



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

June 11, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council and City Manager Shannon Wallace met with Rocky Ford Museum Board members for discussion. Museum Board members present were Emmett Davis, Steven Carlile, Bill and Geri Hodges and Dustin Bryan. They gave updates on happenings at the Museum and discussed possibility of using one of the empty City buildings to work on and store items from the Museum. Other items discussed were the Beautification Committee and the Benefit Health Advisor. City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Public Works Director Rick Long and several members of the community also attended.

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

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Dexter Buck, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

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

Others present: Rick Long, William B. and Geri Hodges, Emmett Davis, Steven E. Carlile, Dustin Bryan, Tom Martin, Peggy Sue Romero, Laura Thompson, James Conlan.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **May 28, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent items approved were:

- a. 2020 Budget Calendar
- b. Hotel/Restaurant Liquor License Renewal-10th Hole Bar & Grill, 91 Play Park Hill, Rocky Ford

- c. Permission for Otero County Health Department to use streets around Library Park on 8/10/2019 for Youth Wellness 5K run.

ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION

Ordinance #944:

Councilmember Jung moved to approve **Ordinance #944: An Ordinance Vacating Portions of Streets Generally Known As Chestnut Avenue, 14th Street and Catalpa Avenue, And The Alley Bordering Block "U" Herdman's Addition To The City Of Rocky Ford, As Shown By The Recorded Plat Thereof, County Of Otero, State Of Colorado** on first reading. Councilmember Geist seconded motion.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance #945:

It was moved by Councilmember Ruiz and seconded by Councilmember Jung to approve **Ordinance #945: An Ordinance To Submit To A Vote Of The Registered Electors Of The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado At A Municipal Election On November 5, 2019, A Question Of Whether To Increase The City Sales Tax By One Percent (1%) Per Year For Three Years By Increasing The City Sales Tax Rate From Three Percent (3%) To Four Percent (4%), Which Is One Quarter Of The Annual Sales Tax Collected, To Be Effective January 1, 2021 Through December 31, 2024, And Restricting The Use Of Revenues From The Additional One Percent Sales Tax As Follows: The Increase Shall Be Used to Continue To Repair Streets, Sidewalks And Other Physical Improvements In The City According To A Council Approved Repair Schedule** on first reading. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION

Councilmember Jung moved to approve and adopt **Resolution #3, Series 2019: A Resolution To Utilize The Requirements And Procedures Of The Uniform Election Code Of 1992 In Lieu Of The Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965 in Order To Participate In Coordinated Elections In Otero County.**

Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hunter. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Dangerous Building Ordinance:

Council was presented with a draft ordinance prepared by Public Works Director Rick Long that defined unsafe buildings and the process for dealing with them. Since Council and City Attorney Mendenhall saw the document for the first time shortly before meeting, Council deferred action until they could review it.

Mayor Thompson asked City Attorney Mendenhall to review the document and to format into a proper ordinance. Possible sources of funding for enforcement of the dangerous building regulations were discussed.

Beautification Committee:

Council discussed the idea of a beautification committee in several previous work sessions. Their suggestion for committee would be to "brainstorm" for ways to make the City look better by taking care of empty and/or dilapidated buildings. Among suggestions for forming committee were developing mission statement, deciding size of committee and how to recruit volunteers. Currently, beautification is a line item in the trash fund. City Manager Wallace will review to decide a more appropriate line item, preferably in general fund. Citizen input and suggestions for beautification committee are welcomed by Council and administration. Council will discuss at a future meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Wallace discussed the following items:

- Update on 2020 budget. Department directors will meet at 10:00 a.m. on June 27 for budget discussion.
- Asked Council if she should pay receipt submitted by Phyllis Adkins, former Tree Board chairman. Permission for purchase was not requested before flowers were purchased for Arbor Day celebration. General consensus of Council was to pay receipt from city promotion line item. Councilmember Hunter will advise Tree Board that purchases should be approved before made.
- Advised Council of a citizen claiming he was overcharged for trash services. Documentation could not be located verifying any arrangements made with former city managers. Following discussion, it was general consensus of Council to settle matter by not charging for trash services until credit for disputed charges was reached.

Public Works Director Rick Long updated Council on the asphalt project progress on Washington Avenue. Project was slowed by the need to address drainage problems in area, to cut down and level street, and to bring manholes, valve covers and other utility components down to lower grade level.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Jung reported on Tami's CIRSA Lunch Bunch meeting in Lamar that she attended. Tami Tanoue is the new CEO for CIRSA. CIRSA members were advised that settlements from the insurance pool will be increasing due to settlements coming out of courts rising. Arbitration and settlements are preferred to jury trials by CIRSA because of the risk of higher monetary damages coming out of courts.

Councilmember Ruiz reported the summer reading program is underway at the Library.

Councilmember Hunter reported Tree Board will meet next Monday, June 17, 2019.

Mayor Thompson reported on the summer student musical that will be performed at the Grand Theater on July 25, 26 and 27. There are about 20 young people involved in the musical production of **Sister Act**.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Peggy Sue Romero conveyed that many citizens have expressed their appreciation to her for Rick Long and all of his hard work. She also suggested that the City consider hiring a grant writer to help secure funding for the various projects that are needed. Mrs. Romero would like Rocky Ford to return to the positive condition it was in 30 to 40 years. She then asked for an update on the recent fire at the former Liberty School and if the damaged property on Sycamore was still in litigation. Mrs. Romero was informed that Police Chief Griego had asked CBI to help with investigation of Liberty School fire. City Manager Wallace has asked the Rocky Ford Police Department to patrol the area around the former Liberty School more often. The administration is trying to determine what to do regarding damaged property on Sycamore.

Tom Martin asked Council if the City had an emergency flood plan in case the river or canals flooded. Council and the Administration will look into this.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Second Readings for Ordinances #944 and 945.
- Department Reports
- Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement for Gobin Building Complex
- Joint work session with R2 School Board
- Review City Codes and suggestions where to start

City Manager Wallace advised Council that she had not received any response to her requests for a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding their lease agreement for the Gobin Building Complex. She suggested that Councilmember Marty Lee become involved in the discussions because of his connections to the Chamber.

R2 School Board tentatively want a joint meeting with Council in July. Mayor Thompson will check with School Board President Darren Garcia. There was nothing new to report on City property for sale. Presentations from two different health insurance representatives will be presented to Council tentatively in August before it is brought to Council for consideration. Council was asked to bring a list of priorities for reviewing City codes back to next work session.


ADJOURNMENT

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





 J. R. Thompson, Mayor



 Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk