



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 14, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr, along with City Manager Shannon Wallace met to attend a presentation by Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) General Counsel Sam Light.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Dispatch Supervisor June Ferraro, Police Captain Carol Coates, Police Sargeant Tim Moore, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Diana Marshall

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Cordova read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council but added the following:

- Shannon gave Council the approval information regarding phase two of the Brownfields Grant Assessment project on 701 Sycamore (apartment building) for property cleanup.
- The press release for the Rocky Ford Police Department has been posted.
- Tara Marshall with the Department of Local Affairs will be speaking at the work session on March 28, 2023.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported to following:

- Mayor Jung attended a La Junta City Council meeting and was asked to sit at the dais.
- Mayor Jung will attend the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Executive Board meeting on Friday.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Country Club Golf Course meeting will be on March 20th.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule reported that he attended the Coffee with Council on March 3rd. Good, open conversation was held.
- Gurule attended the Arkansas Valley Fairground and Crystal Lake Redevelopment Open House on Saturday.
- A webinar regarding Proposition No.123 will be Wednesday at Noon.
- The Rocky Ford High School Band and Choir will be hosting a free show at the Grand Theater at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez gave an update of the tree board meeting held Monday night.

Tree Board Chairman Diana Marshall also gave a report on the tree board's upcoming projects.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova gave an update of the library board meeting and gave information on upcoming projects.
- Cordova expressed concern about timed lighting not working behind the library.
- Cordova also asked what Council would like to do about Christmas lights.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Kerr reported on the recent museum board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales reported that he had hired a person for the position of Wildland Coordinator. The Fire Department has been on assignment with the Camanche National Grassland since mid-February. The Wildland Coordinator will be needing a vehicle. Gonzales will be giving additional information to Council at future meetings regarding the purchase of a command vehicle.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Wallace informed Council that item number 8.1, under new business, is for discussion only tonight, no action will be taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Jung

NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from February 28, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of proposed changes to Ordinance #865 – wanting to change the amount of utility deposit for owner and renter

Some discussion was held regarding the need to raise the water meter deposit amounts. This matter will be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Press Release for Rocky Ford Police Department

This matter was discussed during the City Manager report. Councilmember Cordova motioned to approve and authorize the press release for the Rocky Ford Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES Gurule, Cordova, Roberts, Kerr, Martinez, Herrera, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Discussion Items:

Discussion - change in the amount of charge for non-sufficient funds returned check fees.

The NSF fees were raised from \$15 to \$20 effective March 13, 2023.

Discussion – changes to zoning permit

City Manager Wallace gave Council a copy of the current application for zoning permit and asked Council to review it and let her know of any changes that need to be made. Councilmember Gurule requested that Council get digital copies.

Discussion – emergency snow response equipment

Information from Public Works Director Rick Long was given in the Council packet. City Manager Wallace informed Council that most of the equipment was budgeted. Councilmember Gurule asked how crews are deployed for the emergency response. Gurule also asked how the Commercial Driver License (CDL) will come into play with new equipment.

Discussion – FPPA – Old Police Department

Chris Lucero passed away. Money will no longer be put in for him. Public Notice has been given and there is a fifty (50) day waiting period in order for the city to receive those monies to go back in the police department funds

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Marshall had questions regarding the snow and ice removal from Rocky Ford High School to the Golf Course. Marshall reported that children were walking in the street after the last snow storm because the sidewalks were not cleared. Marshall asked City Manager Wallace to have the Public Works Crew maintain and clear the sidewalk over the bridge.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Cordova moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 7:54 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 
Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

