



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

November 26, 2019

Work Session:

Mayor J.R. Thompson and Councilmembers Barbara Hunter, Rich Geist, Marty Lee, Cuco Ruiz and Susan Jung met for a Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. Others present were: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Public Works Director Rick Long, Finance Director Azucena Estrada, Otero County Public Works Director Lex Nichols, Toni Madrid and Joe Ayala of Edward Jones Investments, Matthew Holland, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero and Jolly Rose. Items on the agenda were a presentation by Toni Madrid and her associate regarding their company's retirement benefit plans for employees, a proposal by Lex Nichols to partner with City for building a dirt bike park on City property at 8th and Pine on the old Lincoln School playground, and information from Public Works Director Rick Long of potential problems with Zone 5 and need for a sub-surface leak detector.

Regular Meeting:

Following the work session, Rocky Ford City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Richard Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Absent: Dexter Buck

Others present: City Finance Director Azucena Estrada, Matthew Holland, Merrel and Mary Sue Holland, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Lawrence Romero, Richard and Bettie White, Scott White, Kevin Tanabe, Amy White Tanabe, Trenton Tanabe, Kerry Collias, Jolly Rose, James Conlan.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hunter. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Richard White, accompanied by family members, spoke to Council regarding moving the old 1918 fire truck currently housed in the Rocky Ford Museum Carriage House to the lobby of the new Public Safety Building. He suggested it was more appropriate to display it there. Jolly Rose, local resident, commented that moving the 1918 fire truck from the museum carriage house to the new public safety building would allow

more people to view the artifact. Councilmember Geist also agreed with Mr. White and Ms. Rose. Mr. White was advised that this matter would be more appropriately addressed by the new Council.

COUNCIL ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Councilmember Ruiz moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned the final meeting for this Council.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS

City Manager Shannon Wallace, assisted by City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, presented Mayor Thompson and Councilmembers Lee and Hunter each with a framed certificate of appreciation for their service on the Rocky Ford City Council. Mayor Thompson was then presented with a special commemorative plaque for his service of 6 years as a City Council Member and two years as Mayor. Councilmembers Lee and Hunter were each presented with a faux diamond paper weight engraved with name "City of Rocky Ford". The audience gave the outgoing Council a round of applause.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TRANSFER OF SEATS

City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick administered the oath of office to the following newly elected Councilmembers: Mayor Susan Jung, 2-year term; Ward I Councilmember Rich Geist (incumbent), 4-year term; Ward III Councilmember Cuco Ruiz (incumbent), 4-year term; Ward I Councilmember Matthew Holland, 2-year term; and Ward III Councilmember Peggy Sue Romero, 2-year term. Audience welcomed the new Councilmembers with a round of applause. The new Mayor and Councilmembers took their respective seats at the front.

Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Cuco Ruiz, Matthew Holland, Rich Geist, Peggy Sue Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Geist to approve the agenda with consent items as presented. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung

NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

Consent items approved were:

- A. Approval of 2 special events permits for the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce at the Gobin Building, 107 N Main, Rocky Ford, on December 14, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and on December 21, 2019, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of 2 special events permits for Rocky Ford Elks B.P.O.E. #1147. 301 N 9th Street, Rocky Ford, on December 7, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and on December 31, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal from Lex Nichols – Dirt Bike Track at old Lincoln School property:

Councilmember Ruiz made motion to move forward with plans for a dirt bike park at 8th and Pine on City property at the old Lincoln School playground, as proposed by Lex Nichols in the previous work session. Councilmember Geist seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 5-0.

Request from Rick Long – Purchase of Sub-Surface Detector:

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Romero to approve the purchase of Sub-Surface LD-18 Leak Detector for \$5,995, as proposed by Public Works Director Rick Long in the previous work session. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2020 CITY BUDGET

Mayor Jung closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the 2020 Budget at 7:08 p.m. When Mayor Jung called for comments from the audience and from Council, there was no one speaking either for or against the proposed 2020 budget. City Manager Shannon Wallace offered to meet with Councilmember Romero to discuss the budget after Ms. Romero commented that she would like someone to explain it to her. Mayor Jung closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. Council then reconvened in regular session.

ORDINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Ordinance #947 – Budget Adoption

Councilmember Geist moved to approve **Ordinance #947: An Ordinance Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues For Each Fund And Adopting A Budget For The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado, For The Calendar Year Beginning On The First Day of January, 2020, and Ending On The Last Day of December, 2020** on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Geist, Jung
NO	None
ABSTAIN	Holland, Romero

Motion carried 3-0, with two abstaining.

Ordinance #948 – Set Mill Levy

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Geist to approve **Ordinance #948: An Ordinance Levying General Property Taxes For The Year 2020 To Help Defray The Costs of Government For The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado For The 2020 Budget Year, And For The Mill Levy On Each Dollar's Worth of Property As Per The Assessed Value Thereon, As Shown By The Assessor Of Otero County For The Year 2020, As Fixed By The Board Of Equalization** on first reading. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance #949

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve and adopt **Ordinance #949: An Ordinance Appropriating Sums of Money To The Various Funds In The Amount And For The Purpose As Set Forth Below, For The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado, For The 2020 Budget Year** on first reading. Councilmember Geist seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Jung
NO None
ABSTAIN Romero

Motion carried 4-0, with one abstaining.

DECLARATION OF OPEN WARD II SEATS & REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

Mayor Jung announced there were two open seats for Ward II Councilmembers. No one chose to run for this ward in the November 2019 election. It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Romero to declare a vacancy and accept letters of intent for the Ward II Council seats until close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2019. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

Council will interview the candidates who submitted letters of interest by the deadline and select their choices for the two seats at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

VACATION OF DECEMBER 24, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Geist to vacate the regular December 24, 2019 Council meeting. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilmember Holland moved to appoint Councilmember Rich Geist as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Romero, Jung
NO None
ABSTAIN Geist

Motion carried 4-0, with one abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Move 1918 Fire Truck From Rocky Ford Museum To New Public Safety Building

City Manager Shannon Wallace asked Council to consider the proposal of moving the old fire truck to the Public Safety Building. Council discussed the suggestion made by Richard White during Citizen Participation. Councilmember Geist was asked if the old fire truck still ran and he replied no. Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Holland to move the 1918 fire truck from the Museum Carriage House to the new Public Safety Building. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

Scott White commended his father, Richard White, for the work he had done in raising funds and helping to get the new Public Safety Building built. He offered to cover the cost for moving the 1918 fire truck from Rocky Ford Museum to new Public Safety Building and asked the City to send him the bill.

Proposal to Sell Old Public Works Garage by Fairgrounds

City Manager Wallace asked Council for their thoughts on selling the old public works shop by the fairgrounds. There are at least two community members who have expressed interest in acquiring this property to expand their current businesses. Following discussion, Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to move forward with exploring the sale of the old public works garage at the fairgrounds as proposed by City Manager Wallace. Councilmember Geist seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

Condemned Garage Adjoining J.C. Carrica property at 966 & 968 Front Street:

City Manager Shannon Wallace recommended that Council consider deeding over the condemned garage attached by a common wall to the property at 966 and 968 Front Street (the former Smiths' Tavern also known as Aragon's Tavern), recently acquired by J.C. Carrica of the Southeast Health Center. The small garage was part of the McClain property that City recently purchased for new public safety building. City was unaware they owned this small garage. The EPA did not consider it enough of an emergency to take care of and took it off the list of potential addresses to demolish with their help. Following discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to move forward with this. They instructed City Attorney Bart Mendenhall to draft paperwork to deed the garage to Mr. Carrica and his group.

Consideration of Waiver For Benefit Health Advisor Mark Hilliar:

City Manager Wallace recommended that Council consider allowing her to sign a waiver to allow Benefit Health Advisor Mark Hilliar to access employee records to assist in finding better, more affordable healthcare coverage for city employees. She told Council that when the Town of Swink brought them on board, they saved the town \$17,000 annually. A benefit analysis would have to be performed before it could be determined if savings could be realized for the City of Rocky Ford. Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Geist and seconded by Councilmember Holland to sign the waiver so that a health benefit analysis could be performed by Health Benefit Advisor for the City. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Holland, Geist, Romero, Jung
NO None

Motion carried 5-0.

Other items reported on were:

- No Christmas bonuses for city employees this year.
- Council needs to decide if they are hosting a Christmas party for employees.
- Each department is doing their own Christmas party, so there will not be one big City Christmas party for employees
- The official opening ceremony for the new Public Safety Building will be December 18, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- R2 School Board will not be able to meet with Rocky Ford City Council until after the first of the year.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL – REPORTS & UPDATES

Councilmember Geist reported the Museum Board received a \$5000 grant from the BNSF Railroad. Board members have been diligently cleaning and organizing the museum. Retirement party for William Hodges was held at the Rocky Ford Museum on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

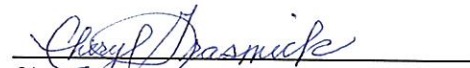
- Departmental Reports
- Joint work session with R2 School Board (January?)
- Review City Ordinances
- Look into Pool Ordinance
- Review personal policies

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned meeting.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk