



## ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

March 12, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, with Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace. Items on the work session agenda were Fair Board update from Sally Cope, and discussion of surplus property and salaries.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rachel Patrick, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall

Others present: Reuben Bat, Henry Ongondi, Peggy Sue Romero, Jolly Rose, Christian Burney.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **February 26, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Patrick. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson

NO None

Motion carried 7-0.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None**

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

It was moved by Councilmember Lee and seconded by Councilmember Jung to approve the agenda as presented. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson

NO None

Motion carried 7-0.

There were no consent items.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Councilmember Jung presented certificates of appreciation that she prepared and framed to the Rocky Ford First Responders, while Mayor Thompson read their names. About half the members of the police, fire and dispatch departments were able to attend this special recognition presentation. Those receiving their certificates at this evening's meeting were: Volunteer Firemen – Ute Bustamante, Brian Valencia, Brandon Dickenson, and Cody Kitch; Dispatcher Camea Baggs, Police Chief Angelo Griego; Police Officer Kyle Moore, Firemen – Nick Silvia and Andy Hartless, Fire Captain Curtis Johnson; Police Officer James

Lopez; Police Captain Carol Coates; Police Detective Tim Moore and Police Officer Cody Morris. Fire Chief Ray Gonzales was away attending training. Those who were unable to attend but still recognized were: Fire Chief Ray Gonzales; Fireman Jesse Smith; Police Officers – Justin Bethel, Brian Valencia; Dispatchers – June Ferraro, Patrick Arrona, Heidi Eddy, Erica Stelter; Volunteer Firemen – Douglas Ballard, Debora Cook, Ronald Cook, Gilbert Davis, Josh Feif, Antonio Garcia, Van Hollis, Nick Knapp, Wade Kurtz, Hannah Muth, Jeremy Muth, Garvin O'Hare, Cody Samuel, Daniel Santistevan, Shana Santistevan, Christine Smith, Megan Stulp, Jessie Wallace and Rick Weiss.

Police Chief Angelo Griego presented a special life-saving award, one of the department's highest honors, to Officer James Lopez. Because Officer Lopez responded promptly to a possible suicide call and did everything correctly, the victim survived.

Councilmember Susan Jung presented Councilmember Rachel Patrick with a special certificate of appreciation she made to mark Ms. Patrick's service to the City and to citizens of Rocky Ford. Tonight was Councilmember Patrick's last meeting because she is relocating to Illinois. Mayor Thompson and Council also expressed their appreciation for her service.

### **RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION**

Mayor Thompson read proposed Resolution #2, 2019 Series that he drafted. It was the general consensus of Council to change the wording "and the cost is similar to cost of suppliers elsewhere " to "and the cost from a local supplier is not more than five (5) % higher than cost elsewhere." Following discussion, Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #2, 2019 Series: A Resolution To Support Local Businesses** as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	Jung, Lee

Motion carried 5-2.

### **TASER PURCHASE**

Interim City Manager Wallace advised Council that the police department received a grant for new Tasers to replace the old, worn-out ones. While the grant will cover the total cost of the Tasers, the City purchased the equipment up front and will submit a copy of the invoice and draft payment to the funding agency for reimbursement. The police fund will temporarily show a debit for the amount until the approximately \$8,000.00 is reimbursed. Councilmember Patrick moved to approve and ratify payment of approximately \$8,000.00 from the police account for the Taser purchase, with the cost to be reimbursed to the City from the grant. Councilmember Hunter seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Interim City Manager Wallace told Council she gave her reports and updates during the work session. She had nothing to add at this time.

***City Attorney Bart Mendenhall:***

Henry Ongondi, owner of property at 1401 Chestnut Avenue in Rocky Ford, submitted a request last month to Planning Commission because he wished to subdivide the property so he can sell a house separately that is located at that address. Planning Commission denied the request due to zoning issues that need to be addressed and referred the item to Council for their review and possible action. City Attorney Mendenhall advised Council that they need to proceed with vacating enough of Chestnut Avenue and the alley to get the mobile homes back onto Mr. Ongondi's property. This requires a survey from Ongondi and a public hearing on the matter. The mobile homes encroach on the platted right of way, but they do not stick out in the part of the street or alley that is used for traffic. Vacating and transferring a few feet should not impede traffic or inconvenience the neighbors. If Council agrees to vacate a portion of the right of way, Mr. Ongondi must then submit a variance request to Planning Commission for the well house set back issue. Once that is approved, he can restart the request for subdivision of the property.

City Attorney Mendenhall then reported that he and Interim City Manager Wallace, representing the City of Rocky Ford, will meet with a federal magistrate to finalize settlement of an insurance claim filed by affected parties. It was the general consensus of Council to authorize Interim City Manager Wallace to accept the settlement on behalf of the City.

**MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES**

Councilmember Jung reported there was no Action 22 meeting. It was cancelled because most of the members attended a legislative briefing in Denver.

Councilmember Ruiz did not have a Library Board report. The board will meet Wednesday, March 13.

Councilmember Lee reported that OCLI purchased a hydro mulch machine. It will be used for reseeding at the closed landfill site 1, but it can also be used for medians, roadside and other areas where ground cover is needed. There is also the possibility to contract it out to other local entities.

Councilmember Patrick had no report. She said that it had been an honor and privilege to serve on the Rocky Ford City Council. Mayor Thompson responded that she will be missed on council and in the community.

There were no reports for Museum Board or Tree Board. Arts Commission met but did not have a quorum. Although they could not take any action, they did discuss upcoming events at the Grand Theater, like the free movie on March 20 sponsored by the Rocky Ford Police Department and Tobacco Education subdivision of Otero County Health Department.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None**


**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA**

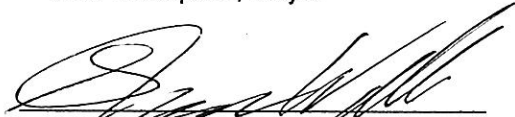
- Rocky Ford Country Club Lease Agreement
- Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement for Gobin Building
- Departmental Reports
- Work session with R2 School Board
- Review City Code

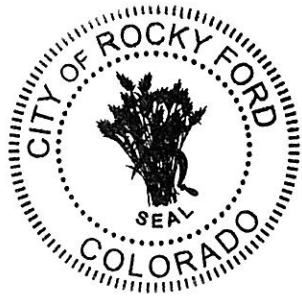
Councilmember Lee will make contact to set up a joint meeting with the R2 School Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Lee moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting at 7:59 p.m.

  
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J. E. Thompson, Mayor

  
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Shannon Wallace, Interim City Manager



ATTEST:

  
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Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk

\*Minutes were compiled from notes taken by Interim City Manager Wallace, in the absence of City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick.

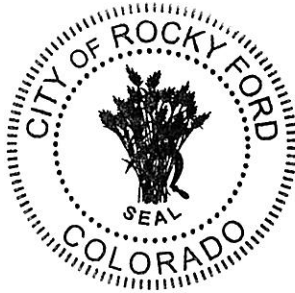
City of Rocky Ford  
Resolution 2 Series 2019

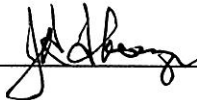
Whereas, it is in the interest of the City of Rocky Ford to support local businesses, which help fund the community through property and sales taxes, donations, and otherwise,

And, whereas, it is also in the interest of the City of Rocky Ford to obtain goods and services that meet the requirements of the City at the most affordable price,

Therefore, now be it resolved that when decisions are being made about where to obtain goods and services, the City of Rocky Ford shall, whenever the City's requirements are met, and the cost from a local supplier is not more than five percent higher than cost elsewhere, preference will be given to local firms.

Adopted this 12~~th~~ day of March, 2019



  
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Mayor  
City of Rocky Ford

Attest

  
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Clerk, City of Rocky Ford