



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

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

Mayor Jung and Councilmembers: Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Larry Cordova, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Duane Gurule and Sherry Cordova, Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom), City Attorney Nathan Shultz, City Manager Shannon Wallace, Public Works Director Rick Long and Water ORC Luke James met to discuss the possibility of offering City sewer service to residents on County Road EE.5 and Ewers.

Much discussion was held on how this could be achieved. Council would like more information on actual costs and would like to have more discussion. This matter has been set for further discussion on the work session scheduled for Tuesday, September 28.

Others present: Gary Reed, Jen Fraser, James Budnick

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Rich Geist, Daryl Grasmick, Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule and Sherry Cordova

Staff: City Attorney Nathan Shultz, City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Public Works Director Rick Long, Water ORC Luke James, Finance Director Azucena Holland, Cuco Ruiz and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee (via Zoom)

Others present: Gary Reed, James Budnick, Jen Fraser, Bradley Zieg, Larry Schreder, Teresa May Burns and Jillian Hansen (via zoom)

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

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2021
2. City Council SPECIAL Meeting Minutes from August 30, 2021

3. Special Event Permit Application – **Chamber of Commerce, 107 N. Main Street – for Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**
4. Medical Marijuana License Renewal Application, **Rocky Farms, LLC, 1709 Swink Avenue, Rocky Ford**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace reported a few things in addition to her written report:

- There is a young lady that is interested in the Code Enforcement position and is interested in going to the Police Training Academy. The City will pay for this training.
- Cindi Abert has asked for permission to close the street on the north of City Hall for the parade. They will be making smores, candlesticks and hot chocolate for the balloon festival.
- Lisa Perez is still interested in using the old Boy's and Girl's club. Public Works crew has been looking at the building to determine what needs to be repaired.
- A young man (under age 16) called Shannon to ask about doing some community service hours for the national honor society. Shannon will work with City Attorney Nathan Shultz to figure out some things for him to do.

### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported that she and the City Manager attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) district meeting in La Junta at the Kiva. The City of Rocky Ford and the Town of Swink will be hosting the 2022 CML district meeting and will share the costs.

Mayor Jung attended "Mayor's Day" at the State Fair this year and had a great time. Mayor Jung will attend the CLM annual meeting in Westminster September 22 – 24 and the Action 22 annual meeting in Trinidad on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, September 11, the Mayor gave recognition to the Rocky Ford Fire Department, Police Department and EMS for all their efforts in keeping us all safe.

Councilmember Herrera reported that the Rocky Ford Country Club is losing a groundskeeper so they will be looking for one. Herrera inquired about the status of the Pitch & Chip liquor license and mentioned that he ate at the restaurant and it was very good. There will be a tournament at the Golf Course during the coming weekend for the Arkansas Valley Hospice.

Councilmember Gurule reported that citizens have informed him that there are storm drainage issues at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Walnut Street. Gurule also expressed safety concerns and ADA concerns due to the broken sidewalks or no sidewalks. Gurule mentioned that he had been informed that the volleyball court at Railroad Park is not well maintained and tree branches hang over the court. The Rocky Ford Volleyball Team has mentioned an interest in volunteering to help with the maintenance.

Gurule reported that a design meeting with KABOOM went well and children gave a lot of input. A vote on the design is due soon. Volunteers will be needed for November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> for the build and assembly.

Councilmember Cordova reported that she attended the last Library Board meeting. A City employee is interested in being on the Library Board. City Attorney Nathan Shultz commented that there is no restriction against it but it would probably not be an ideal situation. The library roof still needs repaired. Adame Roofing has given Library Director Leanna Chavez an informal estimate of \$1,200 for some minor repair and a sealant. The Library will resume being open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Library is in need of computers and the Friends of the Library might be able to purchase two.

Councilmember Grasmick informed all that Otero Partners Inc., (OPI) and Otero County Landfill Inc., (OCLI) will have meeting next week so he will report on those at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero encouraged all to try to attend a movie at the Grand Theater. The Tree Board would like to borrow some cutting shears from Public Works and ask for help in cutting lilac bushes and for help in finding picnic tables.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Cuco Ruiz addressed Council to comment that he is starting to learn both sides, one from being a former Councilmember and now being a City employee. Ruiz informed Council that there are a lot of issues that the City faces that the Council is really not aware of. Ruiz encouraged Council to take the time and visit with City Departments to find out the challenges and goals.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***Hot Tap – Discussion / Approval***

Public Works Director Rick Long and Water ORC Luke James answered questions that Council had regarding why a hot tap valve was needed. Councilmember Grasmick moved to allow the reallocation of money, not to exceed \$70,000, to purchase the hot tap and quick valve machine. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

#### ***Fountain Creek Water – Follow-up with Bradley Zieg***

Additional discussion was held regarding the possible purchase of Fountain Creek water shares. Bradley Zieg, owner of shares Larry Schreder and Teresa Burns were also in the audience. Councilmember Grasmick made a motion to authorize City Manager Shannon Wallace to work with the Applegate Group engineers to develop a plan for getting the water to Rocky Ford. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

#### ***Discussion/Decision on U S Solar presentation***

Jillian Hansen was available (via zoom) to answer any questions that Council may have. City Attorney Nathan Shultz has reviewed the contract and approved it. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve and authorize the contract between the City of Rocky Ford and U S Solar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Resolution #6 – Series 2021 – A Resolution Modifying and Replacing Resolution No. 1 – Series 2015, Regarding Municipal Late Fees for Service and Utility Payment Due Date***

City Manager Shannon Wallace explained to Council that this proposed resolution would allow customers a few extra days to pay their bill before the assessment of penalty fees or disconnect and would also decrease the overtime for the utility technicians. Councilmember Gurule moved to approve ***Resolution #6 – Series 2021 – A Resolution Modifying and Replacing Resolution No. 1 – Series 2015, Regarding Municipal Late Fees for Service and Utility Payment Due Date.***

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

### ***Discussion / Decision on Winter Work Hours at City Hall***

Human Resource Director Shelly Valdez reported that the four-day work week has been working well and there has been no effect on the business and there has been no change or increase in customers on the disconnect list. Valdez requested that Council continue the four-day work schedule year-round. Finance Director Azucena Holland gave Council information on the savings for Black Hills Energy during the months that City Hall has been on a four-day work week. Councilmember Herrera moved to continue the four-day work week for the staff at City Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

### ***Archive Social – Presentation***

City Attorney Nathan Shultz commented that he didn't think that this is something that the City of Rocky Ford is in need of at this time. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Councilmember Grasmick moved to go into executive session for discussion with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b); those going into executive session will be Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Daryl Grasmick, Rich Geist, Sherry Cordova, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Mayor Susan Jung, City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Nathan Shultz and Finance Director Azucena Estrada. The motion was seconded by Council member Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Council went into executive session at 8:26 p.m. and ended executive session at 8:40 p.m. Following the executive session, no other action was taken.

Regular meeting was reconvened at 8:41 p.m. Councilmember Grasmick made a motion to go into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(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; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; those going into executive session will be Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Duane Gurule, Daryl Grasmick, Rich Geist, Sherry Cordova, Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Mayor Susan Jung, City Manager Shannon Wallace and City Attorney Nathan Shultz. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Council went into executive session at 8:45 p.m. and ended executive session at 9:15 p.m. Following the executive session, no other action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION**

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Grasmick and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

  
Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:   
City Clerk

