



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 25, 2021

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jung, Councilmembers Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Larry Herrera, Cuco Ruiz, Sherri Cordova, Rich Geist, City Manager Shannon Wallace and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (zoom) met for work session. Discussion was held regarding the agreement between the City of Rocky Ford and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Gobin Building and discussion was also held regarding a possible intergovernmental agreement between the City of Rocky Ford and the Arkansas Valley Fair Board.

The current drought situation was discussed. City Manager Wallace informed Council that Luke James feels that the City will be fine this year. Shannon Wallace will get reminders out to residents to use caution when watering.

Mayor Jung mentioned that there are seats available for the Colorado Municipal League's (CML) executive board for cities or towns with a population of 8,000 or fewer. Mayor Jung asked Council to allow City Manager Wallace to draft a letter of recommendation for her to run for one of the seats. This matter will be added to the Agenda for the meeting tonight.

Others present: Margarito Garcia, Maria Garcia, Rick Weiss and Gary Reed

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Larry Herrera, Cuco Ruiz, Sherri Cordova and Rich Geist

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (zoom)

Others present: Margarito Garcia, Maria Garcia, Rick Weiss and Gary Reed

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Mayor Jung asked Council to add the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board seat vacancy to the agenda under new business. Councilmember Herrera moved to add Mayor Jung's request to the agenda and to take the liquor license renewal for the Rock House Bar & Grill off of the consent agenda and add it to the regular agenda under new business. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Reed, Rocky Ford resident, addressed Council regarding the proposed business license ordinance #960. He recommended that Council table this matter until it is determined how the City will enforce this ordinance. He commented that more businesses should be involved in the discussions and that this ordinance has been in effect for quite some time and if the City didn't enforce it then, how will the City enforce it now?

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council. In addition, she reported on the following:

- The three rooms at the Public Safety Building are being completed. Shannon is waiting for an appraiser to come to discuss the other uncompleted portion of the building to determine if the City will be able to borrow the money needed. Financials were emailed to Council earlier in the day.
- City Manager Wallace asked if Council would authorize her to use some of the 1% sales tax money to have Justin's Paving do the striping lines on Main Street. It was the general consensus of Council that the City may use the money from the 1% sales tax as long as the money is available and that it is used for street or sidewalk repair. Councilmember Ruiz asked about the sidewalks on Highway 50 on Elm and Swink Avenue. City Manager Wallace will look into that.

STAFF REPORTS - None

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Ruiz did not make it to the swim pool board meeting but he reported that they are working hard to get it ready for the June 1st opening. City Manager Wallace commented that inspectors are due later this week to check the boiler and filter system at the pool. The swim pool fees have been raised for annual passes and daily swim rates. The board is still looking at ways that the roof can be repaired. The Library Board cancelled their first meeting and he was not able to make the second meeting. The summer reading program will go on as scheduled.

Councilmember Cordova reported that she is still trying to get financial information from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Gobin building.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Tree Board will try to get together the first week in June to set some goals and figure out what needs to be done. The Grand Theater is going good. She attended a movie as a customer and reported that everything ran smoothly. There will be a student musical this summer.

Councilmember Herrera reported that the golf course is up and running. They play every Thursday, have a person working in the pro shop and they have golf carts to rent. Fred Grantham has been gone so the work on the inside of the building has stopped. He reports that the grass is real green and being very well taken care of.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #960 – An Ordinance Amending Article 1 of Chapter 6 of the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code Concerning Business Licenses, on second reading

Much discussion was held regarding the business license ordinance as far as where the revenue of the business license should be used and how the City will enforce the ordinance. After lengthy discussion, Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve ***Ordinance #960 – An Ordinance Amending Article 1 of Chapter 6 of the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code Concerning Business Licenses***, on second reading. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES Cordova, Corbin-Romero, Ruiz
NO Geist, Herrera, Jung
ABSENT Grasmick

Tie vote – motion failed

Drainage on 2nd Street

City Manager Wallace gave Council an update on the drainage issue on 2nd Street. Wallace called the Water District Manager to ask what could be done about it. The Water District Manager will be contacting Mr. Smith and they will be troubleshooting the issue.

American Rescue Plan Act

City Manager Wallace gave Council information on what the City will be allowed to spend the money on. City Manager Wallace will have a meeting tomorrow to find out a little more information and she'll bring that to the next Council meeting. City Manager Wallace will be meeting with La Junta City Manager Rick Klein, County Administrator Amy White-Tanabe and Otero County Economic Developer Danelle Berg on Wednesday to discuss this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

MOU for Total Concept

Councilmember Ruiz moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Rocky Ford and Total Concept. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Turn on / Turn off fees for after hours

City Manager Wallace read aloud to Council a memo from Public Works Director Rick Long regarding after hours calls for shut offs. Rick Long would like to start charging a fee for after hour call outs. Discussion was held regarding overtime hours and whether overtime is budgeted for. It was the general consensus of Council to not make any changes due to the fact that current expense does not affect the budget.

City Manager Wallace asked Council to authorize Public Works Director Rick Long to provide sewer service to 6 residents that live on Ewers and 4 residents that live on County Road EE.5. Wayne Walter would do the work and the residents would purchase a sewer tap. There would be no cost to the City and the City would benefit from more people paying the monthly sewer fees. It was the general consensus of Council to allow Public Works Director Rick Long to get an engineering study started.

Permission for City Manager to write a letter to Colorado Municipal League

Councilmember Herrera moved to allow City Manager Wallace to write a letter to the Colorado Municipal League executive board on behalf of Mayor Susan Jung. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

YES Ruiz, Cordova, Corbin-Romero, Geist, Herrera
NO None
ABSENT Grasmick
ABSTAIN Jung

Motion carried 5 -0, with one abstention

Liquor License Renewal for 10th Hole Bar & Grill d/b/a Rock House Bar & Grill

Councilmember Herrera questioned the manner in which the renewal was written. The renewal was submitted under the name of 10th Hole Bar and Grill d/b/a Rock House Bar and Grill. The Journey's had previously submitted an application to transfer their liquor license to their new address, at 405 Elm Avenue, this was approved by the Colorado Department of Revenue Liquor Enforcement Division and was also approved by the Rocky Ford City Council as the 10th Hole Bar and Grill. The actual liquor license is under that name. When the renewal application was filed, the application had 10th Hole Bar & Grill d/b/a Rock House Bar & Grill. After some discussion Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the liquor license renewal for the 10th Hole Bar & Grill d/b/a Rock House Bar and Grill. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

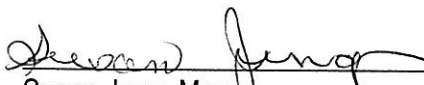
Rick Weiss thanked Council for reconsidering Ordinance #960 and advised them that he was not opposed to the business license ordinance but he wanted a more detailed accounting of where the revenue would go.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION

IGA with Arkansas Valley Fair Board
City of Rocky Ford and Gobin Building agreement

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Corbin-Romero and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned to meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk

