



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

August 13, 2019

City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall met with Mayor J. R. Thompson and Councilmembers Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter, and Brian Hilliar for CCOERA to discuss employee benefit plans, dog ordinance, mower and miscellaneous issues at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2019. Mr. Hilliar shared information with Council for consideration as they look at retirement plan options. Others present were: Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Romero, Daryl Grasmick, Bethany Grap, Laura Thompson.

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: Recreation Director Stacey Milenski, Rocky Ford R2 School Superintendent Kermit Snyder, Rocky Ford High School Principal Tammy Ridennoure, Gene and Liz Gallegos (Sr.), Tom Martin, Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Romero, Daryl Grasmick, Bethany Grap, Laura Thompson.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Lee moved to approve the minutes from the regular **July 23, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0, with 2 abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent items approved were:

1. Change in Permit Fees – Beer Picnic Permits and Golf Carts
2. Retail Liquor Store License Renewal – Cherea Navarro dba Lobo's Curve Liquor, 1504 Elm, RF
3. Job Description – Code Enforcement
4. Donation of Rocky Ford Fire Department ladder truck to Town of Ordway

NEW BUSINESS

Babcock Field Scoreboard Discussion:

Rocky Ford Recreation Director Stacey Milenski and Rocky Ford R2 School Superintendent Kermit Snyder advised Council of the need to either repair or replace the existing scoreboard on the big baseball field at Babcock Park. The scoreboard was purchased in 2005 thanks to private donations and volunteer work of local businessmen, headed by Greg Hutton. There was no expense to the City at that time.

Instead of replacing lights on scoreboard, it was determined that the LED digital panels need replacement. This would cost an estimated \$10,135, plus installation costs. Rocky Ford R2 School Foundation received a \$5,000 technology grant and \$5000 more is available. Daktronics quoted \$22,846 for a new scoreboard. Superintendent Snyder is looking for guidance in deciding whether it would be better to repair scoreboard or purchase a new scoreboard. It was the general consensus of Council to postpone a decision until the next meeting.

Mr. Gene Gallegos – Overpayment of Sewer Bill:

Mr. Gallegos appeared before Council to request a refund check for overpayment of his sewer bill. One of the utility clerks recently discovered that Mr. Gallegos was being overcharged for sewer on his bill. Councilmember Lee moved to refund the lump sum amount for overpayment of the sewer charge on his City utility bill to Gene Gallegos. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hunter. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

New Option for Retirement – CCOOERA:

Council was given information at the workshop regarding a new option for retirement through CCOOERA, a Colorado retirement plan. The broker for the retirement company currently used by the City will present his information to Council at the August 27, 2019 Council meeting. Council will review information from both plans and possibly make a decision at a future meeting.

Rocky Ford Public Library-Bench Donation in Memory of Joan Lopez:

City Manager Shannon Wallace informed Council of the desire by the family of Joan Lopez, a former City of Rocky Ford employee at the Rocky Ford Public Library, to place a bench at the Rocky Ford Public Library in memory of Joan, who is recently deceased. It was the general consensus of Council to allow the memorial bench at the Rocky Ford Public Library.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Tom Martin spoke with Council regarding City golf cart ordinance and other code enforcement issues.

Peggy Sue Romero asked when the City decided to hire a code enforcement officer. Ms. Romero was told that the City must have a job description in place before someone is hired for a position. Adoption of the code enforcement description will allow hiring an officer when and if it is determined it can be supported by the budget. Ms. Romero then questioned the need for purchasing a new scoreboard.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported on the following items:

- She advised Council that R2 School Board decided to meet jointly with City Council on December 10, 2019 because their summer/ fall sessions were too busy.
- City Manager Wallace and Finance Director Azucena Estrada have a conference call for an unemployment hearing the morning of August 20.
- Fire Chief Ray Gonzales will be on vacation August 19 – 23, 2019.
- The construction fencing at the Public Safety Building was removed to facilitate landscaping.
- She and Public Works Supervisor Rick Long advised Council that the Babcock Park mower recently "died". Mr. Long asked Council to approve a bid for a **new riding lawn mower for Babcock Park** from 4 Rivers Equipment. Their price for the mower was \$6,612.00, with a discount of \$1,027.27, for a total cost to the City of \$5584.73. Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Lee and seconded by Councilmember Ruiz to purchase the riding lawn mower from 4 Rivers Equipment for \$5, 587.73. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Jung received an email from Meghan Dollar, CML, inquiring if she would still be on the CML Policy Committee. Ms. Jung advised Ms. Dollar that it depended on the outcome of the November 2019 election.

All of Councilmember Lee's meetings will be held next week, August 19-23.

Councilmember Geist did not have a Museum Board report but asked Museum Board President Daryl Grasmick if he had any comments. Mr. Grasmick told Council he will provide them with a written recommendation to appoint Jeanette Myers to the Museum Board. Mrs. Myers has attended a few Museum Board meetings, but the Board had overlooked getting this recommendation approved by Council, per Rocky Ford Municipal Code, Article 11, Section 2-11-30.

Councilmember Hunter told Council the Tree Board will meet Monday, August 19.

In an Arts Commission report, Mayor J.R. Thompson proudly told Council this year's Summer Student Musical was well received and had drawn one of the largest crowds he had seen in several years. This month's showing of the movie **Lion King** also drew the one of largest crowds at the Grand Theater for the first weekend and had a fairly respectable showing for the second weekend. He then reminded Council that Rocky Ford High School Class of 1969 will hold their reunion during homecoming week. They will

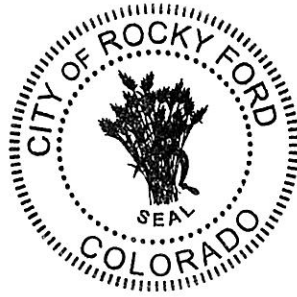
dedicate a bench in memory of former Rocky Ford Police Chief and fellow classmate, Frank Gallegos, at the new Public Safety Building during homecoming weekend.

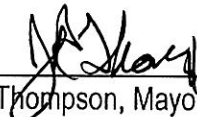
AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Departmental Reports
- Joint work session with R2 School Board in December
- Review City Codes (work sessions)
- Employee health & retirement benefits presentation – August 27

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lee moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting.





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk