



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 25, 2021

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jung, with Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Johnette Fuller, Sherry Cordova, Rich Geist and Norman Railton, Public Works Director Rick Long, Police Chief Angelo Griego, Police Captain Carol Coates, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee met for discussion of current code enforcement operating procedures. Much discussion was held regarding current practices and what could be done to improve communications and reporting. More discussion will be held at a later date.

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 25, 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 Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski, Police Chief Angelo Griego, Public Works Director Rick Long and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee

Others present: Nicholas Martinez, Nicholas Martinez II, Steven Cordova with Total Concept, Garry Reed, David Kline, Coco Ruiz, Davida Morlan, Tony Morlan and Tyler Neil of Habitat Construction. Via Zoom, Kathleen Van Voorhis, Cynthia Roebuck, Jen Lopez and Matt Lynn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Gurule moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with a correction to the meeting minutes of January 22, 2022, changing the vote for the salt spreader to 4-2. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Railton. Voting results were:

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

NO None

ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from January 11, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler Neil of Habitat Construction introduced himself to Council and asked Council to inform the Company when demolition is allowed on some of the bundled down homes and the burned apartment building, Habitat Construction would like to be a part of that process.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported the following:

- Arkansas Valley Conduit representatives are not able to attend any meetings in February and they asked to attend a future meeting. It was the general consensus of Council to have them attend a March meeting.
- City Manager Wallace had previously given Council a copy of her employment contract. An executive session will be held in February.
- Catlin Canal water shares contracts are up in March. Council needs to decide what they would like to do.
- Public Works Director Rick Long will inform Council regarding the tank inspection.
- Shannon has scheduled a meeting on January 31, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss security system information. Shannon would like to have a Council representative attend. Councilmember Cordova and Mayor Jung both volunteered to attend that meeting.
- Sam Light, CIRSA general counsel will be at the 2/8/2022 work session.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung apologized for losing her temper at the Cafecito meeting held earlier in the day. Mayor Jung reported that she will attend the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board meeting on Friday.

Councilmember Herrera reported that he was unable to attend the Rocky Ford Country Club meeting, so he had nothing to report.

Councilmember Gurule reported that the Cafecito meetings are being held to give community members a way to have discussion about community. Gurule apologized for not having Council's approval on the code violation complaint form that he created prior to sharing it with the community.

Councilmember Fuller reported that she had taken notice of the code enforcement's efforts on removal of abandoned cars in the city.

Councilmember Cordova had nothing to report.

Councilmember Geist had nothing to report.

Councilmember Railton had nothing to report

STAFF REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski gave Council a departmental report. Milenski reported on the following:

- Library Park KABOOM project was finished under budget and the city will purchase picnic tables.
- The city received the Fox Family grant in the amount of \$1,000. This money will also be used for Library Park projects.
- Dugouts at Babcock Park will be replaced.

- West field gates will be locked to try to control dog waste.
- Youth basketball is in progress and the corn hole league has 16 teams.
- RV park rental rates were increased to \$300.00 month.
- A spay and neuter clinic will be held at the Event Center on March 10 – 13.

Police Chief Angelo Griego gave Council a departmental report. Griego reported the following:

- Crime statistics compared to the national average.
- The Rocky Ford Police Department responded to 5867 calls at end of year.
- The city is recruiting for new patrol officers.
- The Police Department was unable to do community outreach programs due to COVID-19 but they did have a picnic at Railroad Park. Griego plans to sponsor a Movie at the Grand Theater and also to have an Eater Egg hunt.

OLD BUSINESS

Sewer Meter Usage

No information was available at this time. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to another time.

Tank Inspection

Public Works Director Rick Long reported that he scheduled an inspection of the water storage tank on Play Park Hill. MIDCO will send a team to conduct the inspection. The cost of the inspection will be \$5,600.

NEW BUSINESS

David Morlan

David Morlan introduced herself and informed Council that a first responder recognition day has been scheduled to honor all first responders in the Arkansas Valley. This event will take place at the Crowley County Fairgrounds. Morlan has invited Council to attend the event. Morlan is also seeking volunteers and donors.

Mayor Jung asked Council to authorize her to give all City employees a certificate of appreciation. It was the general consensus of Council to allow Mayor Jung to give certificates.

Cemetery Rules and Regulations – Stacey Milenski

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski informed Council that the cemetery rules and regulations booklet is out of date. Cemetery Sexton Tom Valencia has requested that some changes be made. Milenski will make the requested changes to the booklet and bring before Council at a meeting in February. No additional action was taken.

Unhoused Count – Housing Project Presentation

Jen Lopez of MOXIE informed Council that the homeless count showed at least 20 homeless persons living in and around Rocky Ford. MOXIE is looking to conduct these counts more often and to develop a coalition in the local area to participate in future counts.

Executive Director of Total Concept Steven Cordova gave Council an update on the new 30-unit apartment slated to replace the Western Motel Apartment Building. The new building will be named the “Osborne”. The building will be made up of one-bedroom apartments with some two-bedroom units. The property will have 23 parking spaces for the 30 apartments.

Councilmember Herrera and Rocky Ford citizen Gary Reed reported that they felt that parking will be an issue.

Disc Golf Sponsorship

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski gave Council information regarding the sponsorship. Community Development has offered to fund the \$500 sponsorship. After some discussion, Councilmember Gurule motioned that Council approve a sponsorship for the disc golf tournament to be held in Rocky Ford at the end of March, 2022. Councilmember Geist seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Retreat – February 26, 2022

City Manager Wallace reported that she has scheduled a retreat for 9:00 a.m. on the 26th at the Public Safety Building. The retreat will probably last most of the day.

Maple Milling Project

Public Works Director Rick Long presented a proposal to move to milling Maple Avenue after the work is completed on Walnut Avenue. The project will be funded by the Highway User's Tax Fund (HUTF) and the 1% sales tax designated for street repair. After much discussion, Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the milling asphalt repurpose project for Maple Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

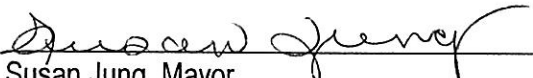
Gary Reed reiterated his opposition to the replacement of the Western Motel, citing parking concerns and that a rent-controlled facility would be detrimental to other property owners in the community.

Councilmember Herrera informed Council that George Hanzas of Catlin Canal had reached out to him and advised that any changes made to the headgates must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on Monday February 28, 2022.

Herrera reported that a notice for a business license had been sent to all businesses in the city. Herrera is wondering why the city does not already have that information. Much discussion was held. City Manager Wallace responded to Herrera's concerns regarding the business license.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Railton moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:  City Clerk

