

## ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

February 12, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, with Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace. Several members of the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Department and interested citizens were also present. Kyler Rice, Dominic Romero, Brandon Rorick and Andrew Tillman, new water department employees, were introduced to Council. Public Works Director Rick Long was unable to attend so his discussion of empty building registry was tabled. Items discussed were salary schedule, rural fire protection district agreement and procedure for appointment of new Council member to replace Rachel Patrick when she officially resigns effective March 12, 2019.

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, Rachel Patrick, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Larry Johnson, Charles Pattie, Rick Weiss, Curtis Johnson, Wade Kurtz, Jessie Smith, Phyllis Adkins, Reuben Bett, Lance Brundage, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Dexter Buck, Daryl Grasmick, Jolly Rose, Laura Thompson, La Junta Tribune Democrat reporter Christian Burney.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **January 22, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Jung asked Mayor Thompson to add item "**c. Phyllis Adkins, Tree Board – Report**" under "**8. Staff Reports**". It was moved by Councilmember Patrick and seconded by Councilmember Geist to approve the agenda with consent item as presented and with the noted addition. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent item approved was re-appointment of Nancy Wieder to Arts Commission, 3-year term.

**RUSLER IMPLEMENT – CEMETERY TRACTOR PURCHASE**

Rusler Implement submitted the best bid to the City for a used tractor and also offered a \$7,500.00 trade-in on the old HI tractor. Following discussion, Councilmember Patrick moved to approve purchase of a Kubota front end loader with optional backhoe tractor for cemetery for \$20,000. Councilmember Jung seconded motion. Original price quoted was \$27,500 and the City will receive \$7,500 for trade-in. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**FARNSWORTH – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Patrick to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Farnsworth Group for an engineers' scoping study as presented, with fee not to exceed \$6,300.00 Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCILMEMBER RACHEL PATRICK**

Councilmember Rachel Patrick submitted her written resignation from Rocky Ford City Council, effective March 12, 2019. Councilmember Jung moved to accept her resignation with regret and to solicit letters of interest for the position from citizens who reside in Ward II. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstaining. Mayor Thompson and Council thanked Ms. Patrick for her service and insights, and extended best wishes to her in her new endeavor.

It was the general consensus of Council to advertise for letters of interest for the open Ward II Council seat, setting April 4 as the deadline to submit letters to City Clerk Grasmick at City Hall, and setting interviews of those expressing interest and possible appointment at the regular April 9, 2019 Council meeting.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace covered most of her report in the work session earlier. She expects to receive a quote from Wayne Walter Excavating to fix broken fire hydrants that were reported at an earlier meeting. City crew is unable to handle the repair at this time.

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales reported that work on the new public safety building is going fairly well but some of the sub-contractors are a little slow getting started again. There is significant interior progress installing floors, painting and priming in dispatch area. The contractor will hold bi-weekly meetings with City personnel at 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays in construction trailer behind building. He told Council they were welcome to attend. When asked about lights left on in the new building, Fire Chief Gonzales said it was his understanding that this was to help interior temperature to remain at certain levels to aid in drying paint. There has been no new change order issued. Mayor Thompson and Council thanked Fire Chief Gonzales for the work he is doing with the public safety building project.

Phyllis Adkins, Tree Board, submitted a written report to Council for their packets. She then reported that the Tree Board is half way through the project to remove and replace dead trees on City property. This project was funded by a two-year grant from the Colorado State Forest Service in the amount of \$15,000.00. To date, approximately \$7,000.00 has been expended. Original inventory was done during the winter months, so some dead trees might have been missed. Ms. Adkins also reported that Rocky Ford will be designated a "Tree City USA" by National Arbor Foundation for the 27<sup>th</sup> year.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

Mayor Thompson reported that Rocky Ford Planning Commission met at 6:00 p.m. on February 4, 2019, for a subdivision hearing request for property located at 1401 Chestnut Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO. They denied the request from Henry Ongondi due to two major issues that Council needs to address first. The first is that there are two trailers actually sitting in right of way along Catalpa Avenue and the second is the setbacks for at least three other trailers and the masonry shed do not meet current set back requirements. According to City Attorney Mendenhall, the solution to the trailers sitting in right of way are:

1. Mr. Ongondi would move the trailers back onto his property; or
2. The City would vacate the right of way; or
3. The City would grant an easement for the property which would go away when the buildings were moved.

Lance Brundage, Brundage Surveying, and Reuben Bett, representative for Mr. Ongondi, approached Council regarding solutions to the problem. Following discussion of issues, City Attorney Mendenhall was instructed to look into dealing with the right of way issues and to report back to Council at the next meeting.

## **MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES**

Councilmember Jung reported she will be leaving for Denver tomorrow (February 13) to attend a legislative workshop on Thursday and possibly an after-hours reception on Friday.

Councilmember Ruiz reported that Library was closed February 4, 2019 so staff could attend training in Colorado Springs. Staff came back with great ideas for summer reading program. Councilmember Ruiz also discussed problem of drug needles being left by library computers and in restrooms. Several

Councilmembers thought this was related to inadequate lighting by library, museum and other city properties and discussed possible measures to take in dealing with the problem.

Councilmember Geist and Museum Board President discussed problem of inadequate lighting at Museum and possible guest speakers for future Museum program nights. Possible speakers are Bob Fowler, Norman Kincaid and Lex Nichols.

Councilmember Hunter asked why there were items in Council's packet that were not acted on and not on the agenda. Interim City Manager Wallace advised here that these were informational items. Councilmember Hunter was invited to ask that they be placed on a future agenda, if she wished.

Mayor Thompson reported that Arts Commission ended 2018 with approximately \$6,000.00 in the black. Among items discussed were ongoing ice machine problems, possible showings of DVDs at the Grand Theater on Tuesday evenings, movie sponsored by FFA during their membership drive, and movie showing for Class of '69 for their 50-year class reunion.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Peggy Sue Corbin Romero addressed Council regarding problem of addicts at library and swimming pool, echoing Council's idea that it would be good to have a public meeting to discuss this. She also discussed her concerns regarding purchase of County road grader.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Councilmember Jung moved that Council go into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; and 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 Cuco Ruiz, Rachel Patrick, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter and Susan Jung, Mayor J.R. Thompson, Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz.

Council went into executive session at 8:30 p.m. and ended executive session at 9:45 p.m.

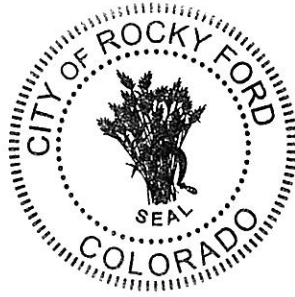
Following adjournment of executive session, it was general consensus of Council to schedule a special work session to discuss the agreement with the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.


### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA**

- Rocky Ford Rural Fire District Protection Agreement
- Rocky Ford Country Club Lease Agreement
- Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement for Gobin Building
- Departmental Reports
- Purchase of County grader

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting at 9:50 p.m.



  
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J. R. Thompson, Mayor

  
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Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk