



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**August 8, 2023**

**WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr met to discuss Museum Board issues with Donna Bush and Rob Marshall. Discussion was also held regarding City Manager evaluation process and possible ordinance changes.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed,

**REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.**

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

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

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Seth Yeary, Cuco Ruiz, Public Works Director Rick Long, Utility Clerk Mia Herrera, Human Resource Director Shelly Valdez and Manual Trevizo.

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Jaime Gutierrez, Archie Martinez and Martha Martinez

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

**STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales gave Council a report of the recent death, celebration of life and funeral service of volunteer firefighter Treavor Norris. Gonzales paid tribute to long-time, (35) years, volunteer firefighter and fire chief Don Poulignot who recently passed.

Gonzales informed Council that the department recently acquired a 2023 International fire truck, engine No. 3 to replace a 1991 IH engine, which was donated to Kim Volunteer Fire Department.

Gonzales asked Council to consider authorizing the purchase of a 2106 Ford F-450 4x4 ambulance for the Rocky Ford Fire and Emergency Services Department from the Ambulance Depot, Inc. in the amount of \$64,000. This matter is on the agenda tonight for consideration.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- Wallace informed Council that the city has an account at the State Bank which was designated for community development that is no longer being used. The city auditors suggested that the account be closed. The money in the account will be designated to a line item in the general fund for community development.
- Wallace attended a mental health training and she has met with the Rocky Ford Advisory Group. Kelly Addington offers some free training. Wallace and some other staff will be attending some free training.
- The audit by Paul Schults will begin in September.
- The 2022 audit should be finished in the next week.
- Museum Curator Rob Marshall works five days a week, 4 hours per day. Marshall would like to work some extra hours at the Arkansas Valley Fair. Wallace asked Council for approval. It was the general consensus of Council to allow Marshall the extra work hours.

### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Reported that the clean-up days went very well.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that the Tree Board received a large donation of seed. The seed library's will be well stocked.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts thanked the Public Works Department for patching holes on Spruce Avenue.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Kerr attended the Museum Board meeting by phone. The museum will be re-doing their by-laws. The museum would like to use some of their donation dollars.

### **ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

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

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for July 25, 2023.
2. 6.2 Application for Renewal of Medical Marijuana License – ***Rocky Ford Station, LLC, dba The Station, 1701 Elm Ave., Rocky Ford***
3. 6.3 Application for Special Event Permit – ***BPOE #1147 – Rocky Ford Elk's Club, 301 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Rocky Ford for Lodge open to Public during Arkansas Valley Fair, August 18, 2023 9 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and August 19, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.***

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Municipal Code Clarification on Section 16-5-60 and Section 7-3-70**

This matter has been discussed at previous meetings. Wallace asked Council if they had any ideas on wording in the code that may need to be changed. Much discussion was held regarding the definition of junk vehicle and use of personal campers on private property and how Council can help code enforcement to ticket or summons residents to municipal court. After much discussion, Councilmember Roberts moved to table this matter to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### **Mountain States Pipe and Supply – New Proposal**

This matter has been discussed at previous meetings. Public Works Director Rick Long led Council through a presentation with much information. Long reported that current water meters are failing and many are just unreadable. Long presented a new bid from Mountain States Pipe and Supply to Council. Utility Clerk Mia Herrera, Human Resource Director Shelly Valdez and previous city employee Robin Platt gave Council information on how the unreadable meters are affecting their ability to process billing and unreadable meters are given an estimated bill. After lengthy discussion, Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and accept "Plan B" bid from the most recent proposal of Mountain States Pipe and Supply in the amount of \$ 21,912.63 per month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

**Ordinance #974 – An Ordinance to Submit to a Vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado at a Municipal Election on November 7, 2023, a Question of Whether to Increase the City Sales Tax by One Percent (1%) Per Year for Three Years by Increasing the City Sales Tax Rate from Three Percent (3%) to Four Percent (4%), Which is One Quarter of the Annual Sales Tax Collected, to be Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027, and Restricting the Use of Revenues from the Additional One Percent Sales Tax as Follows: The Increase Shall be Used to Continue to Repair Streets, Sidewalks and Other Physical Improvements in the City According to a Council Approved Repair Schedule, on second reading**

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and adopt Ordinance #974, by title, on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Closing of the Rocky Ford Community Development Account**

City Manager Wallace had previously explained this matter in her manager report earlier in the evening. It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to allow City Manager Wallace to close the community development account at the State Bank of Rocky Ford and designate the balance of money to community development. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### **Consideration of Approval for Ambulance – Rocky Ford Fire and Emergency Services Departments**

This matter having been discussed earlier, Councilmember Martinez moved to authorize the purchase a 2016 Ford F450 4x4 in the amount of \$64,000 from Ambulance Depot, Inc, Houston, Texas. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts.

Voting results were:

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


Motion carried 6-0

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:  Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

