



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**May 10, 2022**

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

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova and Rich Geist, City Manager Shannon Wallace met for discussion about Inflow and Infiltration, utility sewer resolution, possible utility increases and alley clean-up day.

Others present: Gary Reed, J.R.Thompson, Marty Lee, Rob Marshall and Cuco Ruiz

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova and Rich Geist

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Nathan Shultz, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee, Water/Wastewater Supervisor Luke James and Cuco Ruiz

Others present: Gary Reed, J.R. Thompson, Diane Marshall, Peggy Meyer, Marla Leikam, Donna Bush, Cindy Kovalcik, Dale and Cindy Kreft, Tyler Abert (some names on list were not legible)

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

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. City Manager Wallace requested a few changes to the agenda 1) the intergovernmental agreement with Otero County needs to be removed from the agenda, 2) move the asphalt project to new business under C and 3) move the executive session to after the final public comment.

Councilmember Geist moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Fuller, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT Railton

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from April 26, 2022
2. Application for Special Event Permit – **BPOE #1147 Elks Lodge, 301 North 9th Street, Rocky Ford for May 14, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight)**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Museum Board President Donna Bush gave Council an update of the museum board actions. The board is still waiting for a check from Jeanette Meyer.

Cindy Kovalcik, 408 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed concern to Council regarding the city's citizen complaint procedures and asked that Council revisit this matter. Kovalcik also asked that city expenditures be published in the local newspaper.

Diane Marshall, 408 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, asked Council to not blame the past for issues that are happening today. Marshall asked that budget cuts be made to lessen the increases to utilities or fees for various permits.

J.R. Thompson commented that there is a police officer that goes out of his way to help and is very courteous.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- Shannon previously emailed monthly revenue and expenses to Council
  - Shannon informed Council that legal proceedings are complete on the burned building on Sycamore. Tammy Bethel is scheduled to call Shannon with more information.
  - Shannon informed Council that the current garbage resolution has two clean-up days. The city will set up some days for residents to throw away items that wouldn't normally be picked up in a trash tote.
  - Shannon gave Council information on the open Public Information Officer job posting. There have been no applicants. Ray Martinez with Colorado Workforce Center suggested that the job qualifications be lowered to help with recruitment.
  - City staff has chosen to opt out of the FAMLI insurance.
  - Council was given information on when their term will be up. Some discussion was held.
  - Shannon requested Council's permission to attend the Colorado Municipal League (CML) conference in June. The Town of Swink will be paying for Shannon's registration and lodging. Shannon requested that Council pay her salary for those days, as she will be working for the City of Rocky Ford as well. It was the general consensus of Council to allow City Manager Shannon Wallace to attend the CML conference in June with pay. Councilmember Herrera moved to appoint Mayor Jung as the voting delegate for the City of Rocky Ford for the CML conference. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Fuller, Geist Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Railton
- Motion carried 6-0
- Shannon met with Rebecca Goodwin regarding the Rocky Ford Cemetery being placed on the National Registry.
  - Shannon informed Council that the swim pool needs a new roof. Some discussion was held. Shannon recommended that the pool not open, for safety reasons, until the roof is fixed.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported the following:

She had lunch with the Pioneer Nursing Home Director.

Mayor Jung attended a ribbon cutting.

Mayor Jung attended the Cinco de Mayo festivities at Library Park.

Mayor Jung and City Clerk Rebecca Korinek went to ABC Title to complete the closing paperwork on the Odd Fellows Building sale.

Mayor Jung and Marty Lee attended the housing summit by Action 22.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera attended the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Commission will make a recommendation to sub-divide property at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.
- Herrera attended the Country Club meeting. They have hired a new maintenance person. The Country Club has new carts to rent. The club has set golfing fees for the year.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule reported on the Cinco de Mayo festival. Many vendors and community partners attended and good weather was enjoyed by all.
- Gurule attended a ribbon cutting for Elm Street Collective, 916 Elm
- Gurule received a call from the new owner of the Woodside Building thanking City Manager Wallace for her help in getting all issues wrapped up for closing.

Councilmember Fuller reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- The library board met and the library will be closing on Saturdays until further notice due to attendance.
- Library Director Leanna Chavez is getting ready for the summer reading program.
- Tree board meeting centered around the clean-up and planting of the boxes downtown. The Board will be asking volunteers to come help and \$50 sponsors for the plant boxes

Councilmember Geist reported the following:

- Geist was unable to attend the museum board but asked Donna Bush to give a report. Donna Bush reported that their monthly event on the Santa Fe Trail was well attended and the exhibit is still up. The board repaired a window. Donna is trying to prepare for grant applications. The museum had approximately 44 visitors for the month.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Luke James gave Council information on the drainage issues on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Tail water from Smith Farms is draining to the city drain on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Veatch. The city's drain cannot keep up with the volume of excess tail water. The State Service Water Commissioner has looked into this matter. The city would need to fix the street and then fix the drain and would be about a \$500,000,00 project. Much discussion was held.

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski gave Council information on a request from a citizen regarding the watering and mowing schedules for the cemetery. Dandelions and gopher holes are an issue.

Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee gave Council information regarding a proposed electrification bill, CHAFA money that may be available and electric cars.

Marty also reported, on behalf of Public Works Director Rick Long, that:

- Milling work is done on Walnut Avenue.
- Maple Avenue is on hold due to wind and rain.
- There is no tree drop area available at the fairgrounds due to safety issues.
- Stop signs on main street will be a full-time 4-way stop. Some painting will be done to help.

Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz gave Council an update on vehicle parking issues with Absolute Auto on Main Street. Discussion was held with Sarah Yutterman of Absolute Auto. Much discussion was held.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

***Ordinance # 968 – An Ordinance, Amending Ordinance #962, for the Registration of Vacant Buildings and Properties Within the Limits of the City***, on first reading.

Councilmember Gurule moved to approve and adopt ***Ordinance #968 – An Ordinance, Amending Ordinance #962, for the Registration of Vacant Buildings and Properties Within the Limits of the City***, on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Giest. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### ***Discussion – Gobin Building Contract with Chamber of Commerce***

Discussion was held regarding the outstanding contract. Chamber Manager Peggy Meyer reported that the contract was emailed to City Attorney Nathan Shultz. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to the next regular meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

***Planning Commission – Recommendation to approve the subdivision of property at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 970 Washington Avenue, Rocky Ford***

Mayor Jung reported that the Planning Commission has recommended that Council approve a sub-division request by the St. Peter's Lutheran Church. After some discussion. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the application for sub-division of 970 Washington, Rocky Ford made by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### ***Arnold Lopez – 200 North Main Street – Sewer Complaint***

Mr. Lopez was not present at this meeting. No further action was taken.

### ***Washington Street – Asphalt Project***

This will be a paving project and will start immediately after the Maple Avenue project. Money for this project will come from HUTF funds and the 1% sales tax. Much discussion was held. The motion was made by Councilmember Gurule and seconded by Councilmember Fuller to approve the asphalt project for Washington Street. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

City Attorney Nathan Shultz gave information regarding the status of a follow-up letter sent to Jeanette Meyer to return money owed to the museum board. Some discussion was held.

Cindy Kovalcik asked Council again to have the monthly expenses published in the newspaper. Kovalcik expressed her concerns about the conditions of the roads and that money is available for some streets but not for others.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Geist moved to go into executive session – *for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) – Dispatch Services*. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Those going into executive session are: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist, Mayor Jung, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Nathan Shultz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

No further action was taken

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at meeting at 8:42 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:  City Clerk

