



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

January 22, 2019

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, with Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace and Public Works Director Rick Long. Others present were Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Gerri Clark, Daryl Grasmick, Jolly Rose and Laura Thompson. Public Works Director Rick Long gave an update on water and sewer infrastructure, while Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace discussed the role of Interim City Manager, investment policy and gave updates on other items.

Following the work session, Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Marty Lee, Rachel Patrick, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Police Chief Angelo Griego, Michelle Griego, Charles Pattie, Gerri Clark, Peggy Sue Corbin Romero, Rick Weiss, Daryl Grasmick, Jolly Rose, Laura Thompson, La Junta Tribune Democrat reporter Christian Burney.

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **January 8, 2019** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson

NO None

ABSTAIN Patrick

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstaining.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero thanked Council for the nice articles on committees, commissions and the upcoming fall election that were printed in the Daily Gazette. She felt that Council was really listening to comments during Citizen Participation section of the meeting. Ms. Romero then shared her concerns for purchase of used road grader from Otero County. She researched costs and problem areas of purchase and offered to share her findings with any interested Councilmember. Ms. Romero also suggested that Council adopt a policy to approve any purchases over \$500.00. Mayor Thompson advised her that the City has a policy but he thought it was anything over \$5,000.00.

Gerri Clark advised Council that her problem was the opposite of Ms. Romero's. She did not feel that Council was listening to her. Even though she was told three fire hydrants were repaired, they really are not. She provided Council with pictures of the hydrants needing repair. Ms. Clark advised Council the City

could be faced with possible civil suit and charges of negligence if someone was injured because of the disrepair hazard. She then advised Council of problems with the outdated after-hour messages on the City Hall phone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Jung added **Approval of Investment Policy** and **Appointment of Council Representative to Finance Committee** to the agenda after **Item 7, Update from New Police Chief**. It was moved by Councilmember Lee and seconded by Councilmember Patrick to approve the agenda with consent items as presented and with the noted additions. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO None

Motion carried 7-0.

Consent items approved were:

- Beer Retail License Renewal for Loaf N Jung #49, 305 N 10th Street, Rocky Ford
- Arts Commission Re-appointments for Bob Nelson, Mike Shima, J. R. Thompson, 3-year terms
- Ratification of Approval of Turner Roofing Bid for Library Roof Repair, as presented for discussion at 1/9/2019 Council meeting: Bid \$16,999.96, with 2 options; 3” insulation board – add \$5789.01 and R30 insulation – add \$9391.28.
- Ratification of Approval for Sole Source Purchase of 75 ninety-six gallon trash totes from Lowes in Pueblo, CO for total cost of \$7,262.79, as presented for discussion at 1/9/2019 Council meeting.

UPDATE FROM NEW POLICE CHIEF

Rocky Ford Police Chief Angelo Griego spoke briefly to Council. He was appointed Police Chief by Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace after former Police Chief Mickey Bethel resigned. Chief Griego thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and asked Council for their support. He then reported on CTC Board (Communities That Care) and his plans to add 2 more officers to his 9-officer staff.

APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT POLICY

Mayor Thompson read the proposed Investment Policy for the City of Rocky Ford. It was noted during reading that the “District” Manager should be changed to read “City” Manager in Section III, Delegation of Authority, sentence 2. Councilmember Jung moved to approve the Investment Policy as presented with noted change. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Patrick. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO None

Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Investment Policy approved earlier state that the Finance Committee would consist, at a minimum, of the Finance Director, the City Manager and an appointed member from City Council. When Mayor Thompson asked if anyone was interested in the position, Councilmember Cuco Ruiz volunteered. It was moved by Councilmember Patrick and seconded by Councilmember Jung to appoint Councilmember Cuco Ruiz to the Finance Committee. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO None

Motion carried 7-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Interim City Manager Shannon Wallace told Council that she covered most items to report at the Council work session earlier. With help from the new accounting technician, Ms. Wallace made it through W2s, 1099s, and payroll today. She plans on bringing Azucena Estrada, the new accounting technician, to introduce her to Council at the next meeting. Ms. Wallace then reminded Council that she will meet with H. E. Whitlock and the architects at 1:00 p.m. on January 31, in the Whitlock Trailer behind the new Public Safety Building.

Interim City Manager Wallace advised Council she was uncertain who was supposed to attend the public safety building meetings with H.E. Whitlock and who was responsible for sending public safety reports to DOLA. She asked for direction from Council. Mayor Thompson advised her to contact Consultant Steve Rabe to clarify questions and direction with him.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Jung reported that the First Responders will be recognized at the first Council meeting in March. She then reported that several Action 22 members would be in Denver for two days to meet with legislators, but she will not be personally attending.

Councilmember Ruiz advised Council that the Library Board decided the Library would be closed February 4, 2019 so staff could attend training in Colorado Springs relating to the summer reading program.

Councilmember Lee reported on the recent OCLI/OPI meetings. The first site is very close to final closure, but once closed it will need to be monitored for 25 years for environmental reasons. He then gave an update on the OPI funding grant. There is still \$148,000 available for lending during the next three months. Councilmember Lee will attend an SCEDD (Southern Colorado Economic Development District) meeting in Wiley and Lamar this week.

Councilmember Patrick reported she will attend the Governor’s Work Force Council tomorrow, January 23, 2019, in Denver.

Councilmember Geist moved to **re-appoint Emmitt Davis** to the **Rocky Ford Museum Board** for another 4-year term, to expire December 31, 2022. Councilmember Hunter seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0.

Councilmember Hunter reported on Tree Board meeting yesterday. It was then moved by Councilmember Hunter and seconded by Councilmember Geist to **re-appoint Phyllis Adkins** to the **Tree Board** for another 5-year term, to expire June 30, 2023. Ms. Adkins term actually expired in 2017. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0.

Councilmember Hunter asked why there were items in Council's packet that were not acted on and not on the agenda. She was advised by Interim City Manager Wallace that these were informational items. Councilmember Hunter was invited to ask that they be placed on a future agenda, if she wished.

Mayor Thompson reported the Rocky Ford Planning Commission will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2019 in Council Chambers. He is a member of the Planning Commission, Rocky Ford Swimming Pool Commission and Arts Commission. Mayor Thompson then reminded Council they had discussed allowing Councilmember Susan Jung and the Finance Director to attend CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge this June. Councilmember Jung serves on the CML Policy Committee. Councilmember Patrick moved to allow Councilmember Susan Jung and Azucena Estrada to attend the CML Annual Conference in Breckenridge and to pay for registration, lodging, mileage and meal expenses for them. Councilmember Geist seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Lee, Patrick, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO None
ABSTAIN Jung

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstaining.

Mayor Thompson thanked Interim City Manager Wallace for arranging for Public Works Director Long and Police Chief Griego to address Council this evening.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Laura Thompson told Council that, according to the approved City Investment Policy, the Finance Committee is comprised of the City Manager, Finance Director and a Council representative. She did not feel it was right for the City Manager and Finance Director to be the same person. Interim City Manager Wallace advised Council that she named Azucena Estrada the Finance Director and plans on completing the paperwork tomorrow for this position. She will possibly appoint someone else as accounting technician.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA

- Rocky Ford Rural Fire District Protection Agreement
- Rocky Ford Country Club Lease Agreement
- Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement
- Scissors Lift Purchase
- Purchase of County Road Grader

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Jung moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting.





J. R. Thompson, Mayor



Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk



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Mayor Thompson read the proposed Investment Policy for the City of Rocky Ford. It was noted during reading that the "District" Manager should be changed to read "City" Manager in Section III, Delegation of Authority, sentence 2. Councilmember Jung moved to approve the Investment Policy as presented with noted change. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Patrick. Voting results were:

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NO	None
ABSTAIN	Jung

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