

...Robert Lee Problems  
(Continued from front page)

Repair or replacement costs are huge, not to mention the cost of the water lost through leaks.

Robert Lee is also facing roadway issues. Paving repair projects are expensive with the figure of \$100,000 for two blocks being thrown out in council discussion last month. One of the options discussed was removing the pavement and replacing the pavement with caliche. If this is the solution chosen, it will create a domino effect. Property values of all homes would immediately lower, which in turn would lower the tax valuations and the amount of tax revenue collected by the City of Robert Lee.

With the previous administration, the City Secretary received deferred adjudication for Abuse of Official Capacity. Former Mayor Leroy Casey and the council at that time immediately removed her from her position and requested an investigation into the matter. The investigation was conducted by the Coke County Sheriff's Office. The main charge stemmed from not paying a water bill and allowing others to not pay their water bills, at least not in a timely fashion. However with the loss of their long time city secretary, things really started going down hill. Mandatory reports were not filed and state agencies reacted by levying fines and freezing Robert Lee's bank accounts. Council members, not happy with how the mayor was handling issues, began resigning and eventually there were not enough members to hold meetings. Meetings could once again be held following the election on May 5, 2018.

Current Mayor Allyson Crenshaw defeated Casey in this election and was joined on council by incumbents Roger Alexander, Ricky Green and Janie Munoz. Newly elected council members were Billy Williams and Brandi Brosh. The following month, council hired Crystal Blevins as their City Secretary. Blevins was the Bronte City Secretary and had worked for the City of Lubbock. Later in the summer, Billy Williams resigned his position on council to take the City Superintendent job. Ann Hedges was appointed to the seat.

The massive mess created during the many months Robert Lee effectively didn't have a city secretary put the new mayor and secretary at a significant disadvantage. There was no smooth transition. Both ladies worked diligently to bring order to the records. However spending problems became apparent in the fall. With Robert Lee already behind the 8 ball financially, the charges for items purchased online began to raise flags with the city secretary. It became crystal clear when a charge for TXU hit the city's general account on September 12. TXU was not a

vendor for the City of Robert Lee.

This problem became apparent to the public in late January when the council voted for a new debit card policy and to limit Mayor Crenshaw's access to City Hall. *The Observer/Enterprise* submitted several public information requests from January through the present, one of which netted 920 pages. One of the first documents received was an unsigned letter from Crenshaw placed in the agenda packets given to the council at the January 14, 2019, meeting. The complete content of the letter is listed below.

“On August 6, 2018 the City of Robert Lee Debit card was unknowingly set to my personal Amazon orders. On September 18, 2018, the card was switched back to my personal debit card. I did not know how it happened and I was not aware of the occurrence until late December when the auditor brought it to my attention. I had been using my personal Amazon account to purchase goods for the City because we were unable to get into the City's account. Before this came to my attention, I had already requested Crystal to set up a new City Amazon account, which she did. This incident was not intentional; however, it has led me to some thoughts regarding debit card use and the protentional (sic) for problems, even if unintentional.

During the time listed above, there were 15 digital orders in the amount of \$108.32 and an electric bill (that is paid through Amazon Alexa home automation system) in the amount of \$248.98, totaling \$357.30 which I have reimbursed to the City of Robert Lee.

On Nov 26, 2018 I placed an order for City staff Christmas bags. I later learned this was a gift and could not be paid with City funds. I spoke with the City Attorney who said it should be paid for with private funds. I have also reimbursed the total amount of \$200 to the City. They were given to City staff as a personal gift in order not to violate any rules.”

Several of the claims made in the Mayor's statement were proven untrue when fact checked. The first was the claim that she couldn't use the original City of Robert Lee Amazon account. Mayor Crenshaw was sworn in on May 11, 2019. The first Amazon purchases made following that were through the City's original Amazon account. Granted that didn't last long. The majority of the over 200 Amazon transactions made using funds from the City of Robert Lee's General Account were made on Crenshaw's personal Amazon account. This 200 does not include the Amazon transactions on the other three City of Robert Lee accounts.

Research into the Amazon Alexa automated system revealed that section of the Mayor's story to also be false. It was explained to this Publisher

(Continued on page 5)

Concerning City of Robert Lee  
Debit Card Purchases

(Continued from front page)

	Vendor	Purchase	Account	Amount
June				
27	Amazon	iPhone Protector,		
		Otter Box	General	\$ 61.89
28	Amazon	Screen Protector -		
		Samsung Galaxy 8	General	\$ 9.98
		June Total		\$ 2562.73
July				
2	Walmart	Clock	General	\$ 21.40
2	Amazon	Wireless Charging Base	General	\$ 13.85
3	Walmart	Snacks, etc.	General	\$ 81.04
4	Friendship Bakery	Lunch	General	\$ 31.47
4	Amazon	Monitor Privacy Filter	General	\$ 71.96
8	Palmer Feed	Clothing	Sewer	\$ 151.32
8	Home Depot	Paint & Supplies	General	\$ 29.74
9	Amazon	Alleve	General	\$ 18.88
10	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 49.73
13	Super H	Snacks, etc.	Sanitation	\$ 5.94
14	Family Dollar	Snacks, etc.	General	\$ 17.05
15		Desk Accessories	General	\$ 13.99
19	Amazon	Headset, Accessories	General	\$ 157.94
20	Walmart	Snacks, etc.	General	\$ 94.08
22	Allsup's	Fuel	General	\$ 50.53
22	Family Dollar	Snacks, etc.	General	\$ 15.05
22	Super H	Snacks, etc.	Sanitation	\$ 9.38
22	Amazon	Step Stools (2)	General	\$ 91.20
22	Amazon	Ice Maker	General	\$ 579.99
30	The Happy Porch	Check #13130	Water	\$ 495.00
31	Family Dollar	Aleve & Dog Toys	General	\$ 11.64
31	R&W Engraving	Custom Disk	General	\$ 130.29
		July Total		\$ 2141.47
August				
1	Tractor Supply	Boots	Sewer	\$ 162.99
1	Office Depot	Bookcase	General	\$ 103.05
1	Office Depot	Furniture	General	\$ 2286.00
1	Amazon	Window Tint,		
		Steel Drop Box	General	\$ 49.71
2	Gandy's Ink	Clothing	Water	\$ 102.00
2	Gandy's Ink	Clothing	Water	\$ 412.22
2	Amazon	Chair	General	\$ 109.99
2	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 197.54
2	Amazon	Dell Computer	General	\$ 641.71
4	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 44.24
4	Amazon	Paint Edger	General	\$ 10.77
4	Amazon	Dinette Table & Chairs	General	\$ 350.89
4	Amazon	Chairs	General	\$ 189.42
4	Amazon	RO Water System	General	\$ 318.32
4	Amazon	RO Water System		
		Install Kit	General	\$ 17.99
4	Amazon	Desk Organizer	General	\$ 25.99
5	Amazon	Decor	General	\$ 22.98
5	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 32.49
6	Amazon	HBO Subscription	General	\$ 16.23
6	Amazon	Music	General	\$ 14.99
6	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 50.99
6	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 40.06
6	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 20.91
6	Amazon	Wall Decor	General	\$ 29.44
10	Amazon	Desk Accessories RG	General	\$ 118.22
10	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 23.47
10	Amazon	Pro Case/Accessories	General	\$ 129.92
10	Microsoft Store	Surface Pro Bundle	General	\$ 864.92
10	Amazon	Mouse Pad RG	General	\$ 11.60
10	Amazon	HP 8720 Printer	General	\$ 117.64
10	Amazon	Surge Protector	General	\$ 36.90
11	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 17.99
12	Amazon	Unpainted Art	General	\$ 150.00
12	Amazon	Chair	General	\$ 86.98
12	Amazon	Dinette Table	General	\$ 125.71
12	Amazon	Name Plates	General	\$ 37.99
12	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 12.99
12	Amazon	Name Plates	General	\$ 23.99
12	Amazon	Cables & Switches	General	\$ 88.97
12	Amazon	Security Camera		
		System	General	\$ 379.99

(Continued on page 5)