



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2020

### ***WORK SESSION:***

Mayor Susan Jung and Councilmembers Rich Geist, Jolly Rose, Cuco Ruiz, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero and City Manager Shannon Wallace met for a City Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 with Rocky Ford School Board members Sandra Lundquist, Sharri Moreland, Darren Garcia, Ellen Schweizer and School Superintendent Kermit Snyder. Discussion was held regarding School security and how the City and Schools can work together.

### ***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, and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace and Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Shelly Bauer, James Conlan, Steve Culver, Joe Ayala, Ray Gonzales, Most of Rocky Ford Fire Department and Rocky Ford Police Department, Lon Stewart, Maria and Margarito Garcia, Nancy Aschermann and Marti Laack

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2020 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

NO                        None

ABSENT                Holland, Grasmick

Motion carried 5-0

### **RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS**

Mayor Jung expressed her thanks and appreciation for our first responders. Mayor Jung reported that often times, the first responders are taken for granted for their service. Mayor Jung mentioned that the Rocky Ford City Council very much appreciates and respects them and gives a heartfelt thank you for their service. The following were given a certificate of appreciation: Dispatch Department: Camea Baggs, Jack Chapman, June Ferraro, Juston Grafel and Erica Stelter. Police Department: Chief Angelo Griego, Captain Carol Coates, Skylor Garrelts, Michelle Griego, Luquam Hill, Kyle Moore, Timothy Moore and Darin Poole. Fire Department: Chief Raymond Gonzales, Captain Curtis Johnson, Patrick Arrona, Andrew Hartless and Jesse Smith. Volunteer Fireman: Douglas Ballard, Ute Bustamante, Deborah Cook, Ronald Cook, Gilbert Davis, Brandon Dickinson, Josh Fief, Antonio Garcia, Van Hollis, Cody Kitch, Nick Knapp, Wade Kurtz, Quint McGuire, Hannah Muth, Jeremy Muth, Gavin O'Hare, Cody Samuel, Daniel Santistevan, Christine Smith, Meghan Stulp, Jessie Wallace and Rick Weiss.

Angelo Griego addressed the Council and awarded Ray Gonzales and Luquam Hill a lifesaving award for outstanding service saving the life of an unresponsive person.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Shelly Bauer, 705 N. 8<sup>th</sup>, addressed Council to request that Council implement some meetings for each Ward of the City. Shelly believes that this could help with communication and citizen concerns. Shelly reported that she has heard that citizens are angry and concerned over the increase to water and sewer rates.

Marti Laack, 816 N. 13<sup>th</sup>, addressed Council to report that she is a new resident and she didn't know the neighborhood well. Marti reports that there is a drug dealer on her street with several vehicles and trash out in their yard. Marti reports that the Police Department told her that what people do in their back yard is their own business. Marti commented that she feels the only news in the local newspaper is ads and hardly anything else. Marti asked Council if there was any municipal code regarding cameras in a person's yard.

Lon Stewart, 509 N. 6<sup>th</sup>, asked Council what could be done about "trashy houses" and a drug dealer next door. Lon reported that he is a drug counselor and he's looking for an empty building. He reported that he would like to help people.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

Motion carried 5-0

### **CLEAR GOV COMPARISON AND DISCUSSION**

City Manager Wallace gave Council some information regarding ClearGov and some other company comparisons. City Manager Wallace informed Council of the costs for ClearGov after some prorates were given by ClearGov. Discussion was held. City Manager Wallace and Finance Director Azucena Estrada both think this is a good product. Funds will come out of the general fund. Councilmember Ruiz informed Council that he had made contact with a few other Cities that use this program and they had no complaints.

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the purchase of ClearGov. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0

### **NANCY ASCHERMANN (SCULPTURE)**

Nancy Aschermann addressed Council and informed them that she would like to donate a visual art piece to the City. Nancy hosts an art show once a month and she feels that the outdoors is more public place for sculpture. She chose an artist from Pueblo and his name is Ken Williams. Nancy showed pictures of the sculpture and if Council approves, it will be placed at the Gobin Building in front of the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held. Councilmember Ruiz moved that Council allow Nancy Aschermann to place the visual art. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results:

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

Motion carried 5-0

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Joe Ayala (Edward Jones Advisor) – Retirement Discussion***

Joe Ayala addressed Council regarding the City's current retirement plan with Metlife. The City is unable to find a "signed" contract. The City cannot proceed with changing plans without a signed document or getting into compliance. Metlife was contacted and they too were unable to find a signed copy. Joe informed Council that this type of document should be updated every seven years. The only document that can be found by the City and Metlife is dated the year 2007 and the City could be fined for being noncompliant. The remedy for this could be very costly to the City. A company by the name of Gold Leaf may have found a workaround. They will need to work with the City Attorney regarding this matter. There was a general consensus to table this matter for a few weeks to allow time for City Attorney Bart Mendenhall to get with the Gold Leaf Company.

### ***CIRSA Repot and Parks (follow up)***

City Manager Shannon Wallace reminded Council of the CIRSA report regarding playground equipment at Play Park Hill and Library Park. Shannon reported that the Recreation Director Stacey Milenski has applied for a grant and if the City is awarded the grant, it will be utilized at the Library Park which should bring us into compliance. Play Park Hill will still have to be dealt with.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Black Hills Energy Letter***

City Manager Wallace reported to Council that the City will be putting in new energy efficient lighting systems in the City Buildings. The City's electric bills will be lower each month. ROI came and did an audit and they identified which lights needed to be replaced and what needed to be taken out. ROI applied to Black Hills Energy for four different grants to help the City. The City was approved for all four grants. The City had an option of having ROI do the work for a fee or the City could utilize Bob Basye who is certified. Bob Basye will be doing the work at City Hall, Library, City Shop and Water Plant. The City should see the savings in the years to come by going energy efficient.

### ***Utility Billing Upgrade to "TOP"***

City Manager Wallace reported to Council that the City currently uses Incode 9 for utility billing. Shannon advised Council that she has been doing research into being able to provide paperless billing. Currently Incode 9 does not allow the paperless billing option. After contacting Incode about an upgrade, they quoted a licensing fee of \$3,500, a one-time setup fee of \$840 and an annual fee of \$1,100. Shannon reported that she had Shelly Valdez give her some figures on what is being spent now, monthly and annually, on billing products and bulk mail postage. Bulk mail fees average \$780 monthly, perforated paper and window envelopes purchased every three months for a monthly average of \$215. The City has stopped providing a return envelope and that has saved \$306 per month. Total cost per month of all things is about \$941.87. So if even half of the billed customers utilize the paperless billing option the City would save half of the \$941.97 that is spent each month, then the upgrade can be paid for in a few months with the savings and eventually pay for itself. The money will come from what the City already has budgeted for the year. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to approve the utility billing upgrade to TOP.

Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results:

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

Motion carried 5-0

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** - None

**STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES** - None

**CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATES**

City Manager Wallace reported:

- Shannon provided a copy of the Chamber of Commerce (Gobin Building) agreement to all Councilmembers
- Shannon provided information regarding some additional marijuana tax options
- Shannon hired a full-time Code Enforcement employee
- Shannon thanked Maria and Margarito Garcia for cleaning up the triangle on Veatch

**MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES**

Councilmember Rose reported that she walked along the sidewalk in front of the Donut Shop and she believes it is a hazard. City Manager Wallace reported that they had discussed this issue at a CCOG meeting. Councilmember Ruiz informed Council that someone had volunteered to look at the issue and possibly do any work involved. Councilmember Rose also reported that CML is looking at raising the contributions that are paid for FPPA pension contributions.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that she attended the Arts Commission meeting. The group is very friendly and welcoming and she feels that she learned a lot. Lots of activities are planned at the Grand Theater during March. The Tree Board will start meeting soon.

Mayor Jung reported that Action 22 is opposing the increase of regulations on hospitals. Mayor Jung commented that she thought the work session with the School Board went very well and was very successful.

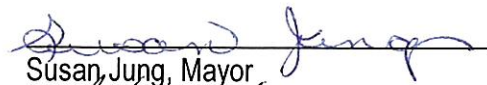
**AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

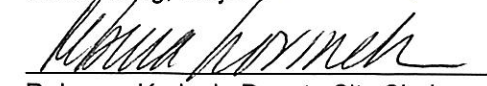
- Council would
- Review City Ordinances
- Review Pool Ordinance
- Review Personnel Policies

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.



  
Susan Jung, Mayor

  
Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk