



## ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

August 27, 2019

### ***Work Session:***

Dave Golenda, broker for City health insurance, met with Mayor J. R. Thompson and Councilmembers Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rich Geist, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall to discuss employee benefits. Others present were: Bill and Gerri Hodges, Emmitt Davis, Jeanette Myers, Steve Carlile, Peggy Sue Romero, Daryl Grasmick, Bethany Grap. Council was scheduled to discuss dog ordinance, but had all been too busy to review information because of Fair week and back-to-school activities. Darla Meier, local resident, asked Council to consider development of an above ground pool ordinance.

### ***Regular Meeting:***

Following the work session, 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, Rich Geist

Staff: City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Absent: Dexter Buck, Barbara Hunter

Others present: Recreation Director Stacey Milenski, William B. Hodges, Gerri Hodges, Steve Carlile, Jeanette Myers, Emmitt Davis, Peggy Sue Romero, Daryl Grasmick, Bethany Grap.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **August 13, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 3-0, with 2 abstaining.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Peggy Sue Romero advised Council there was a refrigerator sitting in the yard at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Elm Avenue. She reported it to Public Works Supervisor Long and the Rocky Ford Police Department, but last time she went by it was still there. Ms. Romero believes this is a real safety hazard. She then advised Council that she and several citizens were concerned by Dexter Buck's absences at the last few City Council meetings.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Jung asked for executive session to be deleted from agenda due to City Manager Wallace's absence. It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Lee to approve the agenda as amended. There was no consent agenda. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Babcock Field Scoreboard Discussion:***

Recreation Director Stacey Milenski and R2 School Superintendent Kermit Snyder presented information for costs of purchasing a new scoreboard for Babcock Park versus cost of repairing current scoreboard at the last Council meeting. Councilmember Lee spoke favorably toward purchasing the new scoreboard. Councilmember Ruiz expressed concern because he thought money was already allocated from Conservation Trust Fund for Golf Course greens mower and was not sure that would leave enough for both. City Manager Wallace left note in her absence that the scoreboard purchase could be covered with Conservation Trust Funds. Councilmember Lee reminded Council that greens mower purchase had not been approved yet and would probably be budgeted out of next year's budget. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee moved to approve purchase of new scoreboard for Babcock Park before December 31, with City paying \$12,000 from Conservation Trust Fund and the school paying the balance of \$10,000 from their designated funds and grant, for a total purchase price of \$22,000. Councilmember Jung seconded motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Planning Commission Appointment:***

Mayor Thompson advised Council that Rocky Ford Planning Commission will be holding a subdivision hearing on September 23, 2019. Rachel Patrick was the City Council representative for Planning Commission until her resignation last March. Mayor Thompson asked for a volunteer to fill the vacancy. Following discussion, Councilmember Lee moved to appoint Councilmember Susan Jung as City Council representative to Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-0, with one abstaining.

***Resolution Consideration:***

Upon recommendation from Hancock and Froese, Auditors for the City of Rocky Ford, Resolution #4, Series 2019 was presented to Council for their consideration. Purpose of this resolution is to establish a separate banking account for tracking purposes. It was moved by Councilmember Lee and seconded by

Councilmember Geist to approve **Resolution #4, Series 2019: Establishment of a Separate Bank Account for HUTF monies.** Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

### ***Museum Board Presentation***

#### **Building for Conservatory:**

Museum Board members Emmitt Davis, Jeanette Myers and Steve Carlile approached Council with proposals for 5 items. In their first proposal, they strongly suggested that the City provide them with the Chestnut Building on 800 block of Chestnut Avenue for their proposed conservatory to store, repair and restore artifacts donated to City museum. The Museum Board did not find the proposed IDEA Place acceptable because too many people had keys and access. Council advised them building on Chestnut was on the market and this Council did not consider it acceptable to allow them to use when it is under a sales contract. Following discussion with Council, Councilmember Lee suggested the Board work with City Manager Wallace to consider alternatives. One possibility is the back of former Boys and Girls Club building across street from City Hall. Once they explore their options, they could approach the newly-seated Council after the election with their ideas. The Mayor and Council agreed with this suggestion.

#### **Camera Security System:**

Following their request for purchase of the Blink XT2 Camera Security System, Councilmember Lee suggested they consider private security or something more sophisticated than this proposal. The Mayor and Council agreed that it was in the best interest of the City and Museum Board to expand their search, get more quotes and then bring their research to City Manager Wallace.

#### **Borrowed Fire Department Pictures:**

Museum Board discussed the fire department pictures that had been in possession of the Rocky Ford Museum, "borrowed" by a volunteer firefighter and never returned. Museum Board offered to make copies of the originals to give the fire department so they could have the originals back. The Museum Board requested Council's help in this matter. Councilmember Lee suggested a work session between the Museum Board and Fire Department. Mayor Thompson advised the Museum Board to keep City Manager Wallace in the loop because ultimately it is a personnel issue, not Council.

#### **Budget - Wages for Bill Hodges and Morgan Rey**

When the matter of wages for Bill Hodges and Morgan Rey was presented, Mayor Thompson reminded them this is a personnel issue for City Manager Wallace and not Council.

#### **Museum Board Appointment:**

Upon recommendation from Museum Board, Councilmember Lee moved to appoint Jeanette Myers to the Rocky Ford Museum Board for a 4-year term that expires on December 31, 2022. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Peggy Sue Romero, local resident, asked Council for an update on whether a new lease agreement is in place for the house on Lincoln Street, with the tenant paying higher rent and paying his own utility expenses. There was no update at this point. She told Councilmember Lee that she really appreciated his comments during the meeting. Ms. Romero then brought up the code enforcement position. Councilmember Lee reminded her that a job description has to be in place before hiring for any position. Code enforcement position is not in this year's budget but could be in next year's. Mayor Thompson reminded her she needs to speak with City Manager Wallace because hiring is a personnel issue under the City Manager and not Council.

Daryl Grasmick, local resident, advised Council that the Museum Board now has a policy in place for written documentation for any museum "borrowed" or "loaned". He told Council he really wants the issue with Fire Department addressed resolved soon.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

City Clerk Grasmick gave the following report from notes from City Manager Shannon Wallace, in her absence:

- The Public Safety Building is 98% complete. Mayor Thompson and Councilmember Jung expanded on that. SECOM is finished with their part, CenturyTel still needs to finish some hook-ups, and hopefully Whitlock will give a final completion date soon. Whitlock had to leave Rocky Ford site temporarily to finish a school project with deadline in La Junta.
- City Manager Wallace will present Council with Granite Phone System information at a future work session.
- She reminded Council that the City of Rocky Ford is hosting the CML Fall District 6 Meeting & Dinner on Thursday, September 19, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Event Center. Please let City Clerk Grasmick know if you are interested in attending if you have not already done so.
- City Clerk Grasmick gave Council an Election Memo. Mayor Thompson read the memo, listing the following official candidates for the 2019 Coordinated Mail Ballot Election with Otero County:
  - Mayor: Susan Jung, Daryl Grasmick, Thomas Martin
  - Ward I: Rich Geist and another candidate who is currently "curing" signatures on his petition
  - Ward II: No Candidates
  - Ward III: Cuco Ruiz, Peggy Sue Romero, Jacki Sheriff Clark

Affidavits for Write-In Candidates are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2019.

## **MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Jung took a tour of the Public Safety Building with Fire Chief Gonzales an hour before this evening's work session. She will be attending an Action 22 two-day meeting mid-October and will need Council to approve payment for her registration and lodging.

Councilmember Ruiz reminded Council that the film "McFarland", an inspirational youth-oriented movie, will be shown at the Grand Theater at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Councilmember <sup>Lee</sup> reported that the OCLI meeting on August 29, 2019 was mainly discussion of budget and finances. Loan issues were discussed at the OPI meeting. His SCEDD and other meetings are later this week.

Mayor J.R. Thompson reminded Council of the memorial bench dedication for former Class of '69 classmate and Chief of Police, Frank Gallegos. The Class of '69 has scheduled it for 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Departmental Reports
- Joint work session with R2 School Board in December
- Review City Codes (work sessions)
- Employee health & retirement benefits consideration
- Dog Ordinance discussion at future work session
- Museum Board Security System Bids
- Executive session for personnel matter
- Work Session with Dave Golenda and new Council (after election)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmembers unanimously moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. R. Thompson, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk