



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 12, 2022

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist and Norman Railton, City Manager Shannon Wallace via Zoom, Public Works Director Rick Long, Water/Wastewater Director Luke James met with Southeast Colorado Water Conservation District's Chris Woodlea, Jason Meyer, Leann Noga, and Kevin Kearney to have discussion regarding the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

Others present: Gary Reed, Joe Ayala, J.R. Thompson, Ed Vela, Rick Klein and Jolly Rose

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist and Norman Railton

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace via Zoom, City Attorney Nathan Shultz via Zoom, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Public Works Director Rick Long, Water/Wastewater Director Luke James, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz,

Police Captain Carol Coates, Finance Director Azucena Holland and Cuco Ruiz

Others present: Gary Reed, J.R. Thompson, Virginia Martinez, Diane Marshall, Jane Vera, Sarah Dillon with Tri-County Family and Tom Seaba

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

YES Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Fuller, Geist, Jung

NO None

ABSENT None

ABSTAIN Herrera

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstention

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from March 22, 2022
2. Application for Renewal of Retail Liquor or Fermented Malt Beverage License – **J.R.'s Country Stores, Inc., 1207 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford**
3. Application for Renewal of Retail Liquor or Fermented Malt Beverage License – **Dawggg House, LLC, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Dillon Director of Tri-County Family gave Council information regarding the upcoming 16th Annual “Crusin’ Festival” to be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. Dillon is requesting to close off 9th Street, Railroad Avenue, 10th Street, Maple and Walnut Avenue. Dillon has already cleared the road closures with the Rocky Ford Police Department and Fire Department. Dillon asked Council to waive any vendor fees for this day. Councilmember Herrera moved to waive all vendor fees for the “Crusin Festival”. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Fuller, Geist, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

STAFF REPORT NONE

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- Some discussion was held regarding the City owned property that the R-2 School District wants to have.
- Shannon informed Council that the Police Department evidence room audit will be conducted on May 13th and 15th. A system for evidence tracking will be implemented. Shannon will be ordering a lap top computer for that. The audit will be conducted by a firm that was recommended by the District Attorney’s Office.
- Shannon will be submitting the USDA application for the master plan.
- Shannon applied for a grant from Hickenlooper’s office to finish work at the safety building.
- Shannon informed Council that after the HR audit was completed, it was found that the city was not in compliance with some exempt employees’ salaries. After lengthy discussion, Councilmember Herrera moved to authorize the retroactive payment of salaries to the named individuals identified in the HR audit. The motion was seconded by councilmember Fuller. Voting results were:

YES Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Fuller, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO None
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

- Shannon informed Council of the new FAMLI Medical Leave. City Attorney Nathan Shultz gave Council additional information. The city will need to decide by June if they want to be in or opt out. This matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Rocky Ford and Swink will host the Colorado Municipal League (CML) District 6 meeting on September 15th and will be held at the Gobin Building.
- Shannon gave Council information regarding a donation for the Boxing Club. Much discussion was held. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter until the next regular Council meeting.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported that she and City Manager Shannon Wallace attended a meeting with the Otero County Commissioner’s and Black Hills Energy regarding the increase in price of electric and power. Black Hills Energy is willing to meet with customers to talk about options. Mayor Jung reported that she took part in the activities of “the week of the young child”.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight’s meeting.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule read aloud a statement that he had prepared regarding the HR audit results.

Councilmember Fuller reported the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce hosted three (3) ribbon cuttings recently for new businesses and Fuller commented that she was disappointed that there was no presence of other City Councilmembers or City Staff.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Geist reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Railton reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Rick Long and Water/Wastewater Director Luke James gave Council an update on the progress of the City's compliance on the civil penalty given by the CDPHE.

OLD BUSINESS

Contract for City Manager

This matter was previously discussed in executive session at the regular meeting on March 22, 2022. Mayor Jung informed Council that she would entertain a motion. Councilmember Gurule commented that he would like to have additional conversation on this and requested that this matter be put on the agenda for executive session April 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Railton, Fuller, Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Cordova
NO	Jung
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 6-1

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day Proclamation

Diane Marshall with the Tree Board asked Council to authorize Mayor Jung to sign an Arbor Day Proclamation. Arbor Day will be celebrated on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at the Rocky Ford High School. The 5th grade students, class of 2029, will be planting a tree on the west side of the High School for Arbor Day. A second Arbor Day celebration will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022 at the E. D. Building, 408 N. Main Street from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Cordova made a motion to authorize Mayor Jung to sign the Arbor Day Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

YES	Fuller, Geist, Herrera, Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

Discussion – Abandoned Houses and Condemnation Process

City Attorney Nathan Shultz gave Council some information about the process for condemnation. A report from Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and an incident report from Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz and Officer Guzman was received. The building has been determined to be dangerous. City Attorney Nathan Shultz informed Council that the process for condemnation can be costly and lengthy. The first step would be to create a resolution to start the process and authorize the City Attorney to file a district civil court case to declare a public nuisance, the next step is to condemn and then foreclosure of the property. Some discussion was held regarding the possible costs. City Attorney Schultz advised Council that condemnation is not the only option, there are other avenues. Nathan and Natasha will get together and create a list by the highest priority and then determine on a case-by-case basis how to proceed.

Inflow and Infiltration – Possible Ordinance

Public Works Director Rick Long and Water/Wastewater Director Luke James requested that Council consider a proposed ordinance to reduce clear water (water from roof, surface, groundwater, sump pump, footing tile or swimming pool) in the sanitary sewer system and to create a sewer mandatory lateral inflow and infiltration inspection report. Council was given a lot of information to consider. Rick and Luke asked Council to review the material and discuss this again at the next Council work session on April 26, 2022. Rick will bring a video for Council to watch.

Verizon Lease Renewal

Councilmember Gurule moved to authorize Mayor Jung to sign the lease renewal with Verizon. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Railton. Voting results were:

YES	Gurule, Cordova, Railton, Fuller, Geist, Herrera, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

ADJOURN

Councilmember Geist moved to adjourn, and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at meeting at 8:50 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:  City Clerk

