



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2021

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jung and Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Larry Herrera, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Duane Gurule, Sherri Cordova. Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom), City Manager Shannon Wallace, Public Works Director Rick Long and Fire Chief Ray Gonzales met to discuss the possibility and proper steps to get the Rocky Ford Cemetery on the historic register. Poppie Gullett gave showed a slide show to Council and gave Council much information about the historic value to the Rocky Ford Cemetery. Rebecca Goodwin informed Council that she would be happy to help in any way she can.

Others present: Historian for the National and State Register Poppie Gullett and Rebecca Goodwin (via Zoom)

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Daryl Grasmick, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist and Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Public Works Director Rick Long, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee

Others present: James Massengill, Jody Lyons with Ascent Insurance, Leann, Kevin and Bill with SECWCD, Donna Abert and Shelly Bauer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. City Manager Shannon Wallace asked to add two items to the agenda under new business, C. Discussion and Possible Approval of purchase of a rescue truck and D. Approval for support of 205 N. Main Street. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the added items. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- The city has been offered the purchase of a rescue truck from the La Junta Fire Department for \$45,000. Ray Gonzales will report on this. Ray Gonzales gave Council information regarding the current rescue vehicle and the many perks of the rescue truck that La Junta is offering. The EMS fund has the funds to make the purchase. Much discussion was held regarding the age of the La Junta truck and maintenance records. Councilmember Grasmick moved to authorize Fire Chief Ray Gonzales to purchase the rescue truck from La Junta. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Gurule, Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Herrera, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

- City Manager Wallace reported that many people are allowing persons to live in tents in their yards. Shannon suggested that Council consider changing the current ordinance to include that utility accounts would need to be set up for long-term tent or trailer usage. It was the general consensus of Council for the City Manager to go forward with a preliminary ordinance change.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board meeting. Mayor Jung participated with the Black Hills Energy winterization program helping to hand out boxes.

Councilmember Herrera reported that everything is going very well at the Rocky Ford Country Club.

Councilmember Gurule reported that the playground project at library park is progressing. Old equipment was removed and the ground was leveled. Installation will begin next week and volunteers are still needed. Gurule also attended the Black Hills Energy winterization program at the Rocky Ford Fairground. Gurule also mentioned that in the CML newsletter for October, Daryl Grasmick was recognized as a long serving municipal leader.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Otero County Partners, Inc. and the Otero County Landfill, Inc.

Councilmember Cordova had no report. Library board will meet on November 16, 2021.

Councilmember Geist reported that he had attended a meeting with the Friends of the Library. The museum will host the dedication of William Hodges on November 5, 2021. Museum Board President Steve Carlile resigned effective October 26, 2021.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Grand Theater is doing good. The tree board will meet in October.

STAFF REPORTS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Ancillary Services – Turn Off/Turn On Fees - After Hours

Public Works Director Rick Long advised Council that this matter has been discussed at previous meetings. Rick Long, again, expressed the need for Council to consider this fee to pay for the overtime that is required for after hours calls. Some discussion was held about the possibility of raising water rates. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to charge a \$35 fee for after-hours emergency calls. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

| | |
|--------|--|
| YES | Cordova, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Jung |
| NO | None |
| ABSENT | None |

Motion carried 7-0

Rocky Ford Ditch Shares – Follow Up

Councilmember Herrera gave Council some information that he was able to obtain regarding the Rocky Ford Ditch. The City's water shares can be used for consumption and one share is ten (10) acres of land. If the City decides to lease the water, the contract should have a clause to end the contract in case of drought. The price is still unknown but the talk was for about \$1,000 per share and many factors should be considered. It was suggested by Councilmember Gurule that if the City leases the shares, the money should be earmarked for storm drainage issues. No further action was taken at this time.

Museum discussion

Informational paperwork was given to Council. The Friends of the Museum no longer wish to work with the Museum Board. Information regarding assets still needs to be turned in. Donna Abert gave Council some information regarding some items that she was donating to the Museum. No other action was taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – Arkansas Valley Conduit

Bill Long from Bent County reported to Council that one of their team members was in jury duty and was not able to attend the meeting for tonight. Bill requested that Council allow them to come at a later date at a work session where they could have about forty-five (45) minutes to talk. It was the general consensus of Council to move this discussion to a work session on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Ascent Insurance – Presentation

Jody Lyons gave Council information about her business. Jody previously worked for CIRSA. She informed Council that the City has very high premiums for Worker Compensation. Jody would like to work the Shannon to get these premiums down. Some discussion was held. No further action was taken at this time.

Letter of Support – 205 N. Main Street

Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee gave Council information about the owner of the property and the plans to renovate and rehabilitate the site. Marty asked Council to authorize Mayor Jung to sign a letter of support. Councilmember Grasmick moved to authorize Mayor Jung to sign the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corbin-Romero. Voting results were:

| | |
|--------|--|
| YES | Corbin-Romero, Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Grasmick, Jung |
| NO | None |
| ABSENT | None |

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shelly Bauer commented that the suggestion made by Marty Lee, to add a \$1.00 charge to all water bills for the after-hours emergency turn off – turn of fees, was a very good idea. Shelly Bauer reported that she doesn't believe that residents will mind the charge if it's put on the bills as an insurance.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION

Museum and Library Board at next work session
Rocky Ford Ditch shares

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Cordova and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: _____ City Clerk