



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Scott Kerr, Nicole Roberts, Nicholas Martinez, Duane Gurule, Sherry Cordova and Larry Herrera, as well as, City Manager Shannon Wallace met with Mark Hillier regarding Cigna employee benefit renewal rates for 2024.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Robert Barron

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Nicholas Martinez, Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr
Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Finance Director Kyle Crosswhite, Chief of Police Sean McDonagh and Police Captain Carol Coates

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Robert Barron, Steve Hicks AVH, Laura Hicks AVH, Amber Covington, AVH, Sarah Dillon, Donna Bush, Darla Marshall, Otero County Sheriff Shawn Mobley, Otero County Undersheriff Matthew Wallace and Zak Gardner of Rustic Charm Chainsaw Carvings.

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Barron spoke to Council to report that he has seen City employees cleaning the streets with none of them wearing a safety vest, and again on 9th Street, another City employee cleaning the street with no safety vest. Public Works Director Rick Long drove up and got out of his vehicle, walked around and he had no safety vest on. Barron pointed out that (OSHA) Occupational Safety Health requires that safety vests must be worn. Barron also asked why a public sidewalk had been closed. Barron also reported that he had seen employees driving vehicle with trailers that had no lights.

STAFF REPORTS

NONE

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Shannon will be on vacation starting Friday, November 17th through the next weekend. Shannon will not have cell or email service.
- The water meter contract has been given to City Attorney Nathan Shultz for his review.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Jung reported the following:
- Mayor Jung will present lifesaving awards later in the meeting.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that he had been traveling and had nothing to report to tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Colorado Municipal League (CML) Senate Bill 23-105 to ensure equal pay for equal work passed.
- Gurule attended the chili supper on the 27th.
- Gurule attended the Arkansas Valley Fairground and Crystal Lake Steering Committee meeting on November 1.
- The Arts Commission will meet in December.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- The Library Board will meet on Wednesday, but Cordova reported that the roof had been fixed.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that, due to the death of Chamber Manager Peggy Meyer, the Chamber of Commerce Board will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Kerr reported that the Museum Board met and discussed getting their 501-3C. Donna Bush gave information on some museum project. There will be a "night at the museum" coming up and the topic will be a new species of dinosaur.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Shannon Wallce asked to add, under new business, 8.4 Arkansas Valley Hospice Proclamation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the requested addition. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for October 24, 2023
2. Application for Renew of Retail Marijuana License – **Rocky's Best, LLC, 1701 Elm Ave., Rocky Ford**

3. Application for Renewal of Colorado Beer and Wine License – **Rocky Ford BPOE #1147, Rocky Ford Elk’s Club, 301 North 9th Street, Rocky Ford**
4. Application for Renewal of Retail Liquor or Fermented Malt Beverage License, **Taqueria Mexico #2, 1720 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford.**

PUBLIC HEARING FOR POST-AWARD, THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING IS TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD IN CARRYING OUT THEIR ROCKY FORD MEDICAL CLINIC RENOVATION WHICH WAS FINANCED WITH FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO.

Mayor Jung recessed the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. for the public hearing. There being no comment from the public, Mayor Jung closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:17 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

Finance Director Kyle Crosswhite informed Council on the progress of the 2024 budget. Crosswhite commented that he knows it’s a lot of information and requested that Council contact him, any time, if they have questions.

Lifesaving Awards

Mayor Jung advised all about an incident on August 31st where a woman was stabbed multiple times. Police Captain Carol Coates and Otero County Undersheriff Matthew Mobley responded and provided life-saving first aid within two minutes of the call being aired. Without their coordinated response to treat her injuries at the scene, the woman may have died.

Police Chief Sean McDonagh presented a plaque and a lifesaving medal to Captain Carol Coates. Otero County Sheriff Shawn Mobley presented a plaque and a lifesaving medal to Otero County Undersheriff Matthew Wallace.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Benefits

This matter was discussed during the work session. Councilmember Herrera moved to accept and authorize the new rates for employee benefits from Cigna. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Some discussion was held regarding the “mental health” option for employees. Councilmember Gurule moved to amend the motion to accept and authorize, to include, the mental health benefit. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

Donation from Zak Gardner – Rustic Chainsaw Carvings

Zak Gardner addressed Council and public to express his appreciation for all the hard work being done by the Rocky Ford Police Department by donating a handmade carving.

Announcement of the Catlin and Rocky Ford Ditch Shares

City Manager Shannon Wallace informed Council that it's about the time of year to put the water shares up for lease. It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to announce the Catlin and Rocky Ford Canal shares and to publish in the newspaper. Voting results were:

YES Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Herrera, Gurule, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Arkansas Valley Hospice Proclamation

City Manager Wallace read aloud the proclamation. Councilmember Roberts moved to authorize Mayor Jung to sign the Arkansas Valley Hospice Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

YES Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0


PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Herrera gave Council an update of how Elk's grant money is being spent.

Robert Barron reported that he recently had contact with water department employee Cody Baylor. Barron wanted to commend him for going above and beyond the call of duty for investigating water running down the street. Barron was draining his pool.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Roberts and there being no further business, Mayor Jung recessed the regular meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Mayor Pro Tem



Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

