



**MINUTES-SPECIAL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – 6:00 pm**  
Police and Courts Building, 100 West Main Street  
Royse City, Texas

**A. CALL TO ORDER 6:01 PM BY MAYOR ELLIS**

Announce the presence of a quorum.

City Council

Members Present: Mayor, Clay Ellis  
Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 5, James Branch  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 4, Matt Wheatley – 6:12 pm  
Council Member Place 2, Russell Ratterree  
Council Member Place 3, Bruce Bradley  
Council Member Place 6, Tom Crowley

Member Absent: Council Member Place 1, Michael Holder

Staff Present: City Manager, Carl Alsabrook  
City Attorney, Jason Day  
City Secretary, Deborah Sorensen  
ACM/CFO, Shannon Raymond  
Finance Manager, Samantha Nelson  
Police Chief, Kirk Aldridge  
Customer Service Supervisor, Lisa Morton

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ellis gave invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

None

**D. RECESS CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:02 PM**

**E. PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:02 PM**

1. Take testimony concerning water and sewer utility and garbage rates increase.

No one spoke for or against.

**F. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:02 PM**

**G. RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:02 PM**

**H. BUSINESS**

1. Consider and act concerning adoption of an Ordinance approving an increase in water and sewer utility and garbage rates, and any matters related thereto.

Shannon Raymond stated water, sewer, and garbage rates were recently reviewed by Willdan financial services to determine adjustments necessary to maintain the financial health of the system, accommodate past and projected NTMWD rate increases and provide funding for upcoming capital projects. The last rate study was in 2018. Shannon introduced Dan Jackson, with Willdan. Dan Jackson gave a presentation regarding the 2023 Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Rate Study and Financial Forecast. The average utility has been increasing rates 5-6% per year; trend expected to continue. AWWA forecasts that water and wastewater rates across USA will triple in the next 15 years. Rate adjustments are primarily due to reasons beyond a utility's control – inflation, system replacement, etc. NTMWD water and wastewater increases will have a major impact on City's long-term rate plan. Cost of needed capital improvements and funding those improvements are increasing. Rate Plans will ensure that utility operates on a stand-alone basis and independent of assessments. Will result in financially-healthy utility that has ability to fund operations and capital needs. Will ensure that ratepayers pay only what it costs to provide service. Will allow capital investment into system to improve quality of service and provide a well-functioning system for future generations. Willdan is recommending implementation of a three year rate plan, with adjustments in March 2023, and January of 2024 and 2025. The recommendation for the first year is for wastewater only. He recommended to review the rate plan after three years. Royse City is slightly higher than the State average, however, is in the median compared to surrounding areas.

Council Member Ratterree made a motion to approve the Ordinance approving an increase in water and sewer utility and garbage rates. Council Member Bradley seconded the motion. **Motion passed 6-0.**

**I. ADJOURN AT 6:36 PM**

Mayor Pro Tem Branch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Crowley seconded the motion. **Motion passed 6-0.**

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROYSE CITY, TEXAS on this 14th day of March, 2023.**

  
James Branch, Mayor Pro Tem

**ATTEST:**

  
Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, MMC, City Secretary

