



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2020

WORK SESSION: No work session held

REGULAR MEETING:

Rocky Ford City Council met in session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Public Safety Building. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Jolly Rose, Cuco Ruiz, Matthew Holland, Daryl Grasmick and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales. Public Works Director Rick Long attended by phone.

Others present by phone: Patricia Orcutt, Doug Ballard, Pita Valerio, Joe Ayala, Leon Ortega, Christian Burney, Darren Garcia, Chris Menz, Azucena Estrada, Duane Gurule and Marcia Menz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the minutes, with one correction, from the May 12, 2020, council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION No emails were received

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

OLD BUSINESS

Joe Ayala – Edward Jones

Joe Ayala gave Council an update on the situation with the rollover to One America. There will be a notice sent out to all people on the plan. After that, all current employees will be rolled over to One America. City will need to let Joe know when he can meet with all current employees. The transition should take about 60 days.

Proposal for a Rental Property License and Registration Ordinance

Public Works Director Rick Long reminded Council of the information that he had previously given to them on this matter. City Manager Shannon Wallace read a letter to Council from Patricia Orcutt, a renter at 1401 Chestnut Avenue, in favor of the rental property register. Ms. Orcutt informed Council of her experience at this location. Rick Long informed Council that his department has been dealing with this same company for quite some time and he informed Council that he has previously contacted the Otero County Health Department about various issues with no assistance. Some discussion was held. City Manager Wallace read aloud an email received from Nicole Roberts against the rental property register. Rick Long's response was that in his experience, the Otero County Commissioners and the Otero County Health Department can't help. Much discussion was held. Councilmember Rose moved to approve the creation of a Rental Property License and Registration Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Immediately after the 2nd, Ruiz commented that the Council needed to have additional conversation about fees and the implementation. More discussion was held. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt a Rental Property License and Registration Ordinance after further discussion can be held. Since there was a motion and a second out, Council voted. Voting results were:

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

Motion failed 6-0, with one abstention

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt a Rental Property License and Registration Ordinance, but Council will hold discussion on fees at a later time. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-2, with one abstention

Proposal for a Dilapidated and Vacant Buildings Ordinance

Public Works Director Rick Long reported to Council that he did not have the pertinent information in front of him tonight. He informed Council that he is on vacation and calling in by phone. Rick Long reminded Council that he previously sent Council information on this topic by email. Councilmember Rose moved to approve and adopt a Dilapidated and Vacant Building Registry Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Proposal for a Property Maintenance Code

Public Works Director Rick Long gave Council information and requests that Council update the current ordinance and consider how it can be enforced. Some discussion was held. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to table any decision on the proposed property maintenance matter to a later time to allow Council time to review the matter. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Proposal for Trash Tote Deposit

Public Works Director Rick Long spoke to Council about the need for the City to implement a trash tote deposit. He advised Council that the City does not currently charge a trash tote deposit. Motion was made by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Rose to approve a trash tote deposit with discussion regarding the amount of deposit to occur at a later time. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Proposal for Water Tap Free Increase

Public Works Director Rick Long spoke to Council about the need to increase the current tap fees. The City of Rocky Ford's fees are significantly lower than most surrounding areas. Rick Long advised Council that the City's current water tap fees do not cover the costs of all materials and labor required to put in a water tap. South Swink charges \$ 2,500 for a ¾ inch water tap. La Junta charges \$ 1,755 for a ¾ inch water tap, \$3,106 for a 1 inch water tap, \$7,020 for a 1 ½ inch water tap and \$12,500 for a 2 inch water tap. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve an increase in the water tap fees similar to the City of La Junta but actual costs will be determined at a later date. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Proposal for Backyard Chicken Ordinance

Mayor Jung commented that Councilmember Grasmick had previously made a suggestion that Council place the matter of backyard chickens on the ballot and allow the citizens to vote on it for the November election. City Manager Shannon Wallace read aloud a letter she had received from Duane Gurule in favor of backyard chickens. Discussion was held. Council asks that City Attorney Bart Mendenhall contact the County Clerk and Recorder to inquire whether or not the City can place an issue on the ballot without a petition and also to inquire about any costs. Motion was made by Councilmember Grasmick to table this matter to a later date to allow City Attorney Bart Mendenhall to get more information. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

NEW BUSINESS - None

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - Already read aloud by City Manager Shannon Wallace

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES - None

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATES

City Manager Wallace reported:

- Read aloud a letter from the Colorado State Auditor
- Shannon has created a new job description for a part-time Museum Curator and will forward to Council for their review
- Shannon will have a discussion with Council regarding increasing the Marijuana excise tax from 6% to allow up to 8%

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL REPORTS OR UPDATES

Councilmember Ruiz reported that he has been looking into the Rocky Ford City Code regarding building and construction permits and he believes that Council needs to make some changes. Councilmember Ruiz would like Council to discuss this matter at an upcoming meeting or work session.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero informed Council that there had been a lot of discussion regarding dogs at loose, vicious dogs and other dog issues on word-of-mouth on Facebook. Corbin-Romero reported that there were over 90 posts just today. Corbin-Romero would like Council to discuss this matter at an upcoming meeting or work session. Corbin-Romero mentioned that the citizens want Council to do something.

Councilmember Grasmick asked if purchases over \$5,000 are still being approved by Council.

Mayor Jung took the opportunity to thank all citizens of Rocky Ford for doing their part for safer-at-home. Mayor Jung will attend an Action 22 phone meeting on Thursday afternoon. On behalf of the Mayor and Council she expressed congratulations to the Rocky Ford graduating class of 2020.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Review City Ordinances
- Review Pool Ordinance
- Review Personnel Policies
- Construction/Building Permits

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk