



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2020

WORK SESSION: No work session held

REGULAR MEETING:

Rocky Ford City Council met in teleconference session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. City Manager Shannon Wallace called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Jolly Rose, Cuco Ruiz, Matthew Holland, Daryl Grasmick and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Joe Ayala with Edward Jones, Margarito and Maria Garcia, J. R. Thompson, Duane Gurule, Marty Lee, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Public Works Director Rick Long

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Rose moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

YES Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Rose moved to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent items approved were:

1. Liquor License renewal for Mission Deli, 401 N. 14th Street, Rocky Ford
2. Liquor License renewal for J.R.'s Country Store, 1207 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford
3. Marijuana Retail Store Annual Renewal, Rocky Farms, LLC, 1709 Swink Avenue, Rocky Ford

OTERO PARTNERS, INC (OPI) INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Rocky Ford and the Otero Partners, Inc. (OPI). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

| | |
|--------|---|
| YES | Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Jung |
| NO | None |
| ABSENT | None |

Motion carried 7-0

RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #8, 2020 Series: A Resolution Authorizing City Officials to Conduct Transactions with COLOTrust** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

| | |
|--------|---|
| YES | Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Jung |
| NO | None |
| ABSENT | None |

Motion carried 7-0

OLD BUSINESS – PREVIOUSLY TABLED

Joe Ayala (Edward Jones Advisor) – Retirement Discussion

Joe Ayala reported to Council that City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and the Gold Leaf Company are working on changes to be able to move forward with One America. Discussion was held.

Letter from Shannon Wallace

City Manager Shannon Wallace asked the Council to rescind the letter of resignation she submitted as Mayor of the Town of Swink. Councilmember Grasmick asked City Manager Wallace if she would be able to recuse herself from business dealings that pertained to the City of Rocky Ford and the Town of Swink. City Manager Wallace advised Council that she would do that and that her position as mayor of the Town of Swink is a non-voting position. Discussion was held regarding time that may be spent away from the duties of City Manager of Rocky Ford. Councilmember Rose commented that she felt that Shannon Wallace being Mayor of the Town of Swink would be helpful to Rocky Ford. Councilmember Rose moved to allow City Manager Shannon Wallace to rescind the letter of resignation for the Mayor of Swink. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| YES | Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Jung |
| NO | Corbin-Romero, Holland, Grasmick |
| ABSENT | None |

Motion carried 4-3

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Director Rick Long proposed some ideas for new ordinances to the Council as follows:

1. Rental Property License and Registration
2. Dilapidated Building Ordinance
3. Property Maintenance Code
4. Trash Tote Deposit

Some discussion was held. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to table all issues to a later time to allow Council more time to review them. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

| | |
|-----|---|
| YES | Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung |
|-----|---|

NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

City Manager Wallace read aloud a letter from the mother of Nick Martinez requesting Council to allow chickens in backyards. Ms. Martinez reported that they plan to move to Rocky Ford and have a special needs child. The family feels that chickens are helpful in developing structure and responsibility in the life of this child. City Manager Wallace reported that she had received a petition in favor of allowing chickens, within City limits, that had about 180 signatures, but in reviewing the petition, many signatures were not Rocky Ford residents. There was much discussion regarding the thoughts of the Otero County Health Department, code enforcement and the need to hear arguments from both sides. Councilmember Grasmick recommended that this matter be a ballot question for the November election. Councilmember Grasmick moved that this matter be tabled to a later date. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

YES Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales asked Council to allow him to speak as a private citizen to ask Council for their support of the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District's ballot initiatives 6A and 6B in the election on May 5, 2020. The Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District believes these initiatives are necessary to maintain the current level of service as well as for the replacement of worn outdated equipment and personal protection equipment for both paid and volunteer staff.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATES

City Manager Wallace reported:

- Update on where the City is at with COVID-19 procedures. Staff working hours, furloughs, swim pool outlook and summer baseball outlook. All soccer registrations were refunded. Library and Museum update.
- Revenues on tax and utilities.

Councilmember Rose reported that the Otero Partners, Inc. (OPI) chose to forgive interest on some loans during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) board paid bills.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Tree Board has concerns that some trees are overgrown and are obstructing vision for drivers, especially behind Harris Pharmacy in the parking lot. City Manager Wallace commented that the City is low on funding and offered that the Public Works crew will do what they can without hiring a tree trimmer.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that there is a house on Washington that is filled with trash and that the trash tote at the Museum needs to be changed out from a 300 gallon to a 90 gallon. City Manager Wallace commented that a work order shall be done to Public Works Director Rick Long.

Councilmember Ruiz gave a shout out of thanks to Public Works Director Rick Long and his crew for doing a great job with shortened staff during this pandemic.

Mayor Jung reported that she had attended an Action 22 meeting and discussion with Senator Cory Gardner.

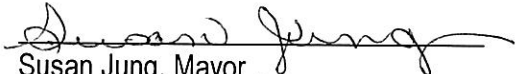
AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

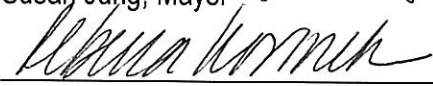
- Review City Ordinances
- Review Pool Ordinance
- Review Personnel Policies

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk