



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 27, 2020

WORK SESSION: 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Cuco Ruiz, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Daryl Grasmick, Sherri Cordova, City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Nathan Shultz, Public Works Director Rick Long and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales met in Council Chambers to discuss the 2021 budget and some discussion was held regarding the request for a volunteer firefighter pension board.

Others present: Marty Lee, J.C. Carrica and Margarito Garcia

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 in Council Chambers. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Cuco Ruiz, Daryl Grasmick, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero and Sherri Cordova

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Public Works Director Rick Long, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Marty Lee, J.C. Carrica and Margarito Garcia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2020 council meeting and the minutes from the October 16, 2020 special council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Rose, Geist

Motion carried 5-0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council. There was some discussion held on the process of liquor license renewals. Council would like the Chief of Police to send a written note with the Consent Agenda report of good or not good standing.

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

YES Ruiz, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Rose, Geist

Motion carried 5-0

Consent item approved was:

1. Liquor license renewal for Len's Tavern, 907 Railroad Ave., Rocky Ford, Colorado

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace sent her report by email to Council at an earlier date. In addition to that report as follows:

- City Manager Wallace would like to discuss the Code Enforcement position with Council at a future work session.
- The speed limit on Washington Street was changed from 30 mph to 25 mph.
- City Manager Wallace sent Council a self-assessment to be used for her next evaluation due by the end of year.
- New agenda format.
- Discussion was held regarding Tree Board meeting in Council Chambers. Meetings will be held twice a month and a work day will be held on some Saturdays.
- City Attorney Nathan Shultz explained to Council how the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District Pension Board could be set up. The Board could consist of the Mayor, Finance Director, two Councilmembers and three Rocky Ford Rural Fire District members.

OLD BUSINESS

Sage Center HVAC Unit

Public Works Director Rick Long reported that the current HVAC system at the Senior Citizen Center is 25 years old and has reached its life expectancy. Rick informed Council that the City had received four bids for the work. Rick has talked to Garland with GSK Refrigeration and Garland says that he can have heat in the building by next week sometime and he is also the cheapest bid that was received. Rick reported that he had also talked to all parties that submitted bids. Rick recommended to Council that they accept the GSK bid. Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the bid from GSK Refrigeration in the amount of \$14,874 with two separate split systems. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District Pension Board

City Attorney Nathan Shultz recommended that Council use the "municipality model" in creating the RFRFPD Board consisting of the Mayor, Finance Director, two Councilmembers and three RFRFPD members. City Attorney Shultz reported that there is approximately \$108,000 in the account. The Board just needs to get set up to start distributing. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to appoint Councilmember Grasmick to the RFRFPD Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Councilmember Corbin-Romero also moved that Councilmember Cordova be appointed to the RFRFPD Board. Motion was seconded by Grasmick. Voting results for Grasmick were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Voting results for Cordova were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Budget – First Reading

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the first reading of the 2021 budget. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Tiny Home Proposal

J. C. Carrica of Southeast Mental Health Group gave Council information on Tiny Homes. He informed Council that there is a shortage of healthcare workers in this area. There is a program for loan forgiveness that does help them recruit people to this area. Recently the housing market changed and people are not accepting jobs because of the lack of professional housing. The Southeast Mental Health Group bought three (3) tiny homes from Sprout as well as some land in Springfield. One tiny home is in Springfield and the other two are at the KOA Campground. Tiny Homes are not for long term living and they usually offer a six month agreement. A private investor has acquired five property lots in Rocky Ford on 13th Street. Southeast Mental Health Group would like to move two tiny homes to that property and if approved, the tenants would be paying water tap fees and monthly utilities (water, sewer and garbage). Some discussion was held regarding that location. No further action was taken.

Hancock Well

J.C. Carrica informed Council that he recently bought 40 acres of land from Ed Clute and J.C. and his wife would like to move a modular home there. The City of Rocky Ford owns 1.98 acres adjacent to the parcel that houses a well. The well was part of the Hancock water system. J.C. asked Council to consider selling the 1.98 acres plus the well. At this time, J.C. has no idea what the property is valued at. The City will look into the value of the property and have discussion.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales gave Council his departmental report. Chief Gonzales explained how the Rocky Ford Fire Department works and explained that the RFRFPD provides all of the firefighting equipment while the City of Rocky Ford provides EMS and Emergency Services and pays the volunteer fire fighters. Chief Gonzales informed Council that there were approximately 1000 calls last year and the Fire/EMS will probably reach the 1000 call the first week of November this year. Chief Gonzales and some of his crew has been active fighting fires in the State and recently spent eight days assisting at the Cameron Peak fire. Chief Gonzales reports that he serves on numerous Boards.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL REPORTS OR UPDATES

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Tree Board met and they are still looking for a few members. They will have planning meetings in November and December and will be having work days on some Saturdays. In January and February, they would like to start cleaning up the east and west parts of the City. The Board will be planting in March and April.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to appoint Dudley Fechner to the Rocky Ford Tree Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Jung reported that she serves on the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Policy Committee and their major concern is dealing with SB-217. The law placed a number of new restrictions on County and local police, but not the State Patrol or Correctional Officers, requiring cameras and retaining the images and voice for a number of months. The records retention data is a big expense to the Counties and Municipalities. Mayor Jung reported that all local police departments in the Arkansas Valley are short staffed and underfunded.

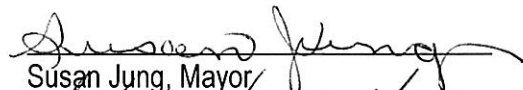
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING OR WORK SESSION

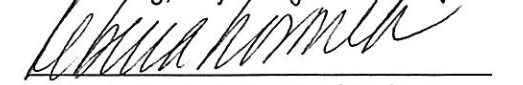
- Review City ordinances
- Review personnel policies
- Permits for Construction
- Crystal Lake
- Conduit

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk