

Concerning City of Robert Lee Debit Card Purchases

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	Vendor	Purchase	Account	Amount
August				
12	Amazon	Security Camera		
		System Accessories	General	\$ 54.47
12	Amazon	12 Outlet UPS System	General	\$ 78.84
14	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 34.75
14	Amazon	Microsoft Surface Dock	General	\$ 106.99
14	Amazon	Wireless Keyboard	General	\$ 21.99
15	Stripes/San Angelo	Snacks	General	\$ 6.05
15	Dairy Queen	Blizzard	General	\$ 4.54
18	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 2.99
18	Cavender's	Clothing, etc.	Water	\$ 508.94
19	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 2.99
19	Amazon	Desk Organizer RG,		
		Cable Concealment	General	\$ 45.98
20	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 2.99
20	Vision with a Purpose	Check #14134	General	\$ 541.25
20	Academy	Clothing, etc.	Water	\$ 178.60
20	Amazon	Clock - RG	General	\$ 19.91
20	Amazon	Clock - RG	General	\$ 19.91
20	Amazon	Headset, Accessories	General	\$ 157.94
22	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 4.99
23	Amazon	Name Plates	General	\$ 37.99
25	Amazon	Decor	General	\$ 36.99
25	Amazon	Paint	General	\$ 7.94
25	Hobby Lobby	Wall Decor (20)	General	\$ 232.10
29	Amazon	Personal Heaters (2)	General	\$ 132.56
30	Amazon	Hutch	General	\$ 89.99
31	Walmart	Snacks, etc.	General	\$ 95.22
31	Amazon	Coffee Maker	General	\$ 50.99
		August Total		\$ 9941.11
September				
2	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 2.99
5	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 2.99
5	Amazon	Microsoft Go		
		& Accessories	General	\$ 806.87
6	Amazon	Music	General	\$ 14.99
6	Amazon	HBO Subscription	General	\$ 16.23
8	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 1.99
8	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 4.99
8	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 4.99
9	Amazon	Laminator & Supplies	General	\$ 82.07
10	Amazon	Alexa Accessories	General	\$ 33.99
10	Amazon	Programmable		
		Thermostat	General	\$ 117.80
11	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 4.99
11	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 4.99
11	Rangel's		Water	\$ 60.28
11	Amazon	Chairs	General	\$ 559.96
11	Amazon	Samsung 128g	General	\$ 24.99
12	TXU	Electric Bill	General	\$ 248.98
12	Amazon	Decor	General	\$ 16.90
12	Amazon	Computer Accessories	General	\$ 53.96
12	Amazon	Microsoft Go Case	General	\$ 22.95
12	Amazon	Earphones	General	\$ 29.50
18	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 3.99
19	Cavender's	Clothing, etc.	Sewer	\$ 140.71
19	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 163.33
19	Amazon	Desk Accessories	General	\$ 34.00
19	Amazon	MS Go Screen Protector	General	\$ 11.39
20	Simply to Impress	Personal Christmas		
		Cards	General	\$ 8.00
20	Amazon	Movie	General	\$ 5.99
20	Amazon	Mirror	General	\$ 39.99
20	Amazon	7-Pack Photo		
		Frames (3)	General	\$ 89.97
20	Amazon	Projector & Case	General	\$ 342.98
23	Amazon	Spray Paint	General	\$ 17.04
23	Amazon	Curtains, Paint	General	\$ 22.93
23	Amazon	Trolley Cart	General	\$ 45.19
24	Amazon	Wall Organizer	General	\$ 28.99
25	HTK Custom Creations	Check #14202	General	\$ 174.00
25	Amazon	Frames	General	\$ 189.90
25	Amazon	Cookbook Stand	General	\$ 25.97

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approval. The only policy governing spending at that time was included in the one page document "Internal Control Structure 2018", and is listed below.

PURCHASING

• *The City Secretary and the Superintendent purchase supplies for the maintenance and operation of the City. Expenses that are not within the normal daily expense or over \$1,500.00 will be reviewed by the Mayor. Expenses that involve contracts or purchases over \$4,000.00 will be reviewed by the Mayor and the City Council for approval.*

• *Items purchased by Laborers or Billing Clerk (supplies, fuel, etc.) shall be reviewed prior to the purchase by either the City Secretary or the Superintendent.*

At the February 26, 2019, council meeting the following paragraph was approved for the new Internal Control Structure.

PURCHASING

• *The City Secretary and the Superintendent may approve purchases up to \$500.00, if available in the approved budget and is a normal operating expense. Purchases that are not within daily operating expense or over \$500.00 will be approved by the Mayor prior to purchase. Expenses that involve contracts or purchases over \$3,000.00 will be considered by the Mayor and the City Council prior to purchase unless an emergency exists as outlined in the purchasing policy.*

• *Items purchased by Laborers or Billing Clerk (supplies, fuel, etc.) will be approved, prior to the purchase, by his/her Department Head, or the Mayor.*

• *A Purchase Request Form will be completed and signed prior to any purchase and turned in to the City Secretary. A copy of approved forms will be provided to the department head and the Mayor. Purchase request forms will be emailed to the Mayor and Council each month when invoices are sent.*

These controls can be changed by the Mayor, at any time, if in the best interest of the City. Changes will be presented to City Council at the next scheduled meeting for approval.

If the CEO or owner of a private business had made any of these purchases, there would be no problem as long as there was money in the account to cover the purchases. However that is not the case with a public entity. Elected officials are not spending their money, but taxpayer money – YOUR MONEY. A private executive would also be able to remove furniture, etc. that they didn't like. But, elected officials can't do that without approval. Elected officials can never give things away. Everything in City Hall appears to be new – new desks, new filing cabinets, new chairs, new staplers, new trash cans, new wall hangings, even a new lamp in the front window. The City of Robert Lee already had desks, chairs, filing cabinets, trash cans, staplers, etc.

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...Robert Lee Problems

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that in order for an electric bill to be paid using Alexa, the customer would have to go to the electric provider's website, log in to their account and enter the credit/debit card information to be used for payment. Alexa will not randomly pick a card tied to the customer's Amazon account. During one interview with Mayor Crenshaw, she took the publisher back into her office at City Hall to show Alexa in action. She told Alexa to pay her TXU bill. Alexa replied that the account was past due and the total balance was \$\$\$.

Did she wish to pay the entire balance of \$\$\$.

The mayor said yes. Alexa then asked if she wanted to use the preferred payment method – card ending in number #####. The Mayor said yes and the transaction was complete – but only after which card to be used was confirmed.

Other facts proven to be untrue are the number of items purchased personally. Four of these items were purchased in late November and early December. All four were shipped to the Mayor's residence and three of these used the city's sales tax exemption. She also paid for her and her husband's personal Christmas cards with their own post office box address used as a return address. These weren't purchased through Amazon, but online through "Simply to Impress". After wading through the hundreds of pages of receipts, it appears personal expenditures total approximately \$2,000; gifts given by the mayor total close to \$3,500; clothing purchased by the mayor or at her direction totals close to \$4,500; snacks and drinks for the office and workers is close to \$1,000; and décor and furniture purchases exceed \$15,000 (including new computers).

With the lack of candor in the mayor's statement to council, a closer look into her background seemed necessary. Many tips came into the office of *The Observer/Enterprise*. However, only those which could be verified with court records are being included. The mayor's criminal history includes a theft charge in Tom Green County and two charges in Ector County. Tom Green County also sued the mayor and her husband in 2016 for non-payment of property taxes. The Coke County Sheriff confirmed an investigation into the misappropriation of funds was launched on February 5, 2019, following requests from citizens and public officials.

In the tables accompanying this article, readers can see the unbelievable amount of purchases made overwhelmingly by Robert Lee's new mayor.

Minutes of all council meetings from May 11, 2018, through the present were a portion of the documents received in the large public information request. None of the purchases in the tables were brought before council for