



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2020

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Jolly Rose, Rich Geist, Cuco Ruiz, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Daryl Grasmick, City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and City of Rocky Ford Economic Coordinator Marty Lee met in Council Chambers to discuss a vacant building registry and other City ordinances.

Others present: Margarito Garcia, Mary Garcia, Michael Bergman, Carol Segura, David Kline, Patrick Hancock and Andrew Froese.

Marty Lee presented to Council the need for a vacant building registry for vacant homes as well as commercial property. Marty Lee informed Council of the importance of identifying the property and the owners for the potential of assisting with the economic development of the City of Rocky Ford. When identified, these property owners may partner with the City of Rocky Ford and encourage the City's future growth. City Manager Shannon Wallace requested that Council add the vacant property register to tonight's agenda to allow the process to begin.

Marty Lee informed Council that Otero County has been awarded five bus shelters from the Federal Government. One has been earmarked for Rocky Ford. Superintendent of R-2 School District Dr. Kermit Snyder would like to have the bus shelter placed near Plaza Nueva at the school bus stop. Marty Lee recommends supporting Dr. Snyder.

City Attorney Nathan Shultz advised Council about the public portion of the City Council meeting and told them they needed to have only one citizen participation session on the City Council agenda. Mayor Jung gave information on the purpose of having two citizen participation sessions on the agenda.

Councilmember Rose asked if there was any new information regarding the Liberty School and the EPA. City Manager Wallace reported that the representative that she was working with has been reassigned and they will assign a replacement. Public Works Director Rick Long is working on getting pictures taken to be sent to the EPA.

City Councilmember Grasmick asked if the City's street sweeper is working. City Manager Wallace reported that as far as she knows, the sweeper is working and she will inquire about it.

City Councilmember Ruiz asked if there was a copy of a contract for the work done on the roof of the Library. Ruiz wondered if there was a guarantee or warranty of some kind. City Manager Wallace responded that she will try to find out.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that there is no active Tree Board Committee at this time. Corbin-Romero reported that she has a person in mind for the Board. Corbin-Romero also reported that she has been receiving complaints about the cemetery. Corbin-Romero asked if a Tree Board could be combined with a Cemetery Board. City Attorney Nathan Shultz advised Council that Tree Boards were founded by the Arbor Day Foundation and they have their own bylaws and he advised that Council should keep the Tree Board and a Cemetery Board as separate entities. Corbin-Romero asked the other Councilmembers to help her identify people in their Wards to be on the Tree Board. Councilmember Grasmick also reported that his family had recently been to the cemetery and he reported that he thinks it is in the worst shape that he's ever seen. City Manager Wallace reported that there is a problem with not enough sprinklers out there.

City Manager Wallace reported that she has received several calls about the Bahari Investment Trailer Park on Chestnut Street. City Manager Wallace reported that they are very delinquent in payment of their utility bills. The water meters to the trailer homes are combined and if the water is turned off for non-payment, then none of the tenants would have any water. City Manager Wallace has discussed the matter with City Attorney Nathan Shultz. City Attorney Shultz asked Council what they would like to do. Shultz advised Council that he could start by sending a letter to Bahari Investments with a deadline to respond and make payment.

REGULAR MEETING:

Rocky Ford City Council met in session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 in Council Chambers. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

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

Staff: Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and City Manager Shannon Wallace

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Rose. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 6-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Carol Segura representing the Rotary Club came to give Council information about the Watermelon Day route and ask Council for permission to block off some streets. City Manager Wallace reported to Council that she had already approved the closing of the streets. City Manager Wallace will get with Public Works Director Rick Long about it. There was some discussion held regarding having the route go right by the Liberty School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the Agenda, with the addition of vacant building registry under F under new business and deleting letter B under new business. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 6-0

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Wallace reported on:

- The City has been out of compliance with the sewer system. Shannon received an email from the State of Colorado that the City will be fined for a cease and desist order from 2007 and the City's noncompliance for violating INI levels in the sewer system. It is a six figure fine. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and the City Auditors and City Engineers will be at the meeting as well. A determination will be made after that meeting and Shannon will advise Council

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember for Ward I Vacancy

Mayor Jung reported that an additional letter was received by an interested person. A decision will be made prior to the deadline of 60 days. All interested persons will be invited to attend the Council meeting when the decision will be made.

1101 Lincoln Rental Agreement

City Manager Shannon Wallace gave Council the figures for what gas and electric was paid at the rental house. Gas for 2019 was \$958 and electric was \$693. The original recommendation for a rental increase was \$600. Council authorized City Manager Wallace to contact Jack Barker to advise him of the increase in rent.

NEW BUSINESS

City Auditors

City Auditors Patrick Hancock and Andrew Froese presented Council with the 2019 audit, offering an unmodified opinion which means the financials were presented in a fair and accurate manner according to generally accepted accounting practices. Discussion was held on various issues.

Otero Partners Inc., (OPI) amendments

Councilmember Rose moved to approve the OPI amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. After some discussion Council would like to see the whole amendment instead of just the last page. Councilmember Rose moved to amend her original motion to table this matter to the next scheduled Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

YES	Grasmick, Corbin Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 6-0

Cares Act Projects

City Manager Wallace asked Council to consider what projects were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to determine what the Cares Act money could be used for.

Vacant Building Registry

Councilmember Ruiz moved to authorize City Manager Wallace to move forward with the vacant building registry with Rocky Ford Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

David Kline, Rocky Ford resident inquired about the vacant building registry and what it involved. Some discussion was held and Mr. Kline was advised that the vacant building registry was in the very early stages. City Manager Shannon Wallace gave Mr. Kline an explanation of how it will work.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES - None

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL REPORTS OR UPDATES

Councilmember Rose reported that the monthly Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to no business. The OCLI/OPI meeting is scheduled for next Monday.

Councilmember Geist reported that the Museum Board will have a meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Ruiz reported that the Library is still running the same. No chairs for people to sit in, they may only check out books. The Swim Pool Board will meet on August 16th for their first meeting of the season. Councilmember Ruiz also reported that the Library roof is in need of repairs. Councilmember Ruiz asked to be authorized to attend the CML District meeting in September. Councilmember Grasmick, Councilmember Corbin-Romero and Mayor Jung would also like to attend.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to appoint Diana Marshall to the Tree Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Corbin Romero, Geist, Rose, Ruiz, Grasmick, Jung
NO	NONE
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 6-0

Mayor Jung reported that she attended the Watermelon Day ceremony at Knapp's Farm Market. The idea for the ceremony came from Governor Polis. Mayor Jung reported that she had intended to attend an Action 22 meeting in Cripple Creek. This was cancelled due to Covid-19, the meeting will be held in Pueblo in October. CML notified Susan that the City of Rocky Ford needed to appoint a representative for their Policy Committee and Susan would like Council to authorize her for that.

Councilmember Rose moved to appoint Mayor Susan Jung to the CML Policy Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

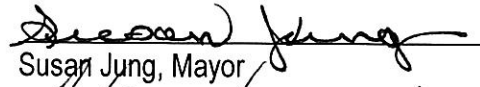
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING OR WORK SESSION

- Review City ordinances
- Review personnel policies
- Permits for Construction
- Crystal Lake
- Conduit

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grasmick moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.




Susan Jung, Mayor


Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk