



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

July 9, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall met with Rocky Ford Chamber directors Darren Garcia, Brian Leikam and Kris Watters for discussion of the Chamber management agreement for the Gobin Building Complex. Following that discussion, other items discussed were Action 22, code enforcement and dangerous building issues. Others present were Administrative Public Works Director Cy Chavez, Public Works Director Rick Long, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Gerri Clark and Peggy Sue Romero.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session. Mayor Pro Tem Jung called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor Pro Tem: Susan Jung
Councilmembers: Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Dexter Buck, Barbara Hunter
Staff: City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Jim and Pam Parco, Thomas Martin, Jacki Clark, Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Romero, Daryl Grasmick.

Mayor Pro Tem Jung led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Buck moved to approve the minutes from the regular **June 25, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0, with one abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Thomas Martin brought article from July 9th edition of La Junta Tribune-Democrat regarding vicious dog attack on Jacki Clark. He asked Council to please find money in the budget and get something done regarding dog issue. Mr. Martin stated that the lives of Rocky Ford residents are important.

Peggy Sue Romero, Rocky Ford resident, asked Mayor Pro Tem Jung for information regarding dates and procedures for taking out Council petitions. She had not heard anything and wanted information out there. This information was given to Council at the last meeting and read for audience. Councilmember Ruiz also reminded her that this was published in the newspaper. This information is available for Rocky Ford residents. Councilmember election petitions are available at 7:30 a.m. on August 6, 2019 and are due in the clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. on August 26, 2019. A minimum of 25 valid signatures are required.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Hunter and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Lee, Buck, Hunter, Thompson
NO None
ABSENT Geist, Thompson

Motion carried 5-0.

Consent items approved were:

- a. Tree Board Re-appointment – John Dell, 5-year term; ends June 30, 2024
- b. Renewal of Medical Marijuana Center License - Jack Pease d.b.a. The Station, 1701 Elm Ave.

RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE LICENSE TRANSFER – MELISS MACKIERNAN, MEDICAL CANNABIS COLORADO, LLC d.b.a. CURE COLORADO TO JAMES & PAM PARCO LTD d.b.a. MESA ORGANICS III LTD

City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick gave Council a memo stating that James and Pamela Parco submitted a transfer application for the retail marijuana store license that is currently in the possession of Melissa Mackiernan, Medical Cannabis Colorado LLC d.b.a. Cure Colorado. Mrs. Mackiernan’s state and local licenses are current, but will expire November 26, 2019. She is transferring her license because she and her husband are so busy with their other locations that they have not been able to open the one in Rocky Ford. The application from James and Pamela Parco is complete with diagrams, transfer paperwork, property owner consent, lease agreement that is in effect until the purchase is complete, and all other requested information; all fees are paid and a copy of their State transfer application was included. Background investigation reports for CBI and FBI were received, both stating there was no record for either Mr. or Mrs. Parco. City Clerk Grasmick advised Council that she recommended approval of the retail marijuana license transfer. Following questions from Council and answers from the Parco’s, Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve transfer of the retail marijuana center license from Melissa Mackiernan, Medical Cannabis Colorado, LLC d.b.a. Cure Colorado, to James E and Pamela S Parco of Parco Properties LTD d.b.a. Mesa Organics III LTD, located at 1701 Elm Avenue in Rocky Ford.

Councilmember Buck seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Lee, Buck, Hunter, Jung
NO None
ABSENT Geist, Thompson.

Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF TRADING SERVICES FROM WAYNE WALTERS FOR USED CITY EQUIPMENT

Public Works Director Rick Long presented his request to Council for approval of trading services from Wayne Walter for installing sewer line in new Public Safety Building for an old 1985 dump truck in need of repair that is owned by the City. The dump truck has been sitting in the City dump for over 6 years. The cost of installation of the sewer line is approximately \$3875.00+ versus an older model dump truck that is not worth that much monetarily. At Long’s request, City Attorney Mendenhall quickly reviewed the barter agreement and stated that it would be acceptable to use for the trade. It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the barter agreement for transfer of used City dump truck

for Wayne Walter's service for installing sewer line at new Public Safety Building and to approve the signature of Mayor Pro Tem Jung on the document. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Lee, Buck, Hunter, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Geist, Thompson

Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Rick Long sent letter to approximately 2000 City utilities customers advising them of requirements by CDPHE for testing of backflow prevention devices. This notice was required to be sent per CDPHE and was drafted with their approval. Notice also stated that City was currently in compliance and water was safe for consumption. Councilmember Ruiz recommended that next notice start with "water is safe for consumption" for less confusion. Mayor Pro Tem Jung suggested that it be put in bold, capital letters for next notice. There is currently one person in area who is trained to do the testing. Public Works Director Long shared his plans for taking training to keep testing for the City in-house.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Jung announced that she and La Junta City Manager Rick Klein would meet with CDBG representatives at La Junta City Hall on Wednesday, July 10, in La Junta. They will discuss the problem of vacant and dangerous buildings, possible solutions and funding.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Tom Martin asked for an update on the vacant building listing. He asked if Council had seen Mr. Long's video presentation of vacant homes, and recommended that they take a look at it if they had not. Mr. Martin asked Council to please do something regarding this issue. He then announced his intention to run for Mayor in this year's election.

Peggy Sue Romero asked if there was a Council member on the Chamber of Commerce board. She was advised that there is not because they operate under a management agreement with the City. Ms. Romero then recommended that Council google "El Paso County animal control" for very helpful information. She stressed that code enforcement and animal control are very important issues for our community. Mrs. Romero stated that concerned citizens "need to take our City back" before it is overrun from drug and code violation issues. She grew up here. She challenged Council and the audience with the question "What do we want here? Do we want to take our City back or just give it up"?

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Department Reports
- Chamber of Commerce Management Agreement for Gobin Building Complex
- Joint work session with R2 School Board in August
- Review City Codes and suggestions for where to start
- City property sale
- Employee health & retirement benefits


ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lee moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Jung adjourned meeting.

ATTEST:




Susan Jung, Mayor Pro Tem


Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk