



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

April 23, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met with City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Items on the work session agenda were presentation of health benefits by Mike Weber, advisor with CDPHE, and discussion of city manager agreement. Several members of the community also attended.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Dexter Buck, Tom and Tracey Martin, Jessie Klein, 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 **April 9, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Hunter, Thompson

NO None

ABSTAIN Lee, Geist

Motion carried 4-0, with 2 abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Peggy Sue Romero asked Council if it was legal to park a 5th Wheel and live in it in a residential area. Councilmember Ruiz reported that people were living in camper(s) on property on North 13th Street where the structure had been demolished and he would also like to know. The City Manager and City Attorney will review the ordinances to determine answer.

Gerri Clark asked Council several questions regarding the city manager agreement and whether Ms. Wallace would resign as Swink Mayor now that she would be named city manager.

Jolly Rose told Council she totally supported Shannon Wallace as city manager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Lee to delete item 7, executive session, and approve the rest of agenda as amended. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson

NO None
Motion carried 6-0.

There were no consent items.

CITY PROPERTY LIST FOR SALE

Following discussion, Councilmember Jung moved to add The IDEA Place to the list of City properties to be sold. Councilmember Hunter seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Hunter
NO Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Thompson
Motion failed 2-4.

Following more discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to pursue sale of the former Boys and Girls Club in the 200 block of South Main and the former energy company building at 800 Chestnut.

SELECTION OF COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD II COUNCIL VACANCY

Two Councilmembers were absent at the previous Council meeting, so Mayor Thompson called Dexter Buck and Thomas Martin forward to give those Councilmembers the opportunity to question the candidates. Following a brief question and answer session, Mayor Thompson asked the Council's pleasure in selecting the new councilmember. A ballot vote resulted in a tie, which was the result at the previous meeting. It was then moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to appoint Thomas Martin to the vacant Councilmember position in Ward II. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Lee, Hunter
NO Jung, Geist, Thompson.
Motion failed in a tie vote, 3-3.

It was the general consensus that none of the Councilmembers would change their vote, so discussion was held regarding how to break the tie. Mayor Thompson did not choose to recuse himself from voting, so Councilmember Lee said that he would recuse himself from voting. Councilmember Jung then moved to appoint Dexter Buck to the vacant Councilmember position in Ward II. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Geist, Thompson
NO Ruiz, Hunter
ABSTAIN Marty Lee
Motion passed 3-2, with one abstaining.

City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick administered the oath of office to Dexter Buck. He then took his seat as Councilmember Ward II with Council.

DISCUSSION OF ROAD GRADER PURCHASE

It was the general consensus to table the discussion of the purchase of a road grader from Otero County until the next meeting. The County Commissioners did not vote yet on selling of the road grader, so hopefully Councilmember Lee will have those details at the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

The City Manager Employment Agreement was discussed earlier in the work session. It was noted that City Attorney Bart Mendenhall will revise three different items in the agreement. Councilmember Lee moved to approve the City Manager Employment Agreement with Shannon Wallace with the changes noted by Council during the work session. Councilmember Jung seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO None
ABSTAIN Buck

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstaining.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported on the following item:

- She met with Cindy Abert, pool manager. Everything is on schedule and staff has been hired.
- Ms. Wallace will attend a CWLC Women's Conference in Denver on Monday, April 29, 2019.
- She will meet with the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce May 2 to discuss the Gobin Building Complex lease.
- A rough draft of the country club lease agreement was prepared for their discussion in May.
- Timeline for completion of the public safety building is the end of May, first part of June.
- She met with Jessie Klein, Total Office Solutions, to discuss furnishings for the public safety building.
- City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and she will further review what needs to be done for the Ongondi request to either vacate a portion of street by his property in 1400 block of Chestnut or granting of a right of way.

MAYOR-CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES - None

PRESENTATION BY JESSIE KLEIN – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING FURNISHINGS

Jessie Klein from Total Office Solutions gave a power point presentation of possible furnishings and options for the new public safety building.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Thomas Martin approached Council with his concerns regarding the fencing that was being erected next to his property at 415 N Main. City Manager Wallace and City Attorney Mendenhall will look into this.

Peggy Sue Romero still has concerns regarding city employees using and maintaining heavy equipment.

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

- Department reports

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lee moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting at 8:40 p.m.





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk