



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2021

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jung and Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Larry Cordova and Sherry Cordova, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom) and City Attorney Nathan Shultz met with Museum Curator Rob Marshall, Darla Marshall, Museum Board President Steve Carlile, Donna Bush, and Diane Marshall for a work session to have discussion regarding the Museum Board and the Friends of the Museum Board. Discussion was held regarding the breakdown of communication between the Museum Board and the Friends of the Museum Board, the Museum Facebook page, the Museum website and email. The Museum Board gave Council an update of what they are working on and some ideas they have for the future.

Discussion was also held regarding the possible cancellation of the City of Rocky Ford's participation in the upcoming coordinated election. City Attorney Nathan Shultz will look into this matter further so Council can make an informed decision.

Others present: Gary Reed

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Larry Herrera and Sherry Cordova

Staff: City Attorney Nathan Shultz, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Public Works Director Rick Long (via Zoom) and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom)

Others present: Gary Reed, Kelly Yutterman, Sarah Yutterman, Duane Gurule, Bradley Zieg, Vernon Proctor and Yvette Proctor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vernon and Yvette Proctor, Rocky Ford residents, addressed Council regarding the school district bond issue that will be on the ballot in the upcoming November election. Vernon expressed that he and Yvette are opposed to the bond issue and he reminded Council that this same bond issue was widely defeated in the previous election. Vernon commented that local farmers and ranchers bear the brunt of the expense in mill levy as residential property tax is levied at 7.15% and commercial and agriculture property is taxed at 29%. Vernon asked Council to stay neutral and not endorse the bond issue.

Gary Reed expressed to Council that, in his opinion, the Arkansas Valley Fair was good this year. Gary informed Council that he observed a lot of parked vehicles this year. Gary commented that he is not against the vacant building registry ordinance that was recently passed by Council but he is not in favor of Council passing more ordinances that may or may not be enforceable. Gary commented that he wanted to endorse solar power to the Council and reported that his solar power has been a huge money saver.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero made a motion that Council stay neutral on the school district bond issue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Duane Gurule asked Council to vote no on the pending motion and take time to talk to school officials. Voting results were:

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

Tie vote – motion failed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Jung read aloud the City Manager report regarding the following issues:

- Shannon continues to look for options for the Public Safety Building completion.
- Water Department ORC Luke James is trying to get information on the cost per share for Fountain Creek water. Bradley Zieg is in attendance at tonight's meeting and will speak to Council later in the meeting.
- Public Works Director Rick Long will be on Zoom to discuss the hot tap valve machine.
- There will be a meeting this week to discuss the playground grant.
- U S Solar representative Jillian Hansen will be on Zoom for tonight's meeting to answer any additional questions. City Attorney Nathan Shultz advised Council that he has not had time to review the contract.
- It was reported that there are squatters at 305 N. 4th Street and that a possible business may be going on. Otero County Assessor records indicate that Jerry and Barbara Cordova own the property. The Police Department has checked the address and could find no sign of any business but it looked like someone was living there with no utilities. Discussion was held.
- What can be done about the old Fiesta Café building? We have been made aware that people are climbing onto the roof and breaking windows out of the City's building next door. City Attorney Nathan Shultz has been informed. Discussion was held. Mayor Jung offered to talk to the owner to try to figure out a solution.
- Is Council interested in passing an ordinance regarding pot belly pigs? Discussion was held.
- There are three job descriptions on the agenda tonight.

Bradley Zieg gave Council some additional information regarding Fountain Creek water shares. The owner would like to sell and there is 136 acre-feet of agricultural water that is available for purchase. Mr. Zieg encouraged Council to talk with the City's water attorney. Mr. Zieg asked that City Manager Wallace call him to let him know if there is any interest.

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Mr. Zieg where the water would come from? Where will it be stored? How will the water be processed? No more discussion was held.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Rick Long gave Council some additional information regarding the hot tap valve machines but he didn't have quotes available for Council to view. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to the next meeting.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported that the Colorado Municipal League (CML) quarterly meeting will be hosted by La Junta on September 2, 2021 at the Kiva and the CML annual meeting will be held in Westminster in September. Action 22 will have their annual meeting in Trinidad on October 14th and 15th.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the tree board will be taking the month of September off and they will continue to work on developing a work schedule. The Grand Theater did not show a movie over the previous weekend due to the Arkansas Valley Fair.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) is going along well. OCLI is looking for additional help. Grasmick reported that Otero Partners Inc. (OPI) has funds to loan for qualifying applicants. Grasmick reported that there is a potential business that may open in Rocky Ford.

Councilmember Cordova reported that the Library Board did not meet in August but will probably meet in September if they can get a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #962 – An Ordinance Regarding the Registration of Vacant Buildings and Properties Within the Limits of the City, on second reading

Councilmember Geist moved to approve ***Ordinance #962 – An Ordinance Regarding the Registration of Vacant Buildings and Properties Within the Limits of the City***, on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Some discussion was held regarding the need for a code enforcement officer to enforce the ordinances passed by Council. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Resolution #4 – Series 2021 – A Resolution Setting Fees for Certain Actions and Requests as Pertaining to the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code

Councilmember Geist moved to approve ***Resolution #4 – Series 2021 – A Resolution Setting Fees for Certain Actions and Requests as Pertaining to the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code***. Councilmember Grasmick seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Discussion/Decision on U S Solar presentation

It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Letters of Interest – Ward III Vacancy

There was a vacant Councilmember seat in Ward III due to the resignation of Cuco Ruiz. One letter of interest was submitted.

Duane Gurule gave Council a brief biography of himself. Councilmember Cordova moved to appoint Duane Gurule to the vacant Council seat in Ward III. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Duane Gurule was given the oath of office and took his seat on the dais.

Reallocation of Funds – Equipment Purchases

Public Works Director Rick Long gave an explanation of the different equipment purchases that he would like to make by reallocating some funds that his department has not used that were earmarked for other items. Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked Rick Long about the current maintenance schedule for his current equipment. Rick Long invited any Council member to visit the Public Works Department. The total amount to be reallocated is \$42,626.44 which would purchase a new Kubota zero turn mower, a Honda 3000 psi pressure washer, a new Kubota tractor and backhoe and miscellaneous tools and equipment. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the reallocation of funds in the amount of \$42,626.44 and authorize Public Works Director Rick Long to make the purchases that were requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

Approval of New Job Descriptions

Public Works Administrative Supervisor

Human Resource Director

Finance Director

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the job descriptions of Public Works Administrative Supervisor, Human Resource Director and Finance Director. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Herrera asked to read a letter that was given to him by the owners of Absolute Auto, Kelly and Sarah Yutterman. Kelly and Sarah Yutterman received a letter, at 108 N. Main Street, from the City of Rocky Ford. The letter advised them of some possible code violations. Absolute Auto reported that, so far this year, they have paid \$11,676.94 in taxes and in the past five years they've paid \$92,100.11. The Yuttermans were very upset at receiving this letter. Much discussion was held regarding how citizens have a hard time finding a place to park due to all the cars parked in the street, the unsightliness of all those vehicles and the inability to see oncoming traffic on the Main Street.

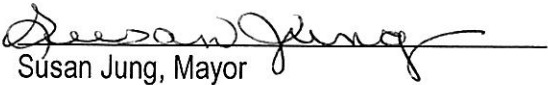
Councilmember Herrera mentioned that he was out getting signatures for his petition and he ran into former Councilmember Jolly Rose. Herrera reported that he had a nice conversation with her.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION

Hot Tap Machines
U S Solar

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Grasmick and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 
City Clerk

