



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

October 8, 2019

Work Session:

Tom Krushensky, senior manager for the Colorado Retirement Association formerly known as CCOERA, met with Rocky Ford City Council, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Bart Mendenhall at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Others present were: City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Peggy Sue Romero and Daryl Grasmick. Mr. Krushensky gave a presentation on the CRA retirement benefit plan. A discussion of the dog ordinance was held after Mr. Krushensky's presentation.

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, Richard Geist, Barbara Hunter

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

Absent: Dexter Buck

Others present: Police Chief Angelo Griego, Michelle Griego, Police Captain Carol Coates and a few of the Rocky Ford Police Officers, Skylor Garrelts and family (wife Amanda and daughter Anastasia), Andrew Froese, Patrick Hancock, Fred Grantham, Peggy Sue Romero, Thomas Martin, Daryl Grasmick, Jacki Clarke, Shelly Bauer, James Conlan.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Thompson

NO None

ABSTAIN Lee, Geist, Hunter

ABSENT Buck

Motion carried 3-0, with three abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Tom Martin asked Council if they planned on holding a candidate forum before the election and if he could put his campaign signs on city property on the east edge of the City. Previous forums were sponsored by the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NAARFE). Mr. Martin was advised if candidates wanted a forum, they should contact NAARFE. Campaign signs can be put on private properties with the land owner's permission, but the City is neutral and will not allow political signs on City property. The Colorado Department of Transportation also does not allow campaign signs on state right of ways.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Jung asked for the addition of the swearing in of new police officer Skylor Garrelts to the agenda. It was then moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Geist to approve the agenda with consent items as presented and with addition of "Introduction and Swearing-In of New Police Officer" right after the approval of agenda. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent items approved were:

- A. Approval of Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal for Taqueria Mexico #2, 1720 Elm Rocky Ford, CO.
- B. Approval of two Special Event Permits for Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce with the first on October 12, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and the second on October 16, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., both at the Gobin Building, 107 N Main, Rocky Ford, CO.
- C. Library Board Appointment of Kathleen A. Kniss for a 3-year term.
- D. Approval of Request to Use Public Right-of-Way Application from Arkansas Valley Balloon Festival/Parade on Main Street from Washington Avenue to City Hall on November 2, 2019.

INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICER

Police Chief Angelo Griego introduced Skylor Garrelts, the newly-hired Rocky Ford Police Officer. City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Garrelts. Police Chief Griego then asked Skylor's wife Amanda to come forward and pin his new badge to Skylor's shirt. She was accompanied by their daughter Anastasia. Mr. Garrelts was then welcomed to the police force and to employment with the City.

ORD #946: AMENDMENT OF ORD #933 ADOPTING VACATION OF A PORTION OF CHESTNUT AVE

Council previously approved and adopted Ordinance #944: An Ordinance Vacating Portions of Chestnut Avenue, 14th Street, Catalpa and the Adjoining Alley on June 25, 2019 on second reading. Lance Brundage of Brundage Surveying advised Council they needed to adopt an amendment to the ordinance with a more precise description of the vacated property. Councilmember Lee moved to approve **Ordinance #946: An Ordinance Amending Description of Street Vacation in Ordinance #944 Adopting Portion of Chestnut Avenue** on first reading. Councilmember Geist seconded motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

AUDIT PRESENTATION – HANCOCK & FROESE

Patrick Hancock and Andrew Froese of Hancock Froese and Company presented Council with the 2018 Audit Report for the City of Rocky Ford. They stated that the financial statements presented fairly the respective financial position of the governmental and business-type activities and each major fund of the

City of Rocky Ford as of December 31, 2018. A brief overview of some of the various City funds was given, along with suggestions to Council for the enterprise funds. Council was encouraged to let Patrick or Andrew know if they had any questions after reviewing the audit report.

APPROVAL OF NEW PHONE SYSTEM WITH SECOM

City Manager Shannon Wallace gave Council print-outs of the three bids and comparisons that were received for the upgrade of the phone system from three companies; SECOM, Granite and Phillips. Following discussion, Councilmember Jung moved to approve SECOM as the provider of the upgrade for the City Hall phone system. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Shelly Bauer advised Council that she found them “wanting” in their responses to her and to the community and would bring her list of suggestions to the new Council after the election. She did commend Councilmember Ruiz for his efforts to gather Face Book comments on SWOT (Strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis for the City.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

City Manager Shannon Wallace asked Fred Grantham, president of the Rocky Ford Country Club, to speak to Council. Mr. Grantham gave a quarterly report for the Country Club. He was encouraged that their membership had reached a 7-year high with 96 members, up from a low of 70. The golf course had a good turn-out for their various events, which he briefly described. He reported they have only had a few issues with the 27-year old irrigation system in the pump house, nursing it along for now. There might be three to five years left in the irrigation system, so capital improvements will eventually be needed for it. Mr. Grantham advised Council that Country Club still need a greens mower and asked Council to consider the purchase of a greens mower during the 2020 budget preparation. He also stated he thinks groundskeeper Rod Hoffmeyer, who is a valuable, long-time employee, is getting ready to retire. Mr. Grantham will return to Council to give another report in 3 months.

City Manager Shannon reported:

- The lady from Charter sent her a letter of intent to renew the tower lease agreement with the City. Shannon will have that information for them at the next meeting.
- Someone is very interested in purchasing the building at Eighth and Chestnut. There is also interest in the former Odd Fellows/Woodside Building across the street from City Hall. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to extend the real estate contract with Tracey Martin of Norm Murphey Real Estate. The first contract expired in September.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Jung reported that Action 22 had a chance opportunity to meet with Governor Polis while he was in Pueblo recently. Governor Polis will be unable to attend their annual meeting later this month. Councilmember Jung will be attending the Colorado Municipal League (CML) policy meeting in Denver later this month.

Councilmembers Ruiz, Lee, Geist and Hunter all reported their boards will meet later this month. Mayo J.R. Thompson reported that a free showing of "Paint Your Wagon" at the Grand Theater would be sponsored by the Rocky Ford High School Class of 1969 at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2019, followed by their class dedication of the Frank Gallegos Memorial Bench at the new Public Safety Building. Frank Gallegos was a member of their class and a former Rocky Ford Police Chief. The public is welcome to attend both of the events.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Departmental Reports
- Joint work session with R2 School Board in December
- Review City Codes, dog ordinance
- Look into Pool Ordinance
- Budget
- Second Reading for Ordinance #946

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Councilmember Jung moved that Council go into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; those going into executive session will be Councilmembers Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rich Geist and Barbara Hunter, Mayor J.R. Thompson and City Manager Shannon Wallace. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee.

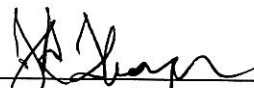
Everyone but those named for executive session were asked to leave Council Chambers. Council went into executive session with City Manager Shannon Wallace at 8:13 p.m. to discuss her city manager evaluation and ended their executive session at 8:33 p.m.

Following adjournment of executive session, Council went into regular session. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Lee moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting at 8:37 p.m.





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk