



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**JULY 13, 2021**

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

Mayor Jung and Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Daryl Grasmick and Sherri Cordova, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (zoom), City Manager Shannon Wallace, Finance/HR Director Azucena Estrada and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales met for a work session. Discussion was held regarding the budget for 2022. City Manager Wallace wants to have the budget calendar approved early due to the elections this year. Discussion was held regarding the ARPA money and the possible use of this money to complete the Public Safety Building. Shannon informed all that the money may be spent on broadband, infrastructure or public safety. A meeting was held with the City Auditors, Jeremy Muth from First National Bank, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and Ray Gonzales concerning the appraisal of the public safety building. Discussion was held regarding the property currently being leased to Jack Barker and the results of an inspection that was completed. City Manager Wallace reminded Council that her contract will be coming due and also her annual performance review and she suggested that Council consider this matter in October.

Others present: Gary Reed and Bob Offut

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Daryl Grasmick and Sherry Cordova

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via zoom), Finance/HR Director Azucena Holland and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales.

Others present: Gary Reed, Michael Montano, Desiree Montano, Lisa Perez, Duane Gurule, Thomas Martin and Bob Offut

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

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Cordova asked Council to allow a change of date on the special event permit of the American Legion Post #8 from July 17, 2021 to August 7, 2021 6 p.m. to Midnight. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda, with the change made by Councilmember Cordova. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Geist, Herrera, Ruiz-resignation not formally accepted yet

Motion carried 4-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2021
2. Renewal of Medical Marijuana License – **Rocky Ford Station, 1701 Elm**

3. Liquor License Renewal – *Fiesta Café – 400 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street*
4. Special Event Permit – *American Legion Post #8 – at the Fairground Expo Building – to sponsor a boxing competition on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported to Council on the following:

- The proposed ordinance for a vacant building registry still needs to be addressed regarding verbiage, fees and penalties.
- The City of Rocky Ford fee schedule needs to be finalized and will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Public Works Director Rick Long has requested that the use tax be raised from 3% to 4%. Ordinance #961 is on the agenda for tonight's meeting.
- Lisa Perez is on the agenda tonight to give a presentation for a possible Youth Center.
- Juneteenth has been passed as a federal holiday.
- Museum board decided not to renew the contract with the Curator Rob Marshall. Some discussion was held. It was the general consensus of Council that City Manager Shannon Wallace return Rob Marshall back to his job with a full investigation into his removal by the museum board. Council agreed that the museum board is not in a position to terminate a city employee.

**STAFF REPORTS** - None

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung thanked Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and the whole Rocky Ford Fire Department for their hard work in putting on the Fourth of July fireworks show. Mayor Jung also thanked the Rocky Ford Police Department for their help in directing traffic out of the fireworks show.

Mayor Jung reported that she attended her first Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board meeting in Steamboat Springs and she reported that it was very beneficial. While at this meeting, Mayor Jung received kudos for the Rocky Ford Fire Department for their willingness to assist with wildfires.

Mayor Jung read to Council a letter of resignation from Ward III Councilmember Cuco Ruiz. Councilmember Grasmick moved to accept the resignation and to publish the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Letters of interest will be due by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Council will consider any letters received at the regular Rocky Ford City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

Councilmember Grasmick reported that the Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) are in the process of building a new shed at the landfill and the shed will house equipment and will also have an office, kitchen and restrooms. The landfill has been having another company shred tires, bale them and sell them to farmers that use them for wind break for their cattle. Otero

Partners, Inc. (OPI) has some funds available to loan to new or existing businesses in Otero and Las Animas counties. Grasmick also reported that there are nine new businesses looking to move to Otero County. Grasmick reported that the Expo building still has some issues with the structure bricks falling apart and it still hasn't been addressed. Grasmick asked about the progress of the sewer repairs at the Expo building. Mayor Jung responded that all repairs will be made prior to the Fair.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Tree Board is getting restructured. Councilmember Corbin-Romero made a motion to appoint Darla Marshall as a new tree board member. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

Corbin-Romero mentioned that the Rotary Club has been doing a great job cleaning the hurry-back park and some citizens have asked if the City would be able to put a picnic table there. City Manager Wallace will be checking with Rick Long and Stacey Milenski to see if there are any picnic tables available. The Tree Board will start cleaning the east side of the City. The Tree Board went to the Fairgrounds to check the trees there and Corbin-Romero reports there are a lot of trees that need to be trimmed prior to the Arkansas Valley Fair. The Tree Board will be contacting Donna Davis to see if there are any grants that can be applied for.

Councilmember Cordova reported that she will attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting in August.

**OLD BUSINESS** - **None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Lisa Perez – Presentation Regarding a Possible Youth Center***

Lisa Perez addressed Council and asked them to consider allowing her and her family to open a family youth center where the Rocky Ford Fitness Center was located. Perez would like to provide food, games and other activities for youth and family members. Perez would like to do some fixing up and improvements in lieu of paying rent but she would eventually be interested in purchasing the building if the City wants to sell. The Museum Board is currently using the upstairs portion of this building for restoration of artifacts and they would probably have to relocate. Council asked Ms. Perez to talk to the City Manager and develop a business plan to present to Council with more information at a later meeting. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to a later date.

### ***Employee Holidays – Change to Policy***

Juneteenth was recently named a federal holiday. Councilmember Grasmick made a motion to add June 19<sup>th</sup> to the employee holiday observance list policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0



### ***Approval of Budget Calendar***

During the City Manager's report, the City Manager advised Council that the budgeting for 2022 needs to be escalated this year due to the general election in November. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the budget calendar.

Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

### ***Ordinance #961 – An Ordinance Amending Section 3.14 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code and Ordinance #891, Providing for the Method of Application of a 4.0 Percent Use Tax to the Use or Consumption of Construction and Building Material Purchased at Retail***

Public Works Director Rick Long has requested that the use tax be raised by 1 percent. Councilmember Cordova moved to approve ***Ordinance #961 – An Ordinance Amending Section 3.14 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code and Ordinance #891, Providing for the Method of Application of a 4.0 Percent Use Tax to the Use or Consumption of Construction and Building Material Purchased at Retail***, on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Montano, 600 Park, Rocky Ford, addressed Council regarding a storm drainage issue of North 8<sup>th</sup> Street. When it rains it often floods and also floods his basement. Mr. Montano informed Council that he has previously spoken with the Public Works Department but the issue remains. Councilmember Cordova volunteered to speak to Public Works Director Rick Long to talk about a possible solution to this problem.

Tom Martin, Rocky Ford resident advised Council that crime in this area is bad and he requests the Police Department to have a better presence in the City.

Martin commented that he is opposed to the proposed vacant building registry and he mentioned many reasons as to why he is against the registry.

Martin also addressed Council about a burnt building that is by the Grand Theater on Main Street. Martin reports that he owns a building right next to it. Tom reported that he has a letter from Alan Baker with Otero County. Martin claims that Alan Baker told him that the letter was also given to the City Manager, City Attorney and Fire Chief requesting repair or removal of that building. Mayor Jung asked Martin if he had talked to the owner of the building. Martin commented that the owner does not care and refuses to do anything about the building. Tom Martin threatened a possible lawsuit against the City for not dealing with a privately owned building.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION**

Museum Board  
Fee Schedule

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Grasmick and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned to meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Susan Jung  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: Rebecca Kormanek  
City Clerk

