

CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2020

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Susan Jung and Councilmembers Daryl Grasmick, Cuco Ruiz, Jolly Rose, Rich Geist, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall met for a City Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Others in attendance: Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Public Works Director Rick Long and Marty Lee. Discussion was held regarding the IGA with the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District of Otero County. City Attorney Bart Mendenhall believes that there are some unclear and confusing portions of the current IGA. Discussion was held. Public Works Director talked to Council about the need to raise fees for water, sewer and to start charging a dormant usage fee.

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, Daryl Grasmick and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Absent: Matthew Holland

Others present: Jesse Smith, Christine Smith, Marty Lee, Brandon Dickinson, Emmett Davis, Maria Garcia, Margarito Garcia, James Conlan, Doug Ballard, Cody Kitch, Ray Dowling and Public Works Director Rick Long

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2020 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSENT Holland

ABSTAIN Geist

Motion carried 5-0 with 1 abstention

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Brandon Dickinson, Jesse Smith, Doug Ballard and Cody Kitch addressed the Council to ask for the Council's support for the Rural Fire District on ballot questions 6a (Mill Levy) and 6b (De-Galagher). They last asked for an increase in 1992 and now find it necessary to ask for an additional increase. There will be a Community meeting and presentation at the Public Safety Building on February 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Ray Dowling, Rocky Ford resident, asked Council if there was an ordinance regarding black tinted windows on cars, boom boxes or coffee cans hanging under the diesel pickup trucks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Motion carried 6-0

CLEAR GOV PRESENTATION - By Phone with Ryan

Ryan gave a presentation on budgeting tools to Council by phone and video. Some discussion was held regarding the security of their systems. City Manager Wallace gave Council a spreadsheet on the cost breakdown. No further action was taken.

RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION

Councilmember Rose moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #2, 2020 Series: A Resolution Authorizing City Officials to Conduct Transactions With The State Bank of Rocky Ford** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #3, 2020 Series: A Resolution Authorizing City Officials to Conduct Transactions With The First National Bank of Rocky Ford** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #4, 2020 Series: A Resolution Authorizing City Officials to Conduct Transactions With The Community Bank of Rocky Ford** as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

DISCUSSION REGARDING MAIN STREET OFFER

City Manager Wallace informed Council that Elaine Gurule with the Hancock Group has not been able to contact the prospective buyer. The offer is still out there and the City's ability to lease the building for one year for a \$1.00 per month plus utilities. The prospective buyer is not planning to do anything with the building until 2021. They would do some renovation work and the building would probably go up for lease again in 2022.

Volunteer Curator Emmett Davis informed Council that the Museum Board would accept other accommodations if the City decides to sell the building. Discussion was held regarding other possible City owned buildings that the Museum could use, the needs and wants of the Museum Board and possible grants to fix the current Museum.

It was moved by Councilmember Rose and seconded by Councilmember Ruiz to go ahead with the sale of the Main Street building for \$60,000.00 and a one year lease for \$1.00 per month plus utilities. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Real Estate Recommendations for Future Sales – (letter from Hancock Group)

Councilmember Grasmick moved to go into a contract with the Hancock Group for the sale of City owned property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

A short discussion was held on the list of City property for sale. Discussion was also held about others that may move into the new Public Safety Building.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCES

Public Works Director Rick Long talked to Council about the need to establish a dormant usage fee and to raise the current fees for water and sewer. Rick Long informed Council that the increase of fees has been needed for many years. Discussion was held regarding the use of the water treatment plant. Rick Long asked Council to increase the sewer fees by 35% per month and increase the water fees by 3% per month for the next three years. Rick Long also asked City Council to pass a Resolution to charge a dormant usage fee of \$30.00 per month. Discussion was held on how to notify customers if there was a rate increase.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to approve an increase to the monthly sewer rates by 35%, to increase water rates by 1% for the next three years and to create a dormant usage fee in the amount of \$30.00 per month, to be effective May 21, 2020. The utilities department will notify customers with a bill insert for the two months prior to effective date. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

Decision on Pest Control

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of changing the City's pest control company. Councilmember Corbin-Romero suggested that City Manager Wallace to inform the current pest control company of any issues so that they may have the opportunity to fix any problems. It was the consensus of Council to stay with the current company.

Nominations for Committees

City Manager Wallace informed Council of an open board position on the Museum Board. Councilmember Geist informed Council that Monica Martinez had attended the last meeting and that the Museum Board would like Council to appoint her to that position. Councilmember Rose informed Council that Gary Reed would like to continue to be on the Swim Pool Committee. The Swim Pool Committee requests that Council appoint Dayla Kreft Pearl to the Swim Pool Committee. City

Manager Wallace informed Council that they also need to appoint a board member to fill the vacancy from Susan Jung's resignation. Councilmember Ruiz volunteered to be on the Swim Pool Committee to take Susan's place. Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked if Council would have a member on the Arts Commission. Councilmember Corbin-Romero volunteered to be on the Arts Commission as well as the Tree Board. Councilmember Rose is interested in being appointed to the OCLI/OPI Committee. Councilmember Grasmick reiterated that he is also interested in volunteering for the OCLI/OPI Committee.

Council had discussion on whether or not the OCLI/OPI Committee should have a Councilmember on the Board. Both Councilmembers Rose and Grasmick reported that people had asked them to be on the Board. Discussion was held on the voting practices of the OCLI/OPI Committee. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to table the decision on who should be appointed to the OCLI/OPI Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Councilmember Grasmick moved to appoint Monica Martinez to the Museum Board, and Gary Reed and Dayla Kreft Pearl to the Swim Pool Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ray Dowling, Rocky Ford resident, thanked City Manager Wallace for the additional U-turn signs that were put up in the City and for placing the double yellow striping. Mayor Jung took this opportunity to thank Public Works Director Rick Long, the Public Work's crew, City and County of La Junta and City Manager Wallace for getting the EPA involved and getting rid of the burnt building by the School.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Public Works Director Rick Long informed Council that he is ready for the HUTF Phase I asphalt project. Asphalt will be placed from the middle of 10th Street, past Main Street and all the way to 8th Street. This area was chosen due to traffic and it being a major thoroughfare. Justin's Paving will be doing the work. The second part of Phase I, is to fix the underground facilities in this same area. A motion was made by Councilmember Grasmick and seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero to approve the water and sewer project and the Phase I asphalt project by Justin's Paving. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATES

City Manager Wallace reported:

- She has an IGA that the County sent over regarding the bike park and the CIRSA requirements. Shannon will email the IGA to City Council and to City Attorney Bart Mendenhall. Bart will review and Shannon will put this matter on the next meeting agenda

Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked Shannon if she had a solution for a complaint made by Larry Herrera, 950 and 950 ½ Franklin Streets. Shannon reported that she has sent this matter over to Public Works Director Rick Long. She has not heard anything back yet.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Grasmick requested that the City send flowers for Bill Hodges' funeral scheduled for Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Manzanola Gym. It was the general consensus of Council that flowers be sent. He also reported that he has retired from the Museum Board.

Councilmember Ruiz asked if the sidewalks that run along Highway 50 can be fixed with HUTF money. Councilmember Ruiz reported a closure for the Library on 2/12/20 from 10 a.m. to Noon. He reported that there has been an increase of new patrons and the Library Board is brainstorming to find ways to attract more patrons.

Councilmember Rose wondered if Council members would be allowed to attend City staff meetings. Shannon informed Council that they are welcome to attend and she will send an email to Council when a staff meeting is scheduled. Councilmember Rose also reported that she had no new information from the Library Board or Planning Commission.

Councilmember Geist reported that the Museum is closed for the months of January and February for remodel. He reported that the volunteers are doing a great job. Even though they are closed, 31 people went through the Museum during the month of January.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked for information on meeting dates and times for the Tree Board and the Arts Commission.

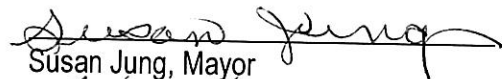
AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Departmental Reports
- School Board Session (March 10)
- Review City Ordinances
- Look into Pool Ordinance
- Review Personnel Policies

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk