

PUBLIC PROFILES

As people move to Coke County, it's sometimes difficult to determine where to go and who to talk to at the local government offices.

Each week, *The Observer/Enterprise* will highlight one or

more of these offices. These highlights will include the services performed at that office and an introduction to the people who make that office work.

This week, we are highlighting

a few of the offices of our county government. The table above shows the relationship between the voters and the officials.

Robert Lee Mayor
Leroy Casey
Elected May 2015

Robert Lee
Council Members

Shaunna Grantham
Elected May 2017

Roger Alexander
Elected May 2015

Janie Munoz
Elected May 2009

Joe Longoria
Elected May 2016

Toni Rainwater
Elected May 2015



Members of the Robert Lee City Council are Mayor Leroy Casey (from left) and Council Members Shaunna Grantham, Roger Alexander, Janie Munoz, Joe Longoria and Toni Rainwater (not pictured).

Mayor Leroy Casey is a retired EMTP (paramedic) and former Council Member for the City of Robert Lee. He and his wife, Jami, have seven children – Lori Davis, Terri Kayann Archer, Kimberly Strasser, James Casey, Justin Hewitt, Blake Hewitt, and Kelsey Hewitt.

Council Member Shaunna Grantham is extremely active in Coke County. In addition to serving on the council, she also sits on the board for Economic Development and is instrumental in many organizations such as 4-H and Red Canyon Gun Club. She and her husband, Austin, have three children – Paeton Wright, Tristan Grantham and Addison Grantham.

Finally enjoying retirement, Council Member Roger Alexander served as administrator of Robert Lee Care Center for many years. He and his wife, Della, have three sons – Robert, Alex and Stephen.

Council Member Janie Munoz is the Business Office Manager at Robert Lee Care Center. She and her husband, Jimmy, have three children – Michael Munoz, Cassandra Barbosa and Tony Munoz.

Council Member Joe Longoria recently retired after thirty-plus years with CRMWD and currently ranches and does RV repair work alongside his brother. He and his wife, Rosa, have two children – Bobby Longoria and Briana Longoria.

All members of the city council play special roles in making the city government operate effectively in a general law city.

Many of their functions are set by law, while others are established as a matter of local custom or policy.

The mayor occupies the highest elective office in the municipal government. As political head of the city, the mayor is expected to provide the leadership necessary to keep it moving in the proper direction.

Except under the city manager plan of government, the mayor is the city's chief executive officer, just as the governor serves as chief executive of the state. The

mayor presides over council meetings, is the signatory for the city, and is generally recognized as the ceremonial and governmental head of the city for most purposes.

Most of the powers exercised by the mayor are created through ordinances and resolutions adopted by the city council. Very few mayoral powers are prescribed by state law.

The mayor's most important duty is to carry out the legislative responsibilities he or she shares with other members of the council—identifying the needs of the city, developing programs

to satisfy those needs, and evaluating the extent to which municipal services satisfactorily reflect the policy goals of the council.

Under the law, the mayor is the presiding officer of the city council. In this capacity as presiding officer, the mayor's actual powers in legislative matters can be greater than those of other council members. For example, the mayor can influence the flow of debate through the power to recognize council members for motions or statements. Also, the mayor rules on questions of procedure at council meetings, and those rulings are binding unless



Robert Lee City Secretary, Kay Torres, is a fixture at City Hall after over twenty-three years of service to the city. She began her career in this office in December 1993. Deputy City Secretary is Brandie Millican who started in March of this year.

successfully challenged by a majority of the governing body. Finally, the mayor of a Type A city can formally object to ordinances and other resolutions passed by the council. If the mayor objects to an ordinance or resolution before the fourth day after it is placed in the city secretary's office, it must be reconsidered by the governing body. If approved, it becomes effective (Local Government Code Section 52.003).

Appointive powers represent another area in which the mayor's powers often outrank those of council members, especially if the mayor is authorized by ordinance to appoint department heads and advisory board members. In council manager cities, the mayor's appointive powers are more limited because the city manager may appoint all or

most administrative employees. Although most of the mayor's appointive powers are established by ordinances enacted by the city council, some are established by state law.

The office of the mayor involves a variety of law enforcement responsibilities. The mayor is specifically obligated by law to "actively ensure that the laws and ordinances of the municipality are properly carried out," and "in the event of a riot or unlawful assembly or to preserve the peace," the mayor may order the closing of certain public places.

Council members are the city's legislators. Their primary duty is policy making, which includes identifying the needs of local residents, formulating programs to meet the changing requirements of the community, and measuring the effectiveness of ongoing municipal services. (Continued on next page)

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