

...RL City Council
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There were many questions and criticisms directed at Mayor Crenshaw from members of the audience for the personal expenditures made with city funds and for violating the restricted access rules put in place at the January 29, 2019, meeting. At the February 4, 2019, meeting, council voted to lift these restrictions. However, they should have remained in place once that part of the meeting was deemed illegal due to lack of a quorum. Later in Tuesday’s meeting, Ricky Green made the motion to lift the restricted access provisions for Mayor Crenshaw during business hours only.

In discussion on hiring a forensic auditor, Council Member Ann Hedges expressed concern with the \$200 per hour fee. The Council voted to table this issue. Mayor Crenshaw promised copies of all current audit records to the Council. It was also pointed out by City Secretary Crystal Blevins that the Best Buy expenditures listed in last week’s Letter to the Editor was actually from 2017 and not 2018.

The letters of resignation from Mayor Pro Tem Roger Alexander and Council Member Janie Munoz were accepted. Hedges made a motion to appoint Brandi Brosh as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Ricky Green and passed.

City Superintendent Billy Williams informed the Council of the fine imposed by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for infractions committed by the City of Robert Lee in 2017. The fine for 2017 was \$27,125, but \$5,425 of that was deferred, making the total \$21,700. The City also has two options for payment of this fine - writing a check for the amount to TCEQ or spending that money on repairs to improve Robert Lee’s water plant. Williams told the Council they must make a decision within 30 days of the date the fine was levied. He also requested Council to use funds from savings and not take the amount from his budget, effectively penalizing his department for past administration’s mistakes. A motion to use the money on Robert Lee’s water plant and to use funds for this from savings was made by Brandi Brosh, seconded by Ann Hedges and passed.

The City of Bronte has never charged an overage amount when Robert Lee has gone over the 200,000 gallons per day limit. However, the Bronte Council has now informed Robert Lee of a 50% increase for water used over and above the 200,000 gallons per day on a monthly average beginning in May. Robert Lee will ask that new rates not take effect until October, the beginning of the next fiscal year. They will also request an overage rate of 25% instead of the overage rate of

50%. Superintendent Williams requested a shift to overtime from the current comp time system. Currently, comp time is earned for the convenience center, on call, and emergency call outs. The comp time must be used within a pay period to prevent build up and expense of paying comp time hours. With training, illness, etc., mandatory comp time often creates hardships for the city’s workers. Williams requested that instead of filling the vacant part time position, the city takes these funds and use them to pay for overtime. This would eliminate comp time and the hardships it was creating. There was much discussion on the pros and cons with Williams pointing out to Council that he was not asking for any more money that was already budgeted, just to use it differently. Brandi Brosh made a motion to approve the request with Ann Hedges providing a second. The motion passed.

Street repair was also discussed. Resurfacing the streets is incredibly expensive and would not solve all the problems ultimately. Grants once available to smaller cities for this purpose are no longer available. With costs of approximately \$100,000 for two blocks, council voted to table this issue until more research could be conducted.

Superintendent Williams asked Council for an ordinance imposing weight limits on residential streets. The ordinance would not apply to trash trucks or delivery vehicles. Council Member Ricky Green made a motion to table this until more research could be conducted. It was seconded by Brandi Brosh and passed.

Superintendent Williams also had researched the costs involved with the Culligan Water agreement. With installation and water costs, combined with the .06 cents the city would receive for each gallon sold, it appeared it would take the city over 50 years to recoup the initial investment. Brandi Brosh made a motion to rescind the agreement with Culligan. The motion passed following a second by Ann Hedges.

Following a motion by Ricky Green and seconded by Brandi Brosh, Council voted to approve the re-keying of all locks at City Hall.

Superintendent Williams advised the city the trailer purchased by previous administration to haul the mini excavator was insufficient and illegal for this purpose. Brandi Brosh made a motion to spend \$5,804 to purchase the trailer necessary to haul the equipment. Ricky Green seconded the motion and it passed.

The filing period ends today Friday, February 15, 2019, for four council member positions. The seats formerly held by Roger Alexander and Janie Munoz, and the seat currently held by Ricky Green are for full

two year terms. There is also a special election to fill the one year unexpired term currently being held by Ann Hedges who was appointed when Billy

Williams resigned his seat to take the City Superintendent position. Applications for a place on the ballot are available at Robert Lee City Hall during

normal business hours. All applications must be turned in to City Hall by 5 pm Friday, February 15, 2019.

General Account		
5/4/18	Henry’s Diner	\$228.30
5/25/18	Family Dollar	\$ 80.67
5/29/18	Walmart	\$246.62
6/6/18	Family Dollar	\$ 27.24
8/17/18	Family Dollar	\$ 21.38
8/27/18	Family Dollar	\$ 63.00
8/30/18	Myers Drugstore	\$ 40.97
9/1/18	Family Dollar	\$ 58.80
9/6/18	Chick-Fil-A	\$ 58.32
9/6/18	Family Dollar	\$ 47.50
10/1/18	Amazon	\$ 15.93
11/19/18	Allsup’s	\$ 1.99
Total Invoices Missing		\$890.72

Water Account		
5/8/18	Family Dollar	\$ 75.41
5/10/18	Walmart	\$272.33
5/10/18	Walmart	\$ 80.02
1/3/19	TX DPS	\$ 15.59
Total Invoices Missing		\$443.35

Sewer Account		
6/25/18	Family Dollar	\$ 8.12
6/27/18	Rangel’s	\$ 20.20
7/3/18	Best Buy	\$313.90
7/5/18	Tractor Supply	\$184.01
7/11/18	Super H	\$ 2.35
7/11/18	Super H	\$ 14.05
7/11/18	Allsup’s	\$ 4.74
7/20/18	Allsup’s	\$ 7.98
7/26/18	Allsup’s	\$ 2.15
7/12/18	Home Depot	\$440.65
Total Invoices Missing		\$998.15