



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 13, 2022

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Rich Geist, Duane Gurule, Larry Herrera and Norman Railton and many board members of the Arkansas Valley Fair and Exposition board met to discuss a possible memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Arkansas Valley Fair and Exposition board. Much discussion was held about good and bad this year and how they could be improved for the coming years. Rocky Ford City Council and members of the Arkansas Valley Fair & Exposition board will be meeting and doing random tours of the fairgrounds to determine needs.

Others present: J.R. Thompson

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Rich Geist and Norman Railton

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Clerk Rebecca Korinek. Aliza Libby attended as a contract employee for the finance department.

Others present: J. R. Thompson and Nicholas Martinez

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Gurule read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Geist moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Gurule, Railton, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Fuller and Cordova

Motion carried 5-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from August 23, 2022
2. Application for Renewal of Medical Marijuana License – **Rocky Farms, LLC, 1709 Swink Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO**

3. Application for Special Event Permit – ***Danny Boy Foundation for the Watermelon Chunkin, on September 17, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at Ark Valley Fairgrounds, 800 North 8th Street, Rocky Ford,***

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- Shannon sent a message to the Valley Wide Health Clinic regarding Burrell Street between the clinic and the Jefferson Middle School.
- City of Rocky Ford clean up days will be September 23rd and September 24th. Trash dumpsters will be located at the Fairgrounds.
- Shannon made contact with Kathleen of the State of Colorado in regards to Brownfields Assessment and Guidelines for applying for grants and to get help from the EPA.
- Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski attended training to learn the process for applying for grants.
- The City of Rocky Ford and Town of Swink will host the Colorado Municipal League (CML) District 6 meeting on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- CIRSA fees will increase by \$19,935.48.
- Earl Berray, 606 North 13th Steet, did not pay for a zoning permit or a special use permit fee. Police Chief Angelo Griego will be citing Mr. Berray to Court.

STAFF REPORTS

Aliza Libby gave Council financial information for year 2021. This same information has been sent to the city auditors. Changes may be made after the review by the auditors. The first round of figures for the 2023 budget has been completed.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported to following:

- Mayor Jung attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Executive Board meeting last Friday.
- Mayor Jung reminded all about the CML District 6 meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- The Country Club events have been moved to La Junta. The last green was seeded today.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule reported that the Child Development Service (CDS) hosted the "Croods" movie at the Grand Theater and held enrollment.
- The Otero County Republican Women will sponsor movies and presentations.
- Elvis will be shown at the Grand Theater this weekend
- The Watermelon Chunkin Event will be at the Fairgrounds on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The City of Rocky Ford, Small Town Project, Thin Blue Line Creative Design and Project Media will co-host Hocus Pocus drive-in movie and will be used as a community engagement event for community input for the Crystal Lake and Arkansas Valley Fairground revitalization project.
- Community clean up will be September 23 and 24. Some volunteers will be available to pick up trash from the elderly or disabled. Gurule asked City Manager Wallace for a list of properties that have recently been cited for trash or tree branch code violations. Volunteers may be able to help those people as well.

- Gurule reported that a citizen has inquired about a property on S. Main. City Manager Wallace gave Council additional information on this property.

Councilmember Geist reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Railton reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Goco Grant Follow Up

The GOCO grant committee met for a planning and coordinating session earlier in the evening. Councilmember Gurule gave Council information that came from the planning and coordinating session. The GOCO Steering Committee will be appointing a new partner to help with community engagement. Councilmember Gurule moved to accept the recommendation of the GOCO Steering Committee on a partner for community engagement, design and planning for the GOCO grant project.

Councilmember Giest seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Railton, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller and Cordova

Motion carried 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Phase II of South 13 Street

Public Works Director Rick Long gave Council information on the project during the Council work session. Councilmember Railton moved to approve phase II of South 13th Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Railton, Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller and Cordova

Motion carried 5-0

Resolution #15 – Series 2022 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Rocky Ford to Raise Water, Sewer and Trash Rates

This matter has been discussed during previous work sessions and meetings. It was moved by Councilmember Railton and seconded by Councilmember Geist to adopt and approve **Resolution #15, Series 2022 – a Resolution Authorizing the City of Rocky Ford to Raise Water, Sewer and Trash Rates**. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Railton, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller and Cordova

Motion carried 5-0

Discussion – City Bank Accounts

City Manager Wallace asked that Council authorize, the new Finance Director Todd Werner, the ability to view City of Rocky Ford bank account statements. The city's banks require Council's authorization to allow permission to view accounts. Councilmember Herrera moved to authorize Finance Director Todd Werner to have access to any city banking account information. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Railton, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Fuller and Railton

Motion carried 5-0

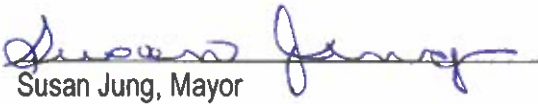
PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Pentlicki, 709 S. Main Street, Mr. Pentlicki serves on the Arkansas Valley Hospital Board and is requesting that Council invite the new CEO of the Arkansas Valley Hospital to join a future Council meeting, or in the alternative that Council make time to visit him at the hospital. There was some discussion held on whether or not the Veteran's Clinic will remain open at the hospital.

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek gave Council information regarding the upcoming election.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Railton moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 7:42 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 
Rebecca Korinek

City Clerk

