



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

***September 12th, 2023***

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

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts, Larry Herrera and Scott Kerr met with Code Enforcement Natasha Ortiz, to have discussion regarding possible changes to existing ordinances.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Captain Carol Coates, Diana Marshall, Jaime Gutierrez,

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr

Staff: City Clerk Rebecca Korinek and Utility Clerk Mia Herrera

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Diana Marshall, Jaime Gutierrez, (unknown woman) – didn't sign in and Beverly Grano

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

J.R. Thompson commented that he noticed the flashing red light located in front of Public Works 203 S. 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked if the red light was recently reactivated.

On the same topic, Diana Marshall commented that the Public Works crew should have their vehicles parked elsewhere so that intersection is cleared for stopping.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

NONE

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council.

- Councilmember Duane Gurule came into City Hall and helped with streaming issues. Also, would like to look into another IT company. Triad is really busy. Wallace asked Council for any suggestions they had to possibly switch to a different IT company.
- Auditors will be coming to give a report on the 2022 audit on September 26<sup>th</sup>. With the audit being completed the City needs permission to move ARPA money into the General Fund account.
- Wallace e-mailed CIRSA quotes for hail damage on city vehicles. Hail damage does NOT cover anything older than 2013. There are four vehicles with hail damage that will NOT be covered.
- Speedbumps have been set on Washington Ave. City received these speedbumps from Swink. City will insert another set on Willow and Second Street. Waiting for new stakes from Muth's welding to be used on speedbumps. New speedbumps will cost \$169.99. Wallace asked Council how they felt about spending money for speedbumps. Wallace suggested maybe Council would think about a process for requests for speedbumps.
- School zone speed limit signs have been ordered from Signs and Designs. Captain Carol Coates requested that speed limit be changed to 15 MPH in school zone.
- Budget strategies due to the 2022 Audit. All three funds did end up in the black for 2022. Auditors recommended to transfer \$430,000 of the ARPA funds to general fund account to cover loss revenue.
- Economic development account and utility savings account at State Bank are now both closed.
- Need to figure out to cut expenditures. No raises were given in 2023. City has to plan for another increase in minimum wage which will result in increase in all city employees' wages.
- Wallace suggested that Council discuss hiring a new Judge. Paul Schultz who did the police audit stated most commonly judges get paid on an hourly wage. Wallace reached out to other municipalities who may know of a judge that may be willing to travel to Rocky Ford once a month or every other month for court.
- The portion in the back of the Ed Building, that was awarded through a REDI grant, has been completed. The City is now trying to figure out how to install HVAC into the new addition. City received three different bids. The lowest bid being \$16,500. City has applied for a couple of grants.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported the following:

- Jung reported the Police Department back to school night was a success.
- Jung went to the State Fair for the Mayor's luncheon. Representatives from Innovative Water Technologies (IWT) was present at fair and asked Mayor if the Council would approve a sign at the west end of town to be put up. The sign will say "Coolest thing made in Colorado winner of 2022"
- Jung received a certificate from the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera spoke about renewing liquor license for golf course, it would bring in more revenue.
- Nothing to report for the planning board.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule stated swimming pool is now closed for season. Need to focus on winterizing pool for next year.
- CHFA was here on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 23. Meeting was more of a listening event for CHFA to see what's needed and wanted in our area.
- Rocky Ford is hosting day two of Southeast Rural Philanthropy days on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 23

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez thanked Diana Marshall for watering all sponsored flowering pots.
- Tree board wants to have a Halloween Festival at Crystal Lake, and is looking for more involvement with community and other organizations
- Tree board is also looking at getting involved in a nature everywhere and national fitness program that will provide outdoor things to do for people in the community.
- Allen Brownstein will be at Rocky Mountain SER October 14<sup>th</sup>, 23 in Pueblo teaching planting and harvesting of garlic.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Chamber wants to team up with other organizations to do a truck or treat for Halloween.
- Nothing to report for the Pension board.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Museum board had a meeting September 6<sup>th</sup>, 23.
- Over a zoom meeting Cynthia put Donna Bush in contact with a couple of architects that help with historical buildings.
- Jeff a structural engineer stopped by Museum to look at the corner & take pictures of where Museum is having issues.
- A gentleman donated paint and money to have trim done at the Museum, when work will get done. Kerr believes that the Public Works Department has received a work order. It is unknown when the work will get done.

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

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

Mayor Jung explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
2. Application for Special Event Permit for Rocky Ford County Club on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 7am to midnight.
3. Application for renewal of Medical Marijuana license for Rocky Farm's LLC dba Rocky Farms. 1709 Swink Ave., Rocky Ford.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

City Manager Wallace e-mailed Council information about speed bumps. Much discussion was held regarding speedbumps. Council spoke about the process of handling speed bumps. Council requested Wallace to get with RFPD and RFFD to submit a proposal to Council about the cost of speedbumps and labor.

Council received information from City Manager Wallace regarding how much the city spends in vehicle maintenance. After much discussion, Council determined that it would be cheaper for the city to pay for maintenance as needed verses hiring a vehicle maintenance employee and/or the Fleet Enterprise proposal.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **New Holiday added to State Holiday's HB23-1271 (Lunar New Year)**

Wallace informed Council about the new State of Colorado holiday. After discussion regarding the current city holiday schedule, Councilmember Roberts moved to not add the new state holiday of Lunar New Year, on the first Friday of February, to the city holiday schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting Results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### **Municipal Court Judge – Replacing Judge for 2024**

Wallace asked Council to consider replacing the Municipal Judge for 2024. Council discussed how much the Municipal Judge is paid. Mayor Jung suggested reaching out to Lamar or Ordway to get additional information on their Municipal Judge's contract. Jung suggested that Municipal Court be held every other month. Council requested that Court Clerk Mia Herrera get more information about Judge Manley's contract. Councilmember Roberts moved to table this matter. The motion was seconded by Herrera. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Martinez moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 8:08 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:   
Rebecca Korinek

Attested by:   
Mia Herrera

