

**...RL City Council Minutes**

*(Continued from previous page)*  
The lift station quote to repair includes a brand new pump. This solution will be a permanent fix to repair the lift station. The repairs to the lift station is an emergency to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality. A motion was made by Council Member Brandi Brosh to accept the bid from All-American Pump and Machine from San Angelo for repairs to the lift station. She was seconded by Council Member Janie Munoz. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

The Council approved to have the Coke County Sheriff's Department maintain ordinance enforcement duties. Employee Renee Smith had been approved for 10 hours for animal control and 10 hours for ordinance enforcement. Her hours would have been reduced the 10 hours she had been working as the ordinance enforcement officer. Renee has turned in her two week's notice and will reconsider her resignation if the City increases her hours with animal control from ten hours to twenty hours to compensate the cut in pay.

The City of Bronte has agreed to discuss working with Robert Lee for a contracted animal control officer when their animal control officer retires. There is no timeframe for when this might happen.

A motion was made by Council Member Brandi Brosh to find twenty hours for the animal control officer to maintain employment with Renee Smith. The motion was dropped due to no second to the motion.

Council Member Billy Williams recommended transferring funds from another budget item to cover the increase in hours for an animal control officer. Mayor Pro Tem Roger Alexander stated that he was opposed to the idea due to the condition of the budget and needed updates have not been completed.

No further action was taken.

**Reports**

Payments to the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) had not been made since October 2017. The past due balance for loans is in the amount of \$13,938.40. The

staff will pay the balance and future monthly payments.

The contract with the Coke County Water Supply Corporation (CCWSC) for the purchase of water from Robert Lee expired September 20, 2016.

The City received confirmation that they are in compliance for water services and a letter from TCEQ stating compliance was provided.

The utility billing late notices have been mailed out and disconnects will be done at the end of the month.

The lift station at the water plant is functioning.

The phone lines are down several times throughout the week. Services with Vonage will begin providing better quality at a more affordable rate.

Copies of the International Property Maintenance, Building, and Fire Codes may be provided to the Council. The documents average 700+ pages per book.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm and was seconded by Council Member Brandi Brosh. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

**Small Town Christmas meeting held**

Vision with a Purpose held their first Small Town Christmas meeting on Friday, July 6 at their headquarters on Austin Street in Robert Lee. Debbie Childers, chairman, opened with prayer.

Small Town Christmas will be held Saturday, December 8. This year, since our headquarters are complete, we will be operating from our office.

A menu was decided and Santa will again appear at the gazebo. Booths selling popcorn, candy apples, hot chocolate, etc. may be set up and several game booths for children were discussed.

Photos with Santa were discussed and hayrides will also be available this year.

All in all, new and old ideas will be incorporated. It will be a great time for young and old alike. This is definitely a family affair.

**Mountain Creek Golf Club Memorials**

**Marianne Antilley**  
Robert Lee State Bank  
Jeff and D'Ann Eubanks  
Tommy and Kei Antilley  
Billy Wayne and Dolores Roe  
Stephen and Sterling Myers

Buddy and Kristen Wallace  
Mrs. Bobbie Allen

**John Lehr**

Stephen and Sterling Myers

**Reunions, Rodeos, and Legacies**

by James M. Decker

The arena lights have been turned off. The stock has been loaded. The crowds have drifted away. Except for finalizing the accounting and cleaning up the aftermath, the 88th Texas Cowboy Reunion is in the books, so I wanted to say a few words about this year's event and what the event means in general.

In 1930, amidst the Great Depression, thirteen community leaders met in Stamford to propose a celebration to boost morale and stimulate the local economy. These leaders organized an event, centered around Independence Day, that would promote the legacy of the West Texas cowboy, a way of life that was quickly disappearing in the face of 20th century mechanization. That first year, 12,000 people watched three days of rodeo events and participated in cowboy fellowship and historical commemoration.

The event quickly took off. Permanent facilities were built. In 1935, legendary cowboy humorist Will Rogers performed at the TCR in one of his last public appearances before his death. In 1937, at the peak of rural populations, a record 70,000 visitors attended. Wild cow milking, double mugging, the grand entry, and the signature cloverleaf pattern of modern barrel racing were invented in the rodeo arena at Stamford. In 1940, the newly-formed American Quarter Horse Association held its first show in Stamford.

Will Rogers described the TCR as a "real cowboy reunion...in a real cowntown." Today, current TCR leadership and the many dozens of volunteers strive to uphold the mission of the thirteen founders and the vision so eloquently described by Rogers. That mission is why, in my humble opinion, the TCR continues to persevere. As rural populations have declined, many rodeos and other small town cultural events have struggled to succeed and some have disappeared entirely. The TCR has had its struggles, but this year, in five days, it is estimated that over 20,000 people visited the grounds and the event is

growing each year in attendance, rodeo competitors, and sponsorship dollars.

The TCR was never intended to be a local rodeo, or even just a rodeo for the sake of having a rodeo. That's why it was named the "Texas Cowboy Reunion." The rodeo performances are an integral part, but above all, the TCR is designed to celebrate one of the most enduring images of America, the Texas cowboy. For 88 years, the event has brought together multiple generations of cowboys and non-cowboys, locals and non-locals, rural people and city people, from far and wide, all for that purpose.

The world has changed since 1930 and so has the TCR. Open-air rodeos in July are hot in an air-conditioned world and rodeos now compete against movies, sports, lake activities, and other recreation for entertainment dollars. To stay relevant in 2018, the presentation of the TCR has changed in some fashions, but the event stays true to its roots. As such, crowds still flock to Stamford to celebrate the Texas cowboy through rodeo, music, art, cooking, shopping, and more.

So here's to those original thirteen founders: Andrew John Swenson, William G. Swenson, Ray Rector, Rudolph Swenson, John Selmon, A. C. Cooper, F. Harley Goble, R. B. Bryant, W. G. Owsley, Charles E. Coombes, R. V. Colbert, Louie M. Hardy, and Roy Arledge. 88 years later, their legacy endures. May it continue to endure for another 88 years.

*James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.*



**Arrests and Dispositions June 2018**

Delacerda, Mercedes, Theft more than \$2500 less than \$30,000, Claim Lottery Prize by Fraud, 6-4-18;  
Smith, Sean, Bench Warrant - Civil Case, 6-7-18;  
Barrera, Monica, Driving While Intoxicated, 6-17-18;  
Taylor, Mickey, Assault Family Violence, 6-22-18;  
Taylor, Mickey, Assault Family Violence, 6-24-18;  
Moreno, Jasmine, Murder, 6-26-18  
There were no District Court Dispositions or County Court Dispositions.

**Sheriff's Report**

The following reports were made by the Coke County Sheriff's Office for the month of June, 2018.

- Sheriff's Info Report - 5
- Civil Matter - 3
- Criminal Mischief - 2
- Burglary of a Habitation - 1
- Burglary of a Building - 1
- Assault - 2
- Aggravated Assault - 1
- Murder - 1
- Public Service (includes funerals, court, motorist assist, alarm calls, etc) - 306
- Civil Process - 4
- Prisoner Transport (including arrests and to and from court) - 11
- Warrants Served - 1
- Livestock Calls - 32
- Accidents - 7
- Accident Assist - 1
- Traffic Stops - 21
- Traffic Stops resulting in citations - 12
- Total inmates in Runnels County Jail as of Monday, July 9, 2018: Males - 5

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**School Start Dates**

**Blackwell - August 15**

**Bronte - August 22**

**Robert Lee - August 20**

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