



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2021

### **WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jung, Councilmembers Cuco Ruiz, Daryl Grasmick, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Sherri Cordova, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Nathan Shultz met for work session. Others in attendance were Mac Holder, Kyle Crosswhite, Ark Valley Fair Board Manager Sally Cope, Margarito Garcia and Maria Garcia.

Mac Holder gave Council some information regarding the remodel at the golf course. Mac commented that he is aware that the City and the Golf Course have an agreement and he assured Council that the City will not be held responsible for any bills due to the remodel of the building. Mac also suggested that maybe a Councilmember might attend the golf board meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Finance/HR Director Azucena Estrada gave Council information about the City revenue categories and advised Council that they may request any monies made from a business license be put wherever they would like it to go.

City Attorney Nathan Shultz gave Council copies of the municipal code chapter 6-1-20 regarding a City fee schedule. The City needs to have one.

### **REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.**

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Daryl Grasmick, Cuco Ruiz, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero and Sherri Cordova.

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee by Zoom.

Others present: Arkansas Valley Fair Board Manager Sally Cope, Kyle Crosswhite, Mac Holder, Larry Herrera, Jane Vera, Art Gauna, Patty Gauna, Morton Gauna, Tom Martin, Margarito Garcia, Maria Garcia, Johnette Fuller and Bruce Carle

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Corbin-Romero, again, 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 taken off the agenda.

Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the Agenda and consent agenda with the removal of the minutes from February 9, 2021 and placing this matter on the regular agenda under old business item C. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Margarito Garcia commented to Council that the City website needed to be updated and then voiced his frustration about the work session. Mr. Garcia feels that topics that are scheduled for work sessions are not being discussed and Garcia feels that the Council seems to be unprepared for the sessions. City Manager Wallace informed Mr. Garcia that the City website is under construction right now and will be updated soon.

Tom Martin asked Council why there are very limited "marked" police cars in town. Martin also asked Council about vacant buildings in town that are a nuisance and an eyesore. Mr. Martin suggested that the City might want to auction or sell some equipment that is not being used to purchase a street sweeper and/or a dump truck.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- COVID 19 protocols, including the need for social distancing and wearing masks.
- The City is planning to hold a fund raiser for Cinco de Mayo to help the police department move their offices to the Public Safety Building.
- Options are being looked at to upgrade the Council Chambers audio/visual system for the enhancement of Zoom and Facebook live stream. Separation shields for Council will be added.
- There was a dog at large last week. The police department caught the dog and noticed that the dog was not in good health. The dog was taken to the vet and the vet determined that the dog could not be saved. The dog was put down.
- The police department has three applicants for the three open positions. Two of these are right out of the training academy.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung informed Council that she had previously been contacted by the Denver Post. They were doing an article on how City Councils were functioning during the pandemic. Mayor Jung reported that the article was published and she believed it to be well written. Mayor Jung also reported that she, La Junta City Manager Rick Klein and the EPA had a discussion regarding dilapidated buildings and houses. On their next visit to the area, the EPA will be inviting City Manager Wallace to discuss some of Rocky Ford's issues.

Councilmember Cordova reported that she had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting where they had discussion regarding the upkeep of the Gobin Building.

Councilmember Grasmick reminded all that the Otero County Landfill, Inc. (OCLI) implemented a new fee to dump tires at the landfill. The fee was raised to \$4.00 per tire effective March 1, 2021.

Councilmember Ruiz reported that there is a vacancy on the library board. Library employee hours are going to be changing. The Library will host a summer reading program this year.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

- None



## OLD BUSINESS

### ***Tree Board Grant Options***

Johnette Fuller with the City of Rocky Ford Tree Board informed Council that she has spoken to Black Hills Energy and she was told that Black Hills will trim the trees along Highway 50 in both directions. Black Hills determined that there were around 40 trees that needed trimmed at a cost of around \$20,000. Black Hills is looking at possible resources to help with the cost. Some citizens have contacted Johnette about having trees removed or cut down. Johnette reports that there are 5 trees that qualify for the half/half tree board grant. The tree board needs Council to decide one way or the other if they will allow citizens to make payment plans, on their half of tree cutting cost, on their utility bills. Councilmember Peggy Sue Romero asked if City Manager Wallace would contact Kevin Campbell to ask him his opinion about receiving payment for trees that he cuts down. Councilmember Ruiz moved to not allow citizens to make payment plans on the half/half tree board grant. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

### ***Discussion Regarding Water Leak Adjustment***

City Manager Wallace asked Council what they would like to see in the water leak adjustment resolution or ordinance. Some discussion was held regarding how much meter usage or an actual monetary amount that would be required before a leak adjustment would be granted. City Manager Wallace will get some information on the water leak adjustments that have been given through the last few years to help Council make their decision. This matter will be put on the next agenda.

### ***City Council Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2021***

Councilmember Corbin-Romero informed Council that an executive session was held on February 9, 2021 and after the executive session was ended there was a motion and second made. The minutes do not reflect what Council voted on. Corbin-Romero feels that more information should have been reported in the meeting minutes. City Attorney Nathan Shultz informed Council that after talking to CIRSA about this matter, it was decided that, because this is a personnel matter, the rights of the City and the Employee need to be protected. The City has complied with all that they were asked to do and the CIRSA attorney provided the verbiage for the meeting minutes. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the city council meeting minutes from February 9, 2021. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

## NEW BUSINESS

### ***PUBLIC HEARING – TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE – DAWGGG HOUSE, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford***

Mayor Jung closed the regular council meeting at 8:05 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing regarding the application for a tavern liquor license by the Dawggg House, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO. Jane Vera Owner and Patty Gauna Manager for the Dawggg House approached Council. Jane was given oath. Jane reminded Council that she and her family are long time members of this community and that she owns a daycare center in Rocky Ford. Jane explained to Council that she is requesting a tavern license to go along with a grill. They would serve burgers, fries, hot dogs and wings. They bought the building at 606 Elm because their father used to own it. They have done extensive remodel in the inside and outside. Some discussion was held regarding inspections and meeting with the health department for the food side. Rocky Ford citizen Tom Martin asked what they will do for parking. Jane Vera informed all that they had purchased a vacant lot on the west side of the

building to make into a parking area. Tom Martin commented that he is always in favor of new business to the area. There being no further comments for or against, Mayor Jung closed the public hearing at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened the regular council meeting. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to approve and accept the liquor license application for the Dawggg House, 606 Elm Avenue. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

### ***Grand Theater Grant Usage – Bruce Carle***

Bruce Carle reported that since the Grand Theater has re-opened they have had a few really good months. Attendance has increased and people are very glad to be able to go to the theater. The theater has been able to get access to some newer movies that people actually want to see. Bruce reported that they have had a lot of help in the way of donations and after canvassing the Arts Commission and the Grand Friends, they would like the City to keep the grant money in the general theater fund to use for utilities, movie rentals and concessions. The popcorn machine is getting very old and the ice machine was just recently replaced. There are plans to remodel the bathrooms but building materials have increased but the money for that will come from the Grand Friends. Bruce Carle informed Council that they have a great bunch of volunteers and wanted to thank them all.

### ***New Job Descriptions***

City Manager Wallace explained to Council that the job descriptions that are in question for this meeting are not new jobs, they are for jobs that already exist with the City but job descriptions were never created for them. The job description for Azucena's job is being created because the current job description for Finance and Human Resources are separate so this will be more in line with Azucena's job. The job description for Building Maintenance Worker 1 will create a job description for the duties that were held by Bob Basye and will allow for the posting of the position. The other four job descriptions are for the Public Safety Building. Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the job description for Building Maintenance Worker 1. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the HR/Finance Director job description. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Councilmember Cordova moved to approve all four Public Safety job descriptions, Public Safety Communications Director, Public Safety Communications Supervisor, Public Safety Telecommunicator, and Public Safety Senior Telecommunicator. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

***Discussion – Bonus for Carol Coates for Taking on Additional Duties***

Mayor Jung informed Council that she had recently had a discussion with Carol Coates about taking on some additional duties. The Mayor had previously offered these duties to Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski, but Milenski was not interested. Carol Coates agreed to take on the additional duties and Mayor Jung is recommending that Council approve a \$1,600 bonus for taking on additional duties. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve a bonus in the amount of \$1,600 to be paid to Carol Coates. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Cordova, Grasmick, Jung
NO	Corbin-Romero
ABSENT	Geist

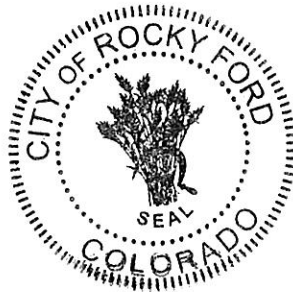
Motion carried 4-1

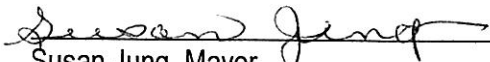
**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING OR WORK SESSION**

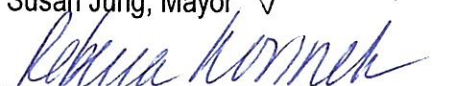
- Business license
- Discussion/Recommendations for Chip Seal

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.



  
Susan Jung, Mayor

  
Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk