

the world. What about the candidate who desperately pleads for your vote because their opponent is a dangerous lunatic? They might have donated to help their opponent defeat a reasonable person in the other party’s primary, because the lunatic was an easier target in the general election.

These are real-life examples. We are treating politics as a 24/7/365 sport. I like sports as much as the next person, but this is toxic and unhealthy for our society, communities, and relationships with one another. “Red Team Good, Blue Team Bad” (or vice versa)! Give us money and buy our merch and you’ll save America!

The real world is slightly more complex.

Last fall, I set out to get statewide political candidates to learn about rural issues. We had several candidates visit Stamford. Other candidates and influential types from both parties contacted me and reached out to learn. It was not about swinging an election (I’m not naïve enough to think I have that influence). It was about getting folks to listen. Some did. Some did not. It’s a start.

Rural Texas is not better simply because Republicans won in Texas. Rural Texas would not be better if Democrats won instead. Rural America will not be “saved” by

a red team or a blue team. This is not sports, nor is it a Marvel Comic where such heroism is possible. We need to place less of our hopes and dreams on a particular political team. Those teams are full of flawed humans. Some have noble intentions. Others have selfish goals. Either way, they could not “save” us if they wanted to.

People are seeking identity in politics, because we have spent decades destroying the institutions where people formerly found identity, like local communities. All manner of political grifters and demagogues have seized upon that and turned politics into a desperate bloodsport. I’m over it.

Healthy local communities will never be built with Red Team/Blue Team antics. They will be built with local leaders who invest themselves and inspire others to invest and breathe new energy into places that need it. Whether you are elated or dismayed by the Election Day outcomes, I encourage you to take part of your energy that you apply toward political culture and apply it to building healthier, stronger local communities. If we did that, we would be stunned at the results. And if we as a people treated politics less as an all-consuming sport, our political candidates would respond accordingly.

Our political culture needs a



Dedication! A dedication ceremony for the Veterans Memorial and Peace Garden in Robert Lee was held on Saturday, November 12. Photo courtesy of Jamie Sawyer.

makeover, but it does not start on Election Day or the campaign trail. It starts with each of us acting with a better, stronger sense of community.

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Robert Lee City Council meeting minutes told

The Robert Lee City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at City Hall at 6:30 pm.

Those in attendance included Mayor Jason Moran; and Council Members Mike Stephens, Brantly Robertson, Tracy Grantham, and Jonathan Torres. Council Member Josh Tennison was absent.

The meeting was declared open at 6:31 with the call to order and a quorum was determined.

James Langloir addressed the Council concerning the Animal Control Ordinance within the county. The Council informed him that it is outside the City’s jurisdiction and directed him to the next commissioners court date.

A motion was made by Mike Stephens to approve the Consent Agenda (September 15, 2022, minutes, Municipal Court Report, and Financial Report). He was seconded by Jonathan Torres. Tracy Grantham recused herself from the discussion and vote. The motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve of EDC Type A by-laws and was seconded by Mike Stephens. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by Jonathan Torres to approve of EDC Type B by-laws and was seconded by Brantly Robertson. The motion carried with a vote

of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve of EDC Type A 2022-2023 Budget and was seconded by Mike Stephens. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve of EDC Type B 2022-2023 Budget due to an incorrect budget being presented. She was seconded by Brantly Robertson and he motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by

Jonathan Torres to appoint Jerry Blair to EDC Type A Board and was seconded by Tracy Grantham. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

Another Place Cafe recently upgraded their building and applied to EDC for partial reimbursement. A motion was made by Brantly Robertson to approve of the Property Upgrade Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$6,000, with the participant paying 20%. The participant will be receiving \$4,800 total. He was seconded by Mike Stephens and the motion

carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

Mayor Moran would like to propose certain properties for the dilapidated building clean up. These will be presented at another time.

Discussion was held regarding amending the minutes from August 18, 2022, to add Safety Deposit Box to item I. A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve of the amended minutes and was seconded by Brantly Robertson.

The Council exited into executive session to discuss the following items at 6:58 pm: Republic Services contract renewal, Concho Valley Community Re-Enrichment Work Program, City Attorney - Rate Increase, and Bronte Revised Water Supply Contract 2022. The Council returned from executive session at 8:11 pm.

A motion was made by Jonathan Torres to approve of the contract renewal with Republic Services and was seconded by Tracy Grantham. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to to approve of the Concho Valley Community Re-Enrichment Work Program contract and was seconded by Mike Stephens. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

Bronte is increasing their water rates for the City of Robert Lee by roughly 3% and the City will mirror the increase. Late fees are proposed to change from \$4.50 to \$10. A motion was made by Jonathan Torres to approve of the first reading of the Ordinance 12-22, Water Taps and Rates. He was seconded by Tracy Grantham. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

(Continued on next page)



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