



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Susan Jung, Councilmembers Duane Gurule, Larry Herrera, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr, along with City Manager Shannon Wallace and Public Works Director Rick Long discussed pre-treatment for the city's sewer system.

Others present: J.R. Thompson and Gary Reed

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 9, 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, Nicole Roberts and Scott Kerr

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Swim Pool Manager Deanna Bierbaum, Cindy Abert and Police Sergeant Tim Moore

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Bill Schroer, Gary Reed, Jaime Guitierrez and Stephanie Jaramillo

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance.

City Manager Shannon Wallace read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Vigil with Black Hills Energy (via zoom) invited Council and public to an open house on May 19, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rocky Ford Service Center, 1501 Maple Avenue. The topic will be energy efficiency. 150, one-gallon trees will be given away.

Jaime Guitierrez, 300 S. 6th Street, asked Council for an update of the pavement project on Walnut and Maple Street. Guitierrez also asked about watering the streets.

Bill Schroer gave public kudos to the Rocky Ford Library and the Rocky Ford Museum.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Informed Council of a request to the Rocky Ford Planning Commission to develop land.
- Interviews for the Chief of Police position were concluded today. The top two applicants will attend a meet and greet in June.
- The paving project has been delayed due to some equipment issues with Justin's Paving.
- Wallace reported that the city would like to sponsor the Rocky Ford Wrestling Foundation for the beer garden at the Cruisin festival.

STAFF REPORTS

Pool Manager Deanna Beirbaum and Past Pool Manager City Abert asked Council to consider the hiring of employee's children to work, seasonal only. Beirbaum and Abert gave Council pros of allowing this change.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Jung reported the following:

- Mayor Jung attended the Cinco De Mayo festival, on Friday, at the Pioneer Nursing Center. The residents made decorations and food was served.
- Mayor Jung attended the Cinco De Mayo festival at the Fairgrounds on Saturday.
- Mayor Jung attended a CIRSA meeting regarding upcoming legislation.
- Mayor Jung attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive meeting.

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported some updates at the golf course

Councilmember Gurule reported the following:

- Gurule attended the Cinco De Mayo festival. Gurule gave kudos to all.
- Gurule was invited to the Otero Junior College commencement.
- Gurule attended a meeting with the USDA rural development. An informational session will be held in Las Animas on May 18th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Rocky Ford High School graduation will be this coming Friday and wished all graduates congratulations.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova reported that there was a water leak in the ceiling. The ceiling was fixed. Cordova gave an update on upcoming library projects.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and gave an update of upcoming events.

Councilmember Kerr reported the following:

- Kerr was unable to attend the last meeting but gave an update of some museum issues.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Wallace asked to add 8.3, under new business, seasonal hiring for the city.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jung explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the additions requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. City Council meeting minutes from April 25, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

City Clean-Up Day

Some discussion was held regarding optional dates for clean-up day. The dates of June 10, June 17th or June 24th were chosen as the best dates. This matter will be determined at the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd.

Pool Update

City Manager Wallace gave Council an update of pool repairs. Wallace informed Council that Mike Casillas has given a quote to remove and repair plaster of \$6,200 to \$6,500, this does *not* include the ceiling. Additional discussion was held regarding repairs and being able to open the pool on time.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and authorize the City Manager to accept a bid for pool repairs up to \$10,000. Councilmember Gurule seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #5, Series 2023 – A Resolution Pursuant to C.R.S. 31-30.5-209(2011) Providing for Appropriate Uses of Old Hire Police Pension Fund Where No Beneficiaries Exist or May Exist.

Councilmember Roberts moved to authorize the money to be put into the city general fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Resolution #6 – Series 2023 - A Resolution Authorizing the City of Rocky Ford to Amend Verbiage to Ordinance

Much discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the trash pick-up process. Councilmember Robert moved to table this matter to the next regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Change to City Policy Regarding Nepotism and Seasonal Hiring

This matter was discussed earlier in tonight's meeting. Councilmember Herrera moved to allow the change to city policy regarding nepotism and seasonal hiring. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gurule. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Discussion Items:

Discussion was held regarding watering Walnut, Maple and Sycamore streets to try to prevent dust. City Manager Wallace informed Council that the Public Works Department does not have a water truck. Some discussion was held about asking the Fire Department about it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Herrera gave an update on Elk's Club grants that he had been applying for. Freedom grant will go the American Legion Post #8, Beacon grant and Spotlight grant were rejected and Herrera will re-apply. There is a gratitude grant that may be able to be used at the swim pool. Herrera reminded all about the closing and retirement party at Jane's World Daycare.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Martinez moved to adjourn and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.


Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:  Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk

