were no obstructions preventing flow.

There was a discrepancy between the information communicated by the Council members contacted by the property owner and the explanation previously provided by the City Superintendent. The Superintendent took photographs of the customer's unearthed private sewer line and the alley for the Council's review. The property owner had understood that they were required to connect directly to the sewer main in the center of the alley rather than to the marked sewer tap located just outside the privacy fence.

The Council suggested the owner replace the remaining private sewer line on the property and connect it to the sewer tap located just outside the fence. Public Works had previously marked the sewer tap with a green flag and the city sewer main with green paint.

B. 1st National Bank of Ballinger- Open/ Close CD Account

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to close the certificate of Deposit for acct 15085 when it matures on September 6, 2026. Seconded by Council Member Jonathan Torres. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

C. Water Updates

Discussion Only: Sweetwater is conducting a water study on their wells to determine if they can support future growth in addition to the Bronte/Robert Lee obligations. If the Nolan wells are not viable, Plan B is to purchase water from O.H, Ivie from CRMWD. This project is not covered by the current Texas Water Development Board grants, but since the project would benefit both Robert Lee and Bronte, it could be added to the regional water plan for funding.

Drought Contingency is not yet at stage 4, despite the lake level trigger being met. City of Bronte explained that stage 4 triggers were determined when their Underwater Turbine pumps were placed more shallow in the lake, but now that they were deeper, both cities have agreed to hold off enacting Stage 4 drought response.

D. RLVFD Annual Agreement

Tabled – Pending RLVFD proposed changes

E. EMS Property Agreement

Tabled – Pending EMS Review

F. Purchase Austin Street Lot

Tabled – Pending Property Owner proposed Sale Price

G. Generator Project- Gordian Contract Proposal

Discussion: Quote and contract provided by Gordian to install the generators mandated by TCEQ. City of Robert Lee needs two generators, one at the water plant and one at the Bronte water plant for Robert Lee's pumps. Total quote provided \$167,504.63. EDC paid for the generators, but the cost did not exceed their total budgeted amount, leaving \$94,000 available for the project. The remaining \$73,504.63 would be paid out of savings, as it is not a normal expense included in the budget.

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Motion by Council Member Jonathan Torres to approve the proposal from Gordian for the installation of the mandated generators in the amount of \$167,504.63. Seconded by Council Member Josh Tennison. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to request EDC to contribute the remaining \$94,000 they have budgeted for the Generator Project, and the city pay the difference. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

H. Ordinance 18-26 Final Budget Amendment FY 25-26

Tabled

I. Ordinance 19-26 Proposed Budget FY 26-27

Tabled

J. Ordinance 20-26 Fee Schedule Amendment

Tabled

K. EDC-A Vacant Seat- Appoint New Member

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to appoint Renea Maxcey to the vacancy on EDC Type A board. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

L. Old Coke County Library - Discuss Plans

Ideas for the Coke County Library:

Fix & turn into; Visitors Center, EDC Building, or relocate the Food Pantry

Demolish and build a new building

Demolish and extend the minipark with turf and a shaded seating area.

Reports

Mayor

Vision with a Purpose will no longer host the Hunter's BBQ. They no longer have the volunteers needed to run the event at the level of previous events.

Mayor is researching possible water conservation incentives through water catchment programs and drought tolerant landscaping. USDA and TWDB have grants for conversation projects.

SB3 Grant had a call together with engineers to discuss placement for emergency sirens. Robert Lee requested 3 sirens, one to be placed at Fern Havins and the city water plant, and replace the siren on top of the water tower.

Mountain Creek Dam was approved for an extended due date to update the Emergency Preparedness Plan for Nov. 30. Once the plan is approved, steps to repair or remove Mountain Creek dam can be considered.

Administrator

Downtown Environmental Review is almost done for the Downtown Grant. Grant will likely receive a penalty affecting the City's ability to get future grants due to the delayed timeline for the project. The design took multiple iterations for the council to approve, and once

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approved, TDA rejected the design since it focused more on drainage than ADA compliance, but the engineers were able to convince TDA why the drainage was needed.

The ARPA grant for the sewer plant is still in the closeout phase.

3rd street grant is also in the closeout phase. Primary contractor has not provided required documentation and the city will likely receive another penalty affecting future grants for the next 10 years.

Superintendent

Clearwell motor #2 pulled by All American Pump on 8/5 as bearing were slowly approaching failure. Reinstalled on 8/13. All American Pump delivered new pump and motor stack to Bronte Station on 8/13. Washington St and Hamilton Street potholes filled. Trees on Washington between 12th and 14th street trimmed. Drainage graded and spoil used to fill washouts on Hamilton & 12th. Chlorine conversion to free achieved middle of August, hydrant flushing was required due to an above average amount of biofilm demand and high temperatures throughout distribution. Zero-turn mower new blades installed and clutch assembly repaired. Backhoe temporarily is out of service. Removed 2 hydraulic cylinders for seals to be repacked by Air & Hydraulic Equipment repair in San Angelo. Purchased a 26gal replacement air compressor. Old one had reached the end of its service life.

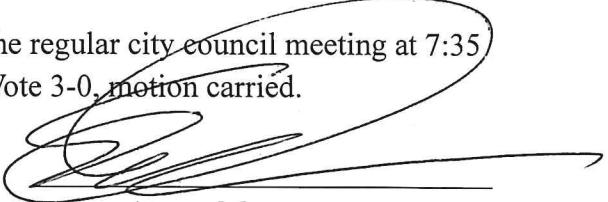
Code Enforcement – Introduced the new temporary Part Time Animal Control, Aden Burns, as the current officer is on unpaid leave due to an injury resulting in surgery.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

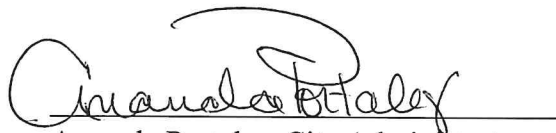
Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Josh Tennison to adjourn the regular city council meeting at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Council Member Skyler Rainwater. Vote 3-0, motion carried.

ATTEST:



Steven Arens, Mayor



Amanda Portales, City Administrator