



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**June 22, 2021**

### **WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jung and Councilmember Cuco Ruiz and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee met for a work session. Discussion was held regarding the proposed ordinance for a vacant building registry. Some discussion was held regarding the City of La Junta's vacant building registry. Councilmember Ruiz commented that he would like to see a draft of a proposed ordinance that has the same language as La Junta's ordinance. Mayor Jung agreed with Councilmember Ruiz.

Others present: Gary Reed

### **REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.**

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Cuco Ruiz and Rich Geist

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace (zoom) City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee, Public Works Director Rick Long, Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales.

Others present: Gary Reed, Mike Hager with Element Engineering, Jennifer Fraser and Mary Jo Aragon

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Geist moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Geist, Herrera, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero

Motion carried 4-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2021
2. Special Event Permit – Marty Lee at the Rocky Ford Fairground July 3, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
3. Special Event Permit – Rocky Ford Fairground June 26, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight – Benefit fundraiser

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council. In addition, she reported on the following:

- The application for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was completed, submitted and she is waiting to hear when the funds will be sent.
- Criminal investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) informed City officials that a business had been operating in the old meat processing plant and that the business is suspected of releasing chemicals into the City wastewater.
- Shannon asked Council to review the proposed City fee schedule and be ready to discuss at a future work session.
- Shannon would like to schedule a supervisor and Council retreat in September of this year to develop long term goals.
- Shannon asked Council to authorize her to write a letter of intent to Reliant Construction for the completion of the public safety building for when the appraisal is completed.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski gave Council an update on the KBoom! grant opportunity. Stacey reported that at the last meeting the grant that was applied for was in the recommendation stage with the Colorado Health Foundation. If the City is approved for the grant, the demolition and replacement of the Library playground equipment will begin in October 2021.

Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee gave Council an update on the Music at the Junction scheduled for Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Slots for the golf tournament are almost full and 33 sponsors have signed up to support this event. Marty also reported on the public forums that were held on June 10. Many of the issues facing the City were discussed. There is another public forum scheduled for July 15, 2021, one at noon and the other at 6 p.m. at the Public Safety building.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported that she and City Manager Wallace attended an Action 22 legislative meeting. The Mayor attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) governance board meeting via Zoom and on June 21 the Mayor attended the CML annual meeting and was elected to the CML governing board. Mayor Jung will attend a CML board retreat on July 8 – 10 at Steamboat Springs. Mayor Jung asked Council to authorize her to attend the CML conference in Westminster in September. Councilmember Geist moved to allow Mayor Jung to attend the CML conference at Westminster in September. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Ruiz
NO	None
ABSENT	Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero
ABSTAIN	Jung

Motion carried 3-0, with 1 abstention

Councilmember Ruiz reported that the Library will be closed June 30 for a family fun day.

Councilmember Herrera reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting they made a recommendation that the Rocky Ford City Council approve a special use permit to Jennifer Fraser and Carley Fraser to allow the placement of a modular home on unused land. He also reported that the Rocky Ford Country Club had reached an agreement with a person that will open the bar and restaurant. The golf league is in full swing on Thursdays.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***After Hours – Turn Off and Turn On Fees***

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Council for a second opportunity to discuss adding a fee for after-hours calls. Rick gave Council additional information regarding the costs incurred by the City by having to call in a technician at night and on weekends. Discussion was held. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to another work session.



### ***Letter of Intent – Reliant Construction***

City Manager Wallace had previously discussed this matter during her Manager's Report. Councilmember Ruiz moved to authorize City Manager Shannon Wallace to write a letter of intent to Reliant Construction. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Ruiz, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Cordova

Motion carried 4-0

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Planning Commission Recommendation to Rocky Ford City Council to authorize a special use permit to Jennifer Fraser and Carley Fraser to place a modular on unused land at 18650 County Road EE.5***

Councilmember Ruiz moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and authorize a special use permit to Jennifer Fraser and Carley Fraser to place a modular on unused land at 18650 County Road EE.5. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Ruiz, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Corbin-Romero, Cordova, Grasmick

Motion carried 4-0

#### ***Discussion – Music Festival in the Park – Mary Jo Aragon***

Mary Jo Aragon introduced herself to Council and asked Council to host a music festival at the Gobin Building in September. Mary Jo gave Council a short biography of herself. The festival is in the very beginning stages of planning. Mary Jo explained that she and others want to have music and activities through a group called "La Familia". Mary Jo will be attending a meeting in Denver and she will have more information after that meeting. Councilmember Ruiz asked Mary Jo what the group's expectation of the City would be. Councilmember Ruiz asked Mary Jo to put together a plan for the event and then bring it back before Council.

#### ***Element Engineering – Master Plan for Sewer System***

Public Works Director Rick Long introduced Mike Hager with Element Engineering. Mike Hager gave Council a presentation of the master plan for the sewer system repair and replacement. Hager informed Council that the City's current system is at the end of its useful life and 80% of the lines in the City are failing. Mike Hager gave Council information about available funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and from other sources to begin the replacement. Hager and Rick Long asked Council for permission to start the process by submitting the preliminary engineering report. Some discussion was held. Councilmember Ruiz moved to authorize Rick Long and Mike Hager of Element Engineering to submit the preliminary engineering report. Councilmember Geist seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Ruiz, Geist, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero

Motion carried 4-0

#### ***Walnut Avenue Asphalt Project***

Public Works Director Rick Long had previously submitted an outline to Council regarding this project. The project will be funded by the state highway user's tax fund and also funding from the 1% infrastructure city sales tax. The cost for this project

will be \$109,209. Much discussion was held. Councilmember Ruiz moved to authorize the Walnut Avenue asphalt repurpose project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero

Motion carried 4-0

### ***Sensus System Upgrade***

Mayor Jung asked Public Works Director Rick Long to give Council information about the sensus upgrade. Rick Long advised Council that he did not feel this system was needed at the time it was implemented. Much money has been spent in upgrades just so the City can use this system. Many parts have been replaced in the current meters but the meters keep getting broken. Rick Long informed Council that he is very much against the proposed upgrade. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter indefinitely and they requested that Rick Long give them a long term plan regarding the costs associated with drive by meter reading.

### ***Policy Update – Employee PTO Cash Out***

City Manager Wallace had previously given information to Council regarding the proposed changes. Councilmember Geist moved to authorize changes to the PTO cash out policy as proposed by City Manager Wallace. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Ruiz, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Cordova

Motion carried 4-0

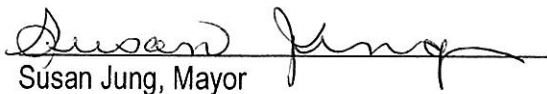
**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION**

Vacant Building Registry  
Fee Schedule

### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Geist and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned to meeting at 9:00 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:   
City Clerk

