



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a training work session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, with Sam Light from CIRSA. Others present were Finance Director Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Gerri Clark, Rick Weiss, Daryl Grasmick and Laura Thompson.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session at 7:30 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, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

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

Others present: Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Rick Weiss, Daryl Grasmick, Laura Thompson.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Lee moved to approve the minutes from the regular **December 11, 2018** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Thompson

NO None

ABSTAIN Hunter

ABSENT Patrick

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the agenda with consent item as presented. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson

NO None

ABSENT Patrick

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent item approved was Modification of Premises for Mini Mart, Inc., dba Loaf N Jug #49, 305 N 10th, Rocky Ford, CO., as presented. Since new state legislation allowed the increase from 3.2% beer retail to regular strength at grocery stores and convenience stores as of January 1, 2019, they are expanding the beer section in their store.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC POSTING LOCATION

Per State Statute, City Council must designate the official location of all public postings at the first meeting of each fiscal year. Councilmember Lee moved to approve the designation of the City Council bulletin board at City Hall, 203 S Main, Rocky Ford, as the official posting place for the City of Rocky Ford. Councilmember Ruiz seconded motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Thompson noted that individual citizens can request agenda notices be sent to them by mail or email, but those who want this additional service must request it yearly.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW INTERIM CITY MANAGER

In accordance with the discussion that occurred during the work session on December 11th, Council will appoint a new Interim City Manager to replace Steve Rabe. Councilmember Ruiz moved to appoint Shannon Wallace as the Interim City Manager in accordance with the recommendations contained in the memorandum as presented from Administrative Services Consultant Steve Rabe. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee. Local resident Daryl Grasmick requested and was granted permission to speak at this time. He suggested there might be a conflict of interest if Ms. Wallace was both the city manager and finance director. Mayor Thompson noted that Council approved two new positions at the December 11, 2018 meeting: dispatch supervisor and accounting tech. Azucena Estrada was hired as accounting technician and has already begun training in accounts payable and payroll. Ms. Shannon’s other responsibilities as finance director are budgets, audits and human resources; these are also duties of a city manager. City Attorney Mendenhall, who was consulted at the December 11, 2018, reiterated this evening that he did not see a conflict of interest. Following discussion, Mayor Thompson called for the vote. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Council received a final written report from former Interim City Manager Steve Rabe. He sent them one final Work Task List and an Operational Assessment with recommendations. The task list contained items Council asked him to accomplish while he was interim city manager. All were accomplished with the exception of two, which will be handled by Ms. Wallace. The remaining tasks are a new agreement between the City and the Rocky Ford Rural Fire District and having department heads sign off on their evaluations that were recently completed. Council received the Operational Assessment this evening so they will review it for discussion at the next meeting.

Interim City Manager Wallace presented Council with copies of the completed 2019 budget, along with an end of December report from 2018 budget. She also discussed the format of monthly financial report Council would like to receive. Ms. Wallace informed Council of the roofing contract from Turner Roofing for roof repair for the library, a proposal from Public Works Director Rick Long for purchase of 75 more trash

totes and an offer from Otero County to allow the City to purchase of one of their used road graders. Copies of those items will be provided to Council for the next meeting. She also discussed payment of employee health insurance premiums with United HealthCare, the new insurance provider. Two employees who were no longer with the City as of January 4, 2019, will have their January premium paid through the end of the month to keep City's insurance stable and consistent. Discussion was also held regarding the upcoming CML Annual Conference in June and possibility of sending two councilmembers and a finance person to the conference.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

It was the general consensus of Council to table establishing a process/timeline for negotiation of Golf Course Lease Agreement until they get a chance to review Mr. Rabe's operational assessment.

Councilmember Jung reported that she was guest at the Rocky Ford Police Department Christmas party. The police and fire departments have been working well together. She also attended the funeral service for former Rocky Ford Police Chief Frank Gallegos and thanked the public safety departments for making his funeral a special, memorable occasion. The Rocky Ford Fire Department handled traffic control so the Rocky Ford Police Department could take part in the procession. Councilmember Jung reported that Jeremy Muth at First National Bank said they are willing to post notices of Council and other public meetings on their digital sign. It was the general consensus of Council to ask them to do it.

Councilmember Ruiz mentioned his idea for a community garden and asked to schedule a meeting with Interim City Manager Wallace to discuss endeavor. He reported that he was not yet given a contract for operating the proposed community garden on North 13th Street. Councilmember Ruiz suggested that he is interested in possibly buying the proposed site, which is on City property near his home.

Councilmember Lee reported that the Otero County Commissioners contracted to purchase three new road graders and are willing to sell one of the old ones to the City for its trade-in value of \$37,000. He suggested that the County's grader be purchased with Capital Improvement funds, which would still leave \$13,000 in the current year for other items. City Staff and Council have 170 days to research this proposal and make a decision, when the new graders are due to be delivered. No formal vote was taken but it was consensus of Council to request a contract be drafted to take purchase contract to Otero County Commissioners. Councilmember Lee advised Council that a special meeting on economic development will be held at the fairgrounds in Hugo on March 26, 2019. He plans to attend and urged Council to attend the meeting which will is scheduled to run from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Councilmember Geist reported that Museum Board had received some grants for small projects at the museum. The Board wants to hire an assistant curator to open the museum when Bill Hodges, Rocky Ford Museum Curator, is unable to be there. Councilmember Geist presented a proposal to hire Morgan Ray part-time at minimum wage, working when the curator is not there. It was moved by Councilmember Geist and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the assistant museum caretaker position and to add it to the salary schedule. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Thompson reported the Rocky Ford Swimming Pool Commission recommended re-appointment of three members whose terms are expiring. Councilmember Lee moved to approve the following

reappointments to the Rocky Ford Swimming Pool Commission: Cindy Abert, Deanna Bierbaum and Kermit Snyder, for new 3-year terms each. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Councilmember Hunter asked how people would apply for positions on the various boards or commissions. Mayor Thompson advised her that anyone interested in the pool commission or arts commission usually attended their meetings. If they attended two or more meetings, they were usually asked to join their boards and then were appointed by Council after boards made their recommendations. Anyone interested is always welcome to attend the various committee meetings. A list of committees and their meeting times and places is posted on the Council Bulletin Board at City Hall.

Mayor Thompson reported that Otero County Economic Development Director Danielle Berg submitted the entire county to be nominated for a new program entitled "Opportunity Zones", but only La Junta was included when the zone was authorized. Ms. Berg assured Mayor Thompson she will do anything she can for the other municipalities in Otero County and share information. She would be willing to hold a work session with Rocky Ford City Council.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Gerri Clark, local resident, addressed Council with her concerns regarding break-downs of City trash trucks and the delays in trash service for customers. Ms. Clark expressed her opinion that it was a management problem and the City needed a better plan. Interim City Manager reported that two trucks developed problems at nearly the same time, the holidays and closure of City during the holidays, and dump being closed on Christmas and New Year's adversely affected trash pick-up schedules to an unusual extent. The Town of Swink offered to help as a good neighbor during this time and did not charge the City.

Peggy Sue Corbin Romero reported that she spoke with Ms. Wallace and found her to be very professional and helpful. She suggested that the City put articles in the newspaper asking people to sign up for the various boards and commissions. Ms. Romero questioned why two employees who are no longer with the City had their insurance premiums paid for the month they left. City Clerk Grasmick pointed out that it is City policy to pay an employee's insurance premium through the end of the month they are no longer employed.

Daryl Grasmick, local resident, expressed his concern that there would be a conflict of interest hiring Ms. Wallace as Interim City Manager as long as she is the Swink Mayor. He felt this would be especially true if Swink and Rocky Ford were competing for the same grant or business, or other similar scenarios. He was advised that this was not a conflict at this time. If she is offered the permanent City Manager position for the City of Rocky Ford and accepts, she would need to resign as Swink Mayor at that time.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA

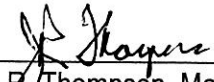
- Rocky Ford Rural Fire District Protection Agreement
- Rocky Ford Country Club Lease Agreement
- Investment Policy
- Council Priorities

- Invitation to Otero County Economic Development Coordinator Danielle Berg to attend future work session
- Invitation to City Auditors to attend future work session
- Scheduling of attendance of one or two department heads at future Council work sessions

ADJOURNMENT

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





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk