



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**October 25, 2022**

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

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Duane Gurule, Larry Herrera, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist and Norman Railton, along with City Manager Shannon Wallace listened to a presentation given by Benefit Health Advisors Brian Hillier and Mark Hillier regarding City of Rocky Ford employee benefits 2023 renewal.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Nicholas Martinez

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Sherry Cordova (via Zoom), Rich Geist and Norman Railton

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz, Police Captain Carol Coates and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Mary & Harry Nelson, Leon Ortega and Diane Marshall

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Leon Ortega thanked Council for removing the trailer from 606 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Ortega advised Council that the owner of the property had erected an additional fort right next to Mr. Ortega's fence. Mr. Ortega was out of town on business and he was informed that the fort caught fire and burned his fence and a tree in his yard. Mr. Ortega is concerned about the situation and is concerned that this will continue to happen until Council does something.

Diana Marshall asked Council to check the status of barriers at Crystal Lake. The barriers were taken down for the Arkansas Valley Fair's Demolition Derby. Marshall would like the barriers put back up for hiking and walking with no motorized vehicles.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- The first reading of the 2023 budget will be schedule for public hearing on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, with possible first reading of the ordinance. Auditors are done with 2021 audit and will provide Shannon with updated numbers.
- Marijuana licensing and application fees are confusing. After some discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to charge the \$1,250 for marijuana and retail licensing, per license.
- Michael Bethel who owns 701 Sycamore would like to do a quit claim deed to the city. After some discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to authorize City Manager Shannon Wallace to move forward with the quit claim deed.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported to following:

- Mayor Jung attended a mayor summit.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Arts Commission met and has been discussing ideas to raise revenues. Regular meetings will be scheduled.
- Gurule was invited to talk to the first-grade classes at Washington School.
- Gurule thanked the Fire Department for National Fire Prevention Week program.
- The home weatherization program is open and applications are available.
- Gurule thanked, in advance, all who will have Halloween programs for the children.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Diane Marshall gave an update on the Tree Board. The Board is working on the Tree City USA distinction, Arbor Day and Tree's for Tomorrow. Summer flower pots were successful and donations have been received for some memorial tributes.

Councilmember Geist reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Railton reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales gave Council information regarding the wild land fire response. Chief Gonzales is asking for additional staff in the 2023 to expand the fire department's nationwide capabilities. Much discussion was held.

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

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. City Manager Shannon Wallace requested to change item 9.1 under new business to presentation of budget. Councilmember Gurule moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the requested change. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Geist, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from October 11, 2022

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Presentation of 2023 Budget***

City Manager Wallace informed Council that the public hearing regarding the budget will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 during the next regular City Council meeting and ordinance #969 will be presented for first reading.

### ***Employee Benefits Renewal***

This matter was discussed during the work session. Councilmember Geist moved to renew the 2023 employee benefits with CIGNA at a 7.4% increase and a minimum of \$20,000 refund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller

Motion carried 6-0

### ***City Manager Contract Renewal***

Councilmember Geist moved to approve the city manager contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Railton. Voting results were:

YES	Railton, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO	Cordova, Gurule
ABSENT	Fuller

Motion carried 4-2

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **Rocky Ford Canal and Catlin Canal Shares**

Some discussion was held regarding the Rocky Ford Canal shares and whether or not to lease them. Discussion was also held regarding the Catlin Canal shares.

### **Crab Apple Tree at City Hall**

City Manager Wallace reported that she had received some complaints regarding the dangers of all the dropped crab apples. Tree Board President Diane Marshall asked Council not to cut down a living tree when so many other dead trees need to be taken care of. Much discussion was held.

### **Extending Trash Route**

City Manager Wallace reported that Public Works Director Rick Long would like Council to consider the possibility of extending the trash route for up to ten (10) miles out of city limits.

### **Reviewing Section 7 Municipal Code**

City Manager Wallace asked Council to review section 7 municipal code and consider possible changes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

J.R. Thompson asked Council to consider appointing an alternate board member for the OCLI/OPI committees.

Councilmember Herrera mention that Jack Barker with Innovative Water Technologies just received an award for having the coolest product in Colorado. Herrera informed all that the VFW donated flags to the American Legion.

Mayor Jung mentioned that the Colorado Municipal League (CML) staff had voted that the CML District 6 meeting was the best.

Nicholas Martinez asked for clarification and an update regarding the USDA funding for Walnut Street.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 9:23 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk

