



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 23, 2021

WORK SESSION: No work session held

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met, some in person and some via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Cuco Ruiz and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero.

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Public Works Director Rick Long, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee

Others present: Arkansas Valley Fair Board Manager Sally Cope, Brandon Milenski of Eureka Water, David DeMoss, Larry Herrera, Margarito Garcia, Maria Garcia.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Corbin-Romero expressed concern that clarification was needed from the City Attorney and asked that the consent agenda item, approval of meeting minutes from February 9, 2021, be tabled to the next regular meeting.

Councilmember Geist moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of the consent agenda item. Councilmember Ruiz seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Grasmick on Zoom but microphone was not working, Cordova

Motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margarito Garcia commented to Council that he agrees with Councilmember Corbin-Romero and he feels that in the interest of transparency anything done in an open meeting is available to all.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council. In addition, she reported on the following:

- Water leak adjustments and possible creation of a resolution or ordinance. Some discussion was held. Councilmember Romero moved to accept the water leak application adjustment eligibility form and procedure and authorize the City Attorney to prepare a resolution or ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Corbin-Romero, Geist, Ruiz, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Grasmick on Zoom but microphone was not working, Cordova

Motion carried 4-0

- Public Works Director Rick Long will give Council some additional information regarding general business licenses, the golf course, pre-treatment (grease trap), master plan and water turn on and turn offs.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung gave an update on the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Policy Committee. CML will be making a determination on their position regarding some Colorado legislation.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Grand Theater has been reopened for a few weeks. Tom and Jerry will be playing at the Grand for the next two weeks.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that the Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) had an excavator break down and repair cost will be around \$80,000. A new fee was implemented to dump tires at the landfill. The fee was raised to \$4.00 per tire effective March 1, 2021. Grasmick reported that at the Otero Partners Inc. (OPI) meeting, they learned that Domino's is in the process of trying to open a store in La Junta this year.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Council what thoughts they may have regarding the general business license ordinance proposal, that has been discussed at previous meetings, and asked what Council would like to do with the proposal. Rick Long informed Council that it is his opinion that a business license registration was necessary to enforce compliance of existing ordinances. Councilmember Ruiz commented that he was in favor of the City requiring a business license. Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked what the money collected from the business license would be used for. Some discussion was held. A motion was made by Councilmember Ruiz to approve and authorize the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for a business license requirement with an annual fee of \$100. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Rick Long gave Council information regarding pre-treatment (grease traps) within the City of Rocky Ford and the need for enforcement of inspections and an update on the master plan. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to accept the FOG inspection proposed by Public Works Director Rick Long and authorized the City Attorney to prepare a resolution. Councilmember Ruiz seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales read aloud to Council a letter that was received from Rocky Ford resident Brenda Woodyard who requested that the letter be read at the Council meeting tonight. The letter expressed gratitude and frustration over an incident that occurred on Thanksgiving Day 2020. A complaint was issued to the Fire Chief regarding care given to Brenda Woodyard's father by Rocky Ford Fire Department's EMT's. Ms. Woodyard complained that she was not getting a response from the Fire Chief. Ms. Woodyard called City Manager Shannon Wallace and expressed gratitude for her quick and compassionate response.

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales reported to Council that this is an ongoing investigation and all information has been given over to the City Attorney for review. Chief Gonzales apologized to Council and commented that no one wants to ever receive a letter like this and that he is taking this matter very seriously.

Chief Gonzales asked Council to approve a new position for his department. The job title is Public Safety Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. This position will offer support for the Fire Department, Police Department and Dispatch Center. This position will allow the opening of the Public Safety Building main lobby. The pay rate for this position is negotiable dependent upon experience. Councilmember Geist moved to approve the Public Safety Administrative Assistant/Receptionist job description. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Sealed Bids – Catlin Water Shares

Mayor Jung read aloud all bids that were received for the lease option of Catlin water shares. The first bid read was from Glenn Hiramata requesting 179.3 shares at \$71 per share or 100 shares at \$96.00 or 50 shares at \$121. The second bid was from Phillip Chavez of Diamond A requesting 179.3 shares at \$83.6586 for a total of \$15,000. The third bid was from Eric Pitzer of Pitzer Farms requesting 12 shares at \$60 per share for a total of \$720. The final bid was from Mayhoffer Family Farms requesting 100 shares at \$80 per share. Some discussion was held. Councilmember Grasmick commented that he would like to see the shares split so that more people would have the option. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and accept the high bid from Phillip Chavez of Diamond A for \$83.6586 per share. This motion failed as there was no second to the motion. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to the next regular Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Brandon Milenski with Eureka Water Company

Brandon Milenski addressed Council on behalf of the Eureka Water Company to request the purchase of some City owned property in the Hancock Subdivision. Eureka Water Company is upgrading and they are in need of some water storage. The property is located at Lot 9, Block 6 Hancock Subdivision in Rocky Ford. Councilmember Grasmick moved to advertise the property for bid. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 and they will be reviewed at the regular Council meeting that same night and sale would be made to the highest bidder. Motion was seconded by Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Golf Course

Public Works Director Rick Long reported to Council that work is being done on the building that is owned by the City of Rocky Ford at the Golf Course and he wanted to make Council aware of it. The City of Rocky Ford owns the building and Rick Long reported that there is some concern that work is being done in the building and the City has not been made aware of it. Discussion was held regarding any changes made to the building and how the renovations will be funded and who will take responsibility for renovations. Mayor Jung requested that City Manager Shannon Wallace call Fred at the golf course and request that Fred meet with Council to discuss the matter before any additional renovations are made.

Rick Long also gave Council an update on the master plan. Rick reported that he will be finalizing the capital improvement and engineering reports. Rick is planning to make a presentation to Council sometime in April 2021 as well as a public hearing. Engineering reports will be submitted to the USDA in May 2021 and a loan application in June of this year. The USDA will

review preliminary engineering reports from June to September 2021. He hopes to break ground in March 2023 and complete by May of 2024.

Arkansas Valley Fair Board

Arkansas Valley Fair Board Manager Sally Cope informed Council that the Fair Board arranges to have the weeds controlled at the fairgrounds. The estimate for weed control is \$1,256 and they are requesting that the City pay for half the cost. City Council only approves purchases over 5,000 and Council asked Sally to go to the City Manager directly. The second request was to repair the fencing between turns 3 and 4 at the horse track. Public Works Director Rick Long informed Council that a work order had already been processed and parts were ordered to repair the fence. The third request was to request that the sewer line be replaced at the fairground Expo building. During the Fair each year they have to repeatedly call Rick Long to have the line cleaned out. Rick Long gave Council information on the issues with the sewer line and reported that he was told that there were some inadequacy's from the sewer line to the main asked Council if they want to spend a lot of money for two weeks a year that the Fair is going. Council requested that Rick Long look into what it would cost to replace or fix the sewer line before the Fair in August 2021.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Public Safety Building for work on three rooms

Mayor Jung asked for a few minor changes in the wording and would like to add two paragraphs E and F changing the language so that the City is protected as well as the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District (RFRFPD). Mayor Jung asked Council to authorize her to sign the MOU once the changes have been made to hurry the process a little since the bid will soon need to be renegotiated. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the MOU between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District with the changes suggested by Mayor Jung. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0


AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING OR WORK SESSION

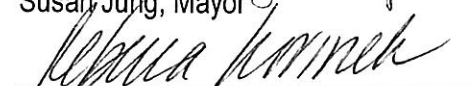
- Tree Board – payment plan options
- Golf Course
- Code enforcement position

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk