



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 13, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Nicholas Martinez, Duane Gurule, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr, along with City Manager Shannon Wallace, Museum Curator Rob Marshall, Darla Marshall and Donna Bush met to have discussion with the Museum Board.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Robert Barron

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Robert Barron, Darla Marshall, Steve Cordova, Jaime Gutierrez, Jerry Baca, Steven Gill, Gary Massy, Marlon Hoagland and Thomas Martin

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Cordova read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Barron, 1104 Virginia, gave comment on tonight's work session regarding a City Manager performance review.

Marlon Hoagland, 408 N. 11th, has recently moved to Rocky Ford and commented that City ordinances are redundant and some have discrepancies. Hoagland would like to have better understanding of City Municipal Code.

Thomas Martin, 700 Sycamore, commented that City Manager Wallace is doing a good job.

STAFF REPORTS

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council but added the following:

- BNSF would like to have some discussion about closing some of the railroad crossings. Much discussion was held. Council will need to discuss the matter in a future work session or agenda. Councilmember Gurule asked Wallace to gather any information regarding complaints or comments regarding any crossings.
- The City purchased a camera to look into sewer lines.
- The Otero County Health Department would like to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the City of Rocky Ford to help with tobacco licensing.
- Wallace will be attending a dinner on the evening of June 27th and will be unable to attend the Council meeting that night.
- Wallace attended a webinar regarding infrastructure money.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported the following:

- Mayor Jung gave the opening welcome for the Cruisin Festival. A lot of people attended.
- Mayor Jung attended an award ceremony for Information Water Technologies (IWT) given by Black Hills Energy.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- The pool is open.
- Art's Commission is accepting credit cards and cash.
- OCLI/OPI will be meeting Monday.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported on Tree Board projects. Flower boxes were planted and there are also vegetables planted in the boxes. There are free seeds at the food pantry to share. The next meeting is the 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts attended the Chamber meeting last Thursday. The Chamber had questions regarding Len's Tavern advertising for an event on July 8. The Chamber also has an event at the Gobin Building that same night. The annual duck race is coming up on July 4th.
- The Pension Board will meet on Thursday.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Jung asked to add, under new business, 8.6 Donna Marshall Bush and 8.7 July 27th meeting and 8.8 City Manager evaluation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the additions requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. 6.1 Approval of previous meeting minutes for May 23, 2023 minutes, special meeting minutes from May 25, 2023, special meeting minutes from June 2, 2023 and special meeting minutes from June 7, 2023
2. 6.2 Application for Colorado Beer and Wine License Renewal – **Barbara Martinez, dba Fiesta Café, 400 North 11th Street, Rocky Ford**
3. 6.3 Application for Retail or Fermented Malt Beverage License Renewal – **Vincent and Priscilla Flores, dba Mission Deli, 401 North 14th Street, Rocky Ford**
4. 6.4 Application for Renewal of Retail Marijuana License – **Mesa Organics III, LTD, dba Star Buds, 1315 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO**

OLD BUSINESS

Update on 515 Elm Street – Steve Cordova with Total Concept and Cynthia Roebuck with CR Consultants, LLC

Steve Cordova gave Council and update on the housing project at 515 Elm Street. Much information was given and Cordova asked Council to authorize a letter of commitment under Proposition 123. After much discussion was held Councilmember Gurule moved to authorize an opt-in letter of commitment under Proposition 123. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 6-0

City Clean-up Days

Steven Gill and Gary Massy with the Sugar City Trash crew answered questions from Council regarding the cost of trash removal. Discussion was held regarding landfill fees and the next available dates available for the Sugar City crew. It was the general consensus of Council to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Sugar City and the City of Rocky Ford for \$4,500. Councilmember Gurule moved to authorize a memorandum of understanding between the Town of Sugar City and the City of Rocky Ford. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Gurule, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 6-0

Pool Update

City Manager Wallace gave Council an update of projects at the pool.

PUBLIC HEARING – *JODI'S GRILL, LLC DBA JODI'S GRILL, whose officer is Jodi Hughes has requested the licensing officials of the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado, to grant a Colorado Liquor Retail License at 209 North 2nd Street, Rocky Ford, CO*

Mayor Jung recessed the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m. and opened the public hearing.

Jodi Hughes gave Council information about the plans for the restaurant and answered questions from Council.

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek informed Council that all the necessary paperwork and fees have been received.

Robert Barron, 1104 Virginia, expressed concern about parking. Councilmember Gurule informed Barron that tonight's hearing is regarding the liquor license only.

Hearing no other comments from the public, Mayor Jung closed the public hearing at 8:12 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the request to grant a Colorado Liquor Retail License at 209 North 2nd Street, Rocky Ford. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

YES Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Gurule, Cordova, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Herrera

Motion carried 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

New Chief of Police Update

City Manager Wallace informed Council that that Sean McDonough accepted the position and will start in July.

City Paid Holidays – Possible Changes

Councilmember Gurule commented that there are two (2) city holidays back-to-back in October. Gurule expressed that at the time this matter was approved, he did not realize that both Mother Cabrini Day and Columbus Day were on the holiday schedule. Councilmember Gurule moved to remove Columbus Day as a city paid holiday schedule to either approve Mother Cabrini Day or Columbus Day. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Much discussion was held. Voting results were:

YES Kerr, Martinez, Gurule, Cordova

NO Roberts, Jung

ABSENT Herrera

Motion carried 4-2

City of Rocky Ford Planning Commission – Recommendation to Deny Special Use for Development

Councilmember Roberts moved to table this matter a future date. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. After much discussion was held. Councilmember Roberts asked to withdraw her motion. Councilmember Martinez also withdrew his second.

Councilmember Roberts moved to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the application for special use. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 6-0

Proposal by Jefferson Intermediate School

City Manager Wallace reported that this was informational only. Some discussion was held.

Handicap Parking at 409 South 6th Street

Thomas Martin, owner of 409 S. 6th Street, gave Council information on the current occupant and asked Council to consider placing a handicap sign as neighbors block the driveway and is unable to have oxygen delivered and emergency crews can't get to her very easily. Discussion was held. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the City to place a handicap sign in front of the home. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Jung
NO	Martinez
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 5-1

Donna Marshall Bush

Donna Bush informed Council that the Museum Board is filing an official complaint against City Manager Wallace regarding money designated for the Museum and how the money got absorbed back into the City General Fund.

Colorado Municipal League Conference – June 27th

Some discussion was held as Mayor Jung and City Manager Wallace will both be attending functions at the CML conference. Mayor Jung asked Council to vacate the regular meeting on June 27, 2023. It was the general consensus of Council to leave the regular meeting scheduled.

City Manager Performance Evaluation


Mayor Jung asked that Council not require a performance evaluation for the City Manager's contract. Much discussion was held regarding pros and cons. No further action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

Councilmember Martinez moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 9:40 p.m.



Duane Gurule, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:  Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

