



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

April 9, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Items on the work session agenda were discussion of putting additional 1% sales tax question on November 2019 election ballot and updates by Police Chief Angelo Griego and Public Works/Water Director Rick Long. Others in attendance were City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Dexter Buck, Thomas Martin, James Massengill, Peggy Sue Romero, Gerri Clark, Jolly Rose, Daryl Grasmick and Laura Thompson.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session at 7:15 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Barbara Hunter

Staff: City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Sarah Dillon, Dexter Buck, Tom and Tracey Martin, Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Romero, Jolly Rose, Daryl Grasmick and Laura Thompson.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| YES | Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson |
| NO | None |

Motion carried 4-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Peggy Sue Romero advised Council she still has concerns regarding purchase of county road grader. She also thinks that Council should look at salaries for police department and make them comparable to other municipalities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Jung to approve the agenda with consent items as presented. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| YES | Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson |
| NO | None |

Motion carried 4-0.

Consent items approved by Council were:

- Three special event permits for B.P.O.E #1147, 301 N 9th, Rocky Ford:
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Friday, May 24, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

- Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal – Mission Deli, 401 N 14th, Rocky Ford, CO.
- Job Descriptions for Part-Time Accounting Clerk/Cashier, Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic, Park Maintenance Specialist I & II and Full Time Parks & Recreation Director.

ANNOUNCE CANDIDATES FOR WARD II COUNCIL VACANCY

Mayor Thompson announced that the three residents who submitted letters of interest for the vacant Council Ward II seat were Dexter Buck, Thomas Martin and James Massengill. He then called them forward for the interviews. James Massengill, who was present at the Council worksession earlier, was not present for the regular meeting. Dexter Buck and Thomas Martin came forward and sat in front of Council for the interviews. Council took turns asking the candidates a question and then giving them the opportunity to answer.

Council chose to vote on a ballot for their Ward II choice. They marked the name of the person chosen and then signed their name to the paper. The four ballots were given to City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick to tally, who then announced that it was a tie vote, 2-2.

Following a short discussion regarding how to break the tie, Councilmember Jung moved to appoint Dexter Buck to the vacant Ward II Council seat. Motion then died for lack of a second.

It was then moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to appoint Thomas Martin to the vacant Ward II Council seat. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|----------------|
| YES | Ruiz, Hunter |
| NO | Jung, Thompson |

It was a tie vote, 2-2, so motion did not carry.

Following discussion regarding how best to proceed, Councilmember Jung moved to continue the vote for Ward II Council seat appointment until the next meeting, in the hopes that more Councilmembers will be present. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hunter. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| YES | Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson |
| NO | None |

Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION OF ROAD GRADER PURCHASE

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Ruiz to table the discussion of the purchase of a road grader from Otero County until the next meeting. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| YES | Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson |
| NO | None |

Motion carried 4-0.

TRI-COUNTY FAMILY HOUSING "CRUISIN' INTO SUMMER"

Sarah Dillon, Executive Director of Tri-County Family Care Center, presented her plans for their 14th Annual "Cruisin' Into Summer" event on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Tri-County is partnering with Total Concept for this event. Councilmember Jung moved to approve the Request to Use Public Right-of-Way, which includes closure of designated streets, as presented, and to waive the vendor fees for participating vendors

with the understanding that sales tax would be collected on their sales at the event and submitted to the State for reimbursement to the City. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| YES | Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson |
| NO | None |

Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

In the absence of Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick gave Council copies of the draft of the Gobin Building Complex Lease that Shannon prepared. Council is supposed to review the draft and make any suggestions or changes they would like to see. Council was also informed that Tracey Martin from Norm Murphy Realty was the only candidate who had shown interest in listing surplus City property for sales. Council can discuss these two issues at the next meeting.

City Attorney Bart Mendenhall will investigate the additional 1% sales tax ballot question for the next election. It was noted that sales tax questions do better in the odd-numbered municipal election years rather than the even-numbered general election years.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Jung reported on the March 31st Rocky Ford Swimming Pool Commission meeting. Cindy Abert, pool manager, has life guards lined up and everything ready to go. The commission anticipates keeping pool prices same as last year, with the exception of raising concession prices. Plans are to have the pool up and running for Blue Marlin practices and to open for Jump Start.

Councilmember Hunter reported Tree Board will meet next week. Phyllis Adkins, Tree Board chairman, will be retiring from Tree Board and moving from the area soon. Jerry Sitton is willing to serve as Tree Board chairman when Ms. Adkins leaves. Councilmember Hunter asked that Public Works Director Rick Long be directed to check on watering of new trees that were planted at cemetery. The trees were planted with money from the grant Tree Board received and would need to be replaced at City's expense if they are lost.

Mayor Thompson reported the Arts Commission met Monday. The Grand Theater is still operating in the black, barely. The Friday night crowds at the theater are dwindling.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Peggy Sue Romero asked for results of the Lisa Carter settlement. City Attorney Mendenhall advised her that it is still in negotiation. The lead attorney for the City is from CIRSA.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA

- Rocky Ford Country Club Lease Agreement
- Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement for Gobin Building Complex
- Joint work session with R2 School Board
- Review City Code
- Discussion and possible approval of purchase of Otero County road grader
- City property list for sale
- City Manager contract

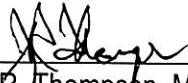
EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was the general consensus of Council to table the executive session until the next meeting when hopefully more members will be present.


ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Jung moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting at 8:55 p.m.





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk