



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 25, 2020

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Susan Jung and Councilmembers Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Jolly Rose, Cuco Ruiz, Matthew Holland, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall met for a City Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Others in attendance: Public Works Director Rick Long, Volunteer Curator Emmett Davis, Rick Weiss and Tom Martin. Discussion was held regarding the City's current contract with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Gobin Building. City Attorney Bart Mendenhall reported that he will make copies of the current agreement and distribute to Council for discussion. City Manager Wallace gave Council a report on the bills that the City pays on behalf of the Gobin Building. Public Works Director Rick Long talked to Council about water treatment.

REGULAR MEETING:

Following the work session, Rocky Ford City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Jung 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, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Shelly Bauer, Maria Garcia, Margarito Garcia, Emmett Davis, Rick Weiss, Tom Martin and James Conlan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSTAIN Holland

Motion carried 6-0 with 1 abstention

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to go into executive session for a conference with the City attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402-(4) (b); those going into executive session will be Councilmembers Jolly Rose, Cuco Ruiz, Matthew Holland, Daryl Grasmick, Rick Geist, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Mayor Susan Jung, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

NO None

Motion carried 7-0

Council went into executive session with City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and City Manager Shannon Wallace at 7:03 p.m. and ended their executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Following adjournment of executive session, Mayor Jung asked if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session. No one stated any concern for the record. Council went back into regular session. No further action was taken.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Tom Martin asked Council what is planned or what can be done about abandoned homes in Rocky Ford. Mr. Martin feels that the abandoned property is a health, fire and hazardous concern. Tom Martin reported that he knew an investor that was interested in building an assisted living complex. The investor drove around Rocky Ford and told Tom Martin that he would not consider Rocky Ford due to all the abandoned houses.

Margarito Garcia informed Council that he has owned property in Rocky Ford for about 75 years and he feels that Rocky Ford looks horrible. Mr. Garcia reported that the trailer park on Chestnut has disassembled trailers, trash in the alley and curbs. Mr. Garcia feels that there is no civic pride in Rocky Ford.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Geist moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

CLEAR GOV DISCUSSION

City Manager Wallace asked Council if they had given any consideration to the presentation that was given to them at the last Council meeting. Shannon reported that she has had further discussion with Ryan of ClearGov and they are willing to take the initial payment of \$7,000.00 for this year and split it into monthly payments and give the City a prorate for June through December in the amount of \$5,200.00. After this, the City would be locked in for five (5) years at \$7,000.00 per year. Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of this program and the expense when so many other issues need to be addressed with the City's money and the expenses that the City already pays for the system currently being used. Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked if any other company had been looked at for pricing comparison. No further discussion or action was taken.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SAFETY AT PARKS

City Manager Wallace reported that CIRSA conducted a safety audit. The City was cited for Library Park and Play Park Hill because the City does not have the soft rubber mulch underneath the playground equipment. The City was also cited for Lyons and Crystal, but the City just removed all the equipment from those two places. Discussion was held about Park usage and the possibility of any grants to purchase rubber mulch.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Vacant Property – (Letter from Cuco Ruiz)

Councilmember Ruiz had previously offered to purchase a piece of property from the City to build a Community Garden. City Attorney Mendenhall recommended that Council get an appraisal for this property or a study of other like properties to determine the value of the property. After discussion was held, Councilmember Ruiz informed Council that he is no longer interested in this property and he recommends that Council sell it with other City properties.

Resolution Consideration:

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #5, 2020 Series: A Resolution Increasing Water Rates** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Councilmember Rose moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #6, 2020 Series: A Resolution Increasing Sewer Rates** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #7, 2020 Series: A Resolution Setting a Dormant Usage Fee** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

OCLI/OPI Council Representative

This matter was tabled from the City Council meeting on February 11, 2020. Discussion was held regarding whether or not the OCLI/OPI representatives should be Councilmembers or not. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and appoint Councilmember Rose to the OCLI/OPI Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved that Councilmember Grasmick be approved and appointed to the OCLI/OPI Board as the alternate. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

IGA Rural Fire Board

Councilmember Ruiz moved that Council approve the IGA with the Rural Fire Board with a six month review. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

IGA – Otero County Board of County Commissioners

Councilmember Ruiz moved that Council approve the IGA with the Otero County Board of County Commissioners for the Rocky Ford Bike Park. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

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

Motion carries 7-0

Museum – Reservation of Library Park for 111th Birthday Celebration

Volunteer Curator Emmett Davis addressed Council to inform them of the 111th Birthday of the Museum Celebration to be held at the Library Park on June 13th, 2020, and to ask Council to waive any fees associated with Special Events or Vendor Licenses. Councilmember Rose moved to waive any fees for the 111th Birthday Celebration of the Museum. Councilmember Geist seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

CML Conference Attendees:

City Manager Wallace reported that the CML (Colorado Municipal League) Conference will be held on June 22nd through June 26th, 2020 in Westminster, Colorado. City Manager Wallace informed Council that \$3,000.00 has been allotted for attendance and that amount should cover the cost for two Councilmembers. Mayor Jung informed Council that she would like to attend. Councilmember Grasmick also reported that he would like to attend. Councilmember Rose moved to allow Mayor Jung and Councilmember Grasmick to attend the CML Conference on June 22 – June 26, 2020 and to appoint Mayor Jung as the voting Councilmember. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Public Works Director Rick Long informed Council that he is seeking their approval to purchase a ¾ ton pickup in the amount of \$14,500.00 for Water/Wastewater/Public Works Departments. Rick Long told Council that they are in need of a vehicle like this one and he reported that the money would come out of the three enterprise funds and some HUTF money. Discussion was held. Councilmember Ruiz moved that Council approve the purchase of a diesel ¾ ton utility truck. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Public Works Director Rick Long informed Council that he would like to use some of the 1% tax money to pave the alley in between the Hotel and Mesa Organics. They would pave 6,534 square feet at the price of \$22,215.00. A motion to approve the repaving of the alley in between Mesa Organics and the Hotel was made by Councilmember Ruiz. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

YES Holland, Grasmick, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Jung
NO Corbin-Romero

Motion carried 6-1

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Council to approve a QGIS Asset Management Program to map the assets for Water and Public Works in the amount of \$5,500.00. There is some grant money available but not guaranteed. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the QGIS Asset Management program in the amount of \$5,500.00 to come out of the three enterprise funds. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATES

City Manager Wallace reported:

- She is promoting Marcia Menz to the Code Enforcement position and hiring Chelsea Ramirez part-time.
- Shannon will attend a CDOT and CCOG meeting in Lamar on February 26, 2020

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Rose reported that the Library Board will meet next week. The Planning Commission meeting for March has been cancelled as there is no business to discuss.

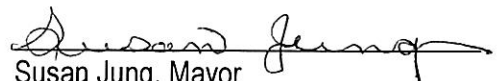
AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

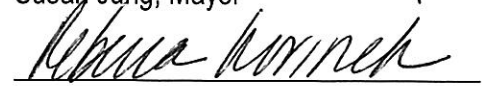
- Departmental Reports
- School Board Session (March 10)
- Review City Ordinances
- Look into Pool Ordinance
- Review Personnel Policies

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk