



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2020

### **WORK SESSION:**

Mayor Susan Jung and Councilmembers Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Matthew Holland, Cuco Ruiz and Jolly Rose met for a Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. Others present were: Sam Light with CIRSA, City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Tara Marshall with DOLA, Lawrence Romero, Public Works Director Rick Long, Finance/HR Director Azucena Estrada, Margarito Garcia and Maria Garcia. Sam Light with CIRSA gave an orientation and presentation entitled "Best Practices and Suggestions for Success for Municipal Officials" and also gave suggestions for email and ethics for new and existing City Councilmembers.

### **REGULAR MEETING:**

Following the work session, Rocky Ford City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Matthew Holland, Cuco Ruiz and Jolly Rose

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Wes Roscover, Cheryl Grasmick, Shelly Bauer, Marty Lee, Joe Ayala, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Thomas Martin, Joe Pentlicki, James Conlan, Sherry Hartless, Micahela Thompson, Erik Encinias, Ruben Chavez, Carol Coates, unidentified man, and Dominic Romero

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Geist moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

YES                      Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung

NO                        None

Motion carried 7-0

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Shelly Bauer, Rocky Ford resident, approached Council regarding concerns she has that the Rocky Ford City Council is constituent deaf. Ms. Bauer reported to Council that she feels that the Council ignored the voters of Ward II by appointing Daryl Grasmick, who had been recalled in years past, as a Councilmember of Ward II. Ms. Bauer advised the Council that they may conduct an expulsion from Council for cause. Ms. Bauer reported that she believes that Councilmember Grasmick has created a hostile work environment for some workers and she also reported that she feels that dissension in the City could be bad for future City grants. Ms. Bauer requests that Councilmember Grasmick be expelled.

Tom Martin, Rocky Ford resident informed Council that he wished to complain about the Rocky Ford City Council meeting of December 10, 2019. Mr. Martin reported that he had met all the requirements and time limits required by the City of Rocky Ford to be a Councilmember for Ward II. Mr. Martin reported that he felt that he was questioned very blatantly, repeatedly and unfairly, by Councilmember Corbin-Romero, about the personal properties that he owns. Mr. Martin reported that he felt that Councilmember Corbin-Romero was saying that Mr. Martin was trying to enhance his personal business by his desire to be on City Council. Mr. Martin advised Council that he thought that Corbin-Romero's behavior was inappropriate and a violation of his rights and he is requesting that Councilmember Corbin-Romero resign.

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

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent items approved were:

1. Approval to renew Catlin Canal water agreement.
2. Approval of Resolution #1-2020 – A Resolution setting regular meeting dates and setting the official location of posting meeting notices for the Rocky Ford City Council for the year 2020.
3. Approval of job descriptions for Maintenance – Parks and Recreation and Director of Parks and Recreation/Rental Services.

### **DOLA – NEW CITY COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

Tara Marshall with DOLA presented a DOLA “New City Council Orientation” to the Council.

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Public Works Director Rick Long reported to Council that he wanted to show his support for City Manager Wallace and to give new Councilmembers an idea of where the City has been. Rick advised Council that problems have solutions and predicaments have outcomes and what has happened to Rocky Ford is not a problem, it's a predicament caused by many years of mismanagement. Rick gave Council an update on many issues that he sees with the City of Rocky Ford and overall community decline. With all the City issues, Rick reported that he feels that City Manager Wallace has hit the ground running. He feels that City Manager Wallace has empowered all department heads and employees and he feels that she has done an excellent job of utilizing the limited resources that are available. He feels that City Manager Wallace has done more in the last year than was done in the last five years.

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales also addressed Council to show his support for City Manager Wallace. Ray reported that he has worked closely with City Manager Wallace and he has been extremely impressed. Ray reported that he feels that City Manager Wallace is thoughtful, intelligent, has common sense, works well with others, is passionate about this community and she has the life experience necessary to meet the challenges that face the City of Rocky Ford. Ray thanked the Council for listening to the Department Heads and for giving City Manager Wallace a shot at being something great and doing something great. Ray commented that the Council wanted someone for the City to move in a progressive direction. He believes that City Manager Wallace is that person.

### **PROPERTIES FOR SALE**

City Manager Wallace reported that the Boy's & Girl's property has been for sale. The Museum Board is using this property currently to store and restore artifacts. The property is also being used for the local Food Bank. The City's contract with Norm Murphy expired at the end of December 2019. Tracey Martin with Norm Murphy did have someone that is interested in a

possible purchase and would offer the City a cash offer of \$60,000.00. The prospective purchaser would be like to keep the City as a tenant for \$1.00 per month plus utilities for the remainder of 2020. City Manager Wallace gave Council a comparative market analysis spreadsheet that Tracey Martin had previously done on this property.

City Manager Wallace informed Council that the City Garage is a possibility, as well as some vacant lots if Council wishes to put them up for sale. We can contract with Norm Murphy again if the Council so chooses.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked if there were other realtors in the area. City Manager Wallace commented that the City of Rocky Ford sent bids out to many realtors and Norm Murphy was the only one that responded. Discussion was held regarding whether or not the Museum put money into the building and whether or not the building was put on the National Historical Registry list. Councilmember Ruiz mentioned that the Museum Board had knowledge that the City was trying to sell the building. Council would need to approve whether or not to apply for the building to be put on the National Historical Registry. Councilmember Grasmick reported that the Museum Board will meet on 1/16/20. City Manager Wallace informed Council that just because Norm Murphy has someone interested, does not mean that the City has to sell. City Attorney Mendenhall advised Council that since Norm Murphy flushed the buyer, if the City chooses to sell, then Norm Murphy should be entitled to the commission.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to table the updated list of City property for sale and to table the matter of contracting with Norm Murphy to the next Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES	Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Goals/Vision meeting for Council, Staff and Residents***

City Manager Wallace informed Council that she would like to schedule a goals and vision meeting, maybe on a Saturday in March, so that discussion can be held on where they want the City to go in the next few years. Discussion was held on possible meeting sites.

#### ***City Mayor to attend Voices of Rural Colorado and CML Legislative Work Shop***

Mayor Jung informed Council that she would like to attend the Voices of Rural Colorado and a CML Legislative Work Shop. The cost would be \$100.00 for each one for registration. Councilmember Rose moved to allow City Mayor Jung to attend the Voices of Rural Colorado and the CML Legislative Work Shop at the cost of \$100.00 for each one. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES	Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Holland
NO	None
ABSTAIN	Jung

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstention

#### ***Ordinance #950 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Real Property Not Used for Any Municipal Governmental Purpose, first reading***

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve **Ordinance #950: An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Real Property Not Used for Any Municipal Governmental Purpose** on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Holland. Voting results were:

YES	Corbin-Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Jung
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0

***Ordinance #951 – An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Sums of Money in the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Trash Fund for the 2019 Budget, first reading***

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve **Ordinance #951: An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Sums of Money in the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Trash Fund for the 2019 Budget** on first reading. Councilmember Rose seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES                    Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung  
NO                     None

Motion carried 7-0

***Ordinance #952 – An Ordinance for the Regulation of Traffic by the City of Rocky Ford, Amending Chapter 8, Article 1, Section 8-1-10 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code, Adopting by Reference the 2020 Edition of the “Model Traffic Code”, Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict Therewith; and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof, first reading***

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve **Ordinance #952: An Ordinance for the Regulation of Traffic by the City of Rocky Ford, Amending Chapter 8, Article 1, Section 8-1-10 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code, Adopting by Reference the 2020 Edition of the “Model Traffic Code”, Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict Therewith; and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof**, on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

YES                    Rose, Ruiz, Holland, Grasmick, Romero, Geist, Jung  
NO                     None

Motion carried 7-0

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None**

Shelly Bauer asked to have a copy of the 2020 Model Traffic Code. Shelly was advised that a copy is kept in the City Clerk's office and Shelly can view it anytime during business hours.

**STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES**

City Manager Wallace reported that the bike park is coming along. City Manager Wallace asked if Council had been able to talk with Lex Nichols and/or the Skate Park people. Councilmember Ruiz reported that he had not had a chance to talk to Lex Nichols, but the Skate Park people informed him that the City would be looking at around \$7,000 to \$8,000 dollars to have them come here to work up a plan. They would also add the planning of the Library Park and other parks that the City wants to upgrade. Councilmember Ruiz commented that he has also talked to a few other people and that he is waiting for them to get back to him. There is a possibility that he could get the same things done for no cost at all. City Manager Wallace reported that Lex Nichols is going to apply for a GOCO grant. The County of Otero would match the grant and it would be used to design the track.

City Manager Wallace informed Council that she is working with Duane Gurule and Small Town Projects working on Economic Development and trying to get more jobs here. Duane Gurule is trying to look outside the box and bring some jobs that may be done from home. City Manager Wallace reported that she is working on a part-time job description for an Economic Development position. The City has money in a savings account that was put away at some time for economic development. There is enough money to fund a part-time person for one year. They hope to apply for grants that would allow the salary of the economic development person after the first year.

City Manager Wallace reported:

- Council will be meeting with the School Board at their March meeting.
- Shannon is looking at a restructure of the Maintenance for Parks/Recreation and the Director of Parks/Recreation job descriptions, these were approved by Council at this meeting, as Cy Chavez will be retiring at the end May or first part of June. Stacey Milenski will be coming here to do what Cy has been doing. Stacey will be getting out of field work, mowing and weed eating. The Parks Department will move out of Rick Long's Department and Stacey will be in charge of the Parks Department along with building rentals.
- Shannon reported that bank account signatures will need to be changed. The current authorized signatures are Shannon Wallace, Cheryl Grasmick, Susan Jung and J. R. Thompson. Shannon would like to recommend that Finance Director Azucena Estrada be added.

### **MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES**

Councilmember Ruiz and Councilmember Rose reported that the Library Board was business as usual. Councilmember Rose reported that the Rocky Ford Planning Commission cancelled as there was no business to discuss.

Councilmember Grasmick and Councilmember Geist reported that the Museum Board will meet on Thursday night.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero thanked the audience from coming out to the meeting.

Mayor Jung reported that the City closed on the Chestnut Building. Action 22 will meet on Friday and they are getting ready for the legislative work shop.

City Manager Wallace informed Council that the City went "live" for tonight's meeting. There were over 700 views. Let Shannon know if you hear positive or negative feedback.

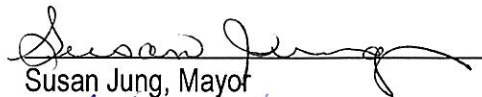
### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

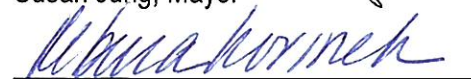
- School Board
- Review of City Ordinances. The Dog Ordinance to start with.
- Review of City Policies
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the next Council meeting for Ordinance #'s 950 ,951 and 952
- Nominations of Councilmembers to Boards

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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



  
Susan Jung, Mayor

  
Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk