



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

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

Mayor Jung and Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Duane Gurule. Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom), City Manager Shannon Wallace, Library board members Mary Dell, Ed Brown and Museum board member Diana Marshall met to discuss the possibility of combining the Library Friends and the Museum Friends to make one board.

Others present: Gary Reed

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Duane Gurule, Daryl Grasmick and Rich Geist

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (viz Zoom)

Others present: James Massengill, Gary Reed, Joaquin Massengill, Steven Cordova, Catherine Runy. Cuco Ruiz and Cynthia Roebuck (viz Zoom)

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

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. City Manager Shannon Wallace asked to add two items to the agenda under new business, E. Benefits Discussion and F. Budget. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the added items. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES                      Gurule, Grasmick, Geist, Jung

NO                        None

ABSENT                Herrera, Corbin-Romero and Cordova

Motion carried 4-0

Consent Item approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2021
2. Application for Liquor License Renewal - ***Taqueria Mexico #2, 1720 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO***
3. Application for Liquor License Renewal - ***J & M Liquor Store, 1200 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO***

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diana Marshall thanked all the volunteers that worked to complete the new playground at Library Park and thanked Duane Gurule and Small Town Projects for the food donations. Diana reported that she has been working with Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski to get some trees planted. Diana also reported that she has applied for a couple of grants that do not require non-profit status and she hopes to hear about those at the first of the new year. The tree board will meet the first Monday of the month.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- The city was approved for a REDI grant in the amount of \$45,000 to be used for training classes
- The resolution for the support of 205 N Main will be on tonight's agenda
- A letter was received from Anthony George Epley and a copy was given to Council
- Claim for payment received from CenturyLink for a fiber optic line that was damaged on Highway 71
- Information was added to the Council packet regarding tents in yards

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported that the dedication at Library Park on Friday was really nice and the William "Bill" Hodges family was very appreciative. The Balloon Festival was on Saturday. There was a parade on Saturday that was well attended and the atmosphere was very festive. The balloons were not able to fly on Sunday but they did have a breakfast.

Councilmember Gurule commented that the Library Park playground was complete and he expressed his appreciation for all the volunteers. Gurule commented that some of the grant money from the playground was spent locally helping our businesses. Gurule attended the dinner, for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Balloon Festival, with pilots, sponsors and crews. The weather was good and many people attended.

Gurule reported that, on Saturday night, a community member reported finding needles laying in the street near Washington Avenue. This person called the non-emergency number to report it. Police Officer Guzman responded to the call and took care of the matter to protect the community.

On Wednesday, community members will be out at 4:00 a.m. to do a count of un-housed people in Rocky Ford. Teams will spread out and hope to get a count by 8:00 a.m. The information will be used to support a development for a solution to this problem.

Gurule has received calls regarding Liberty School and 7<sup>th</sup> and Sycamore, wondering what the city can do to clean up those properties. City Manager Wallace commented that a certified letter with many code violations has been sent to the owner of Liberty School. 7<sup>th</sup> and Sycamore property is still under court litigation with the insurance company's and nothing can be done yet.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) and Otero County Partners, Inc. (OPI) have not yet met for the month. Grasmick had nothing to report for now.

Councilmember Geist had nothing to report.

**STAFF REPORTS** - None

Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee reported that he has been in contact with some people from Arizona that are interested in moving a company to Rocky Ford that manufactures lift kits for vehicles and one building they are looking at is Liberty School and they are in discussion with the owner.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Budget Information***

City Manager Wallace gave Council worksheets with information regarding the budget and then explained each worksheet. No further discussion or action was taken. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the budget. Councilmember Geist seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

***Proclamation – Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.***

Katherine Ramirez advised Council that she wanted to raise awareness for hospice and palliative care. Arkansas Valley Hospice has serviced the area for over thirty-six (36) years and their mission is to support people in the final phases of life, comfort the grieving and educate the community about end-of-life care. Councilmember Grasmick moved to authorize Mayor Jung to sign and proclaim November 2021 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

***Resolution #8 – Series 2021 – A Resolution for the Renovation and Rehabilitation of 205 N. Main Street***

Council previously authorized the Mayor Jung to sign a letter of support at the request of Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee. Councilmember Gurule moved to approve and adopt ***Resolution #8-Series 2021 – A Resolution for the Renovation and Rehabilitation of 205 N. Main Street***. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

***Recommendation from the City of Rocky Ford Planning Commission – To authorize a special use permit to Tri-County Housing Inc., dba Total Concept to demolish an existing multi-family structure and replace it with a new multi-family construction at 515 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford***

Mayor Jung reported that the Rocky Ford Planning Commission met on Monday, November 8, 2021 and conducted a use by review hearing and major impact review. The Commission voted to make a recommendation to the Rocky Ford City Council to authorize a special use permit to Tri-County Housing, Inc., dba Total Concept to demolish an existing multi-family structure and replace it with a new multi-family construction at 515 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO.

Steven Cordova gave Council information regarding the plans for the new structure. There will be thirty (30) units, twenty-four (24) will be one-bedroom units and six (6) will be two-bedroom units. Councilmember Gurule moved to authorize a special use permit to Tri-County Housing, Inc., dba Total Concept to demolish an existing multi-family structure and replace it with a new multi-family construction at 515 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

***Ordinance Update – Municipal Code 8-10-90***

Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz requested that Council amend the current municipal code 8-10-90 to add anyone staying in a tent for over seven (7) days. Ortiz gave Council a slideshow presentation showing the verbiage of what several other city's codes are and showing pictures of some examples of tents here in Rocky Ford. Much discussion was held. Councilmember Geist made a motion to make the requested changes to the Municipal Code as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

YES	Grasmick, Geist, Jung
NO	Gurule
ABSENT	Herrera, Cordova, Corbin-Romero

Motion carried 3-1

Mayor Jung made the comment to Natasha that she is proud of her progress in the few months that she has worked as Code Enforcement Officer and thanked her.

***Benefits***

City Manager Wallace recommended that Council pay the difference of approximately \$25 increase for employee insurance and vision insurance. Councilmember Grasmick moved to have the City pay the additional increase of approximately \$25 for employee medical and vision insurance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Reed commended the office staff at City Hall. Gary commented that the front office is better than it has ever been in the past.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION**

None mentioned

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Grasmick and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk