



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Scott Kerr, Larry Herrera and Sherry Cordova met with City Manager Shannon Wallace to discuss Christmas lights and to have discussion regarding City Manager Shannon Wallace's employment contract.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed and Robert Barron

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Mayor Jung called the meeting to order.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova and Scott Kerr

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, Public Works Director Rick Long, Public Works employee Cuco Ruiz, Museum Curator Rob Marshall, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and Utility Clerk Mia Herrera

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Johnette Fuller, Rafer Nichols with BNSF, Diana Marshall, Stephanie Jaramillo, Leonard Gonzales and Robert Barron

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Johnette Fuller, 409 S. 9th Street, asked Council if anything could be done about the bad trees in the City. Fuller reported that a neighbor's tree branches have been falling and breaking her fence. The owner of the property is unwilling to do anything about the trees. Fuller asked if there had been any progress made on the cleaning of the burned home on Sycamore. City Manager Wallace informed Fuller that the CDPHE still has the property on a waiting list to be cleaned up. Fuller also commented that the mosquitos were very bad this season and wondered if the mosquito sprayer had been out spraying. Fuller reminded Council that when she was a member of Council, she had given information to Council about a street sweeper. Council chose not to purchase at that time. Fuller asked if parts had been ordered to repair the street sweeper that was not running.

Diana Marshall, 408 S. 6th Street, thanked City Manager Wallace for seeing that the barriers were put up at Crystal Lake. Marshall reported that trash is being dumped at Crystal Lake and the Trunk or Treat event is coming up very soon.

J.R. Thompson, 1020 Washington, informed Council of the agenda of the upcoming 34th annual Arkansas Valley Balloon Festival.

Robert Barron, 1104 Virginia, thanked all for the donation of their time and energy for what they do. Barron commented on the recent death of first responder. Barron commented that the flags were at half-staff at the Public Safety Building but not at City Hall. Barron asked why the flags were not at half-staff. Barron commented that he has been by the City Hall in the last few years to visit with City Manager Wallace, Barron commented that he feels that it is a lot harder to see Wallace recently, Barron asked for better communication.

Art Hajar asked to leave a resume and gave Council some background information.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Rick Long gave Council information for a proposed right-of-way permit and a proposed ordinance for commercial vehicles and trailers. There is a semi-trailer that is parked on S. 13th Street, which was just paved, that is causing some damage. The owner of the semi lives on 18th Street. Long requested that Council address these issues at an upcoming workshop. Long gave an update of the collection system and the water meter project. Long reported that he is working on the distribution system and identifying every service line in the City.

Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee explained to Council the duties of his job for the City. Lee expressed concerns regarding some comments that have been made regarding his work performance.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- The City has reduced the worker's compensation insurance through the Pinnacol Company. This year it has reduced by 34%

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported the following:

- Mayor Jung will attend a CIRSA luncheon on Wednesday and will attend the Colorado Municipal League (CML) policy committee meeting on Friday.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that the Aloha Tournament at the golf course was a success.

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Nothing to report for the Pool Commission or Art's Commission
- OCLI/OPI will meet next Monday. Marty Lee is the board member and Duane is the alternate.
- Gurule has been invited to the Washington Primary School on the 12th to talk to first grader's about being a community helper.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez gave the floor to Tree Board President Diana Marshall. Marshall gave a current monetary report and the need to take a few trees down. Marshall asked for Council's permission to use some money to work on some of the City's trees at the Cemetery. The trees will be replaced. Marshall reported that the Tree Board has applied for a "Nature Everywhere" grant and it has been accepted. There will be five (5) board members going to Atlanta in November to learn about the grant. The grant will be anywhere from \$10,000. To \$50,000 with no match required.
- Martinez reported that the Trunk or Treat will be at Crystal Lake.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova gave an update on the roof at the Rocky Ford Library. The Library Board is looking into ways to pay for the repairs.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Kerr gave an update of projects going on at the Museum.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for September 26, 2023.
2. Application for Special Event Permit – ***Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce at Gobin Building, 107 N. Main Street, Rocky Ford on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to Midnight.***
3. 6.3 Application for Special Event Permit – ***Ark Valley Turkey Trot, 907 Railroad Avenue (on road between Len's Tavern and Gobin Building, Rocky Ford on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from Noon to 11:00 p.m.***
4. 6.4 Application for Renewal of Retail Liquor License – ***Marilyn Jackson & J & M Liquor Store #2 dba J & M Liquor, 1200 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford***

OLD BUSINESS

Ark Valley Conduit Outreach

The officers of the Ark Valley Conduit would like to come to give a conduit update on October 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Committee for Traffic Calming Solutions

City Manager Wallace informed Council that a Committee has been established and is looking to add two (2) new members. The committee members are Nicholas Martinez, Sean McDonagh, Sarah Barks, Ray Gonzales, Juan Gonzales and Stephanie Jaramillo.

NEW BUSINESS

Oath of Office and Pinning Ceremony – New Police Officer Travis Morris

Officer Travis Morris had previously been given the oath of office by City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, but for ceremonial purposes, was given the oath of office by Mia Herrera. Travis' son performed the pinning.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe – Regarding Closing of Crossings

Ray Nichols informed Council that there are a lot of railroad crossings for a City of this size. Nichols walked Council through a power point presentation entitled "Rocky Ford Crossing Strategy". It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Kerr to establish a Planning and Development Committee. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Museum Curator Rob Marshall reported that the Board is trying to recruit some new members. Rob Marshall asked Council to appoint Beth Dodd to the Museum Board. Councilmember Kerr moved for the appointment of Beth Dodd to the Museum Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Robert Barron, having additional topics to address with Council, commented that sidewalks need attention. Barron reported that employees are parking in yellow areas in front of the Public Safety Building. Barron wondered if inspections are being conducted on City vehicles and tracking of CDL licenses. Barron reported that there are no safe crosswalks on Washington Avenue and 12th Street for children. Barron reported that he has been told, by Police Officers, that the City Manager has asked the Police Department to leave City Employees alone. Barron reported that he has seen City Employees pulling trailers with no lights and employees have commented to him that lights have not worked in a long time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees – Discussion of City Manager contract

It was moved by Councilmember Kerr and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to go into executive session for the discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) and not involving: any specific employee who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill and office of this body or of an elected official; the appointment of any person to fill and office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees – Discussion of City Manager contract

Voting results were:

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

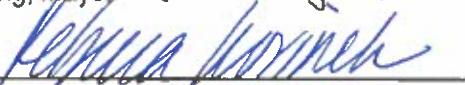
Motion carried 6-0

Those going into executive session are: City Manager Shannon Wallace, Mayor Susan Jung, Scott Kerr, Sherry Cordova, Nicholas Martinez, Duane Gurule and Larry Herrera. Those named went into executive session at 8:43 p.m.

RECESS

There being no further business, Mayor Jung recessed the regular meeting at 8:42 p.m. No official business will be held or discussed after the executive session.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest: 
Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

Mia Herrera performed the clerk duties for this meeting.

