



## CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2021

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

Mayor Jung, Councilmembers Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Larry Herrera, Cuco Ruiz, Sherri Cordova, Daryl Grasmick, City Manager Shannon Wallace, Public Works Director Rick Long and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee met for work session. Discussion was held on chip sealing of streets, the vacant buildings and the City owned property at 1101 Lincoln that is currently rented to Jack Barker.

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

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 9, 2021. Mayor Susan Jung called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Susan Jung

Councilmembers: Peggy Sue Corbin-Romero, Larry Herrera, Cuco Ruiz, Sherri Cordova and Daryl Grasmick

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Public Works Director Rick Long, Finance/HR Director Azucena Estrada, Shelly Valdez, Mia Herrera, Robyn Platt and Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee.

Others present: Tree Board member Johnette Fuller, Brandon Milenski with Eureka Water, Margarito Garcia, Maria Garcia, Rosie Trujillo and J.M. Tucker

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

Mayor Jung led the pledge of allegiance and explained the Agenda and Consent Agenda to Council and audience. Mayor Jung requested that approval of ordinance #959 and new office software be added to the agenda. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the additions. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

Consent Items approved:

1. City Council Meeting Minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and special meeting minutes from March 30, 2021
2. Liquor License Renewal – J.R.'s Country Store, 1207 Elm Ave., Rocky Ford, CO
3. Special event permit for BPOE #1147 Elk's Club for May 1, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Johnette Fuller asked if the mosquito sprayer would be running this season.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously emailed her report to Council. In addition, she reported on the following:

- Sales tax comparison from 2018 during the county fair
- Golf Course contract is due to be renewed
- Approved work is about to begin at the Public Safety Building
- The City will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 8, 2021 at the fairgrounds to help raise money to get the Police Department moved over to the Public Safety Building
- First National Bank is looking at being able to loan the City the money to finish the Police Department section at the Public Safety Building. Shannon called the USDA to ask for possible help.
- The City is moving forward with a grant for the playground equipment at Library Park
- Gave Council information on water leak adjustments given over the last three years.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Finance/ HR Director Azucena Estrada**

Azucena proposed a temporary (summer) four-day work week for office staff. Azucena gave Council information regarding the benefits to both City and Staff. Work hours would be Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and closed on Friday. Councilmember Grasmick asked if the hours would affect utility billing or collections in any way. Utilities Technician Mia Herrera responded that the new hours would have no effect on current practices. Staff would come in on any relevant Friday to get everything done.

Public comment was made by Margarito Garcia that in his experience a four-day work week did not work. Garcia also commented that he didn't think it was fair to other City departments and he believes that people actually quit working after eight hours even if they have a longer schedule. Azucena Estrada commented that all City departments work different schedules and that one-size does not fit all environments. There being no further discussion, Councilmember Cordova moved to authorize the City office staff to work Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. May 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 with the stipulation that if the experiment did not go well, the plan would not be renewed. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### **Economic Development Coordinator Marty Lee**

Marty gave Council a departmental report and informed Council that he is working with SECO News to bring a music festival to Rocky Ford on July 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring 4 to 5 up and coming local bands and artists wanting a live audience, food vendors, kid's games and a beer garden with a possible golf and softball tournament on the same weekend. Lee reported that "Wheels to Work" will be offered on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. at Babcock Park, La Junta High School parking lot and Bent County fairgrounds to introduce seventh and eighth grade students to available career opportunities. This program is offered through the Santa Fe BOCES and other local supporters. Lee advised Council of the SECOSTrong website developed by local economic developers and the Colorado Small Business Center (SBDC)

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Jung reported that Nancy Ascherman donated a statue to the City that will be erected at the Depot Plaza in front of the Gobin Building. Mayor Jung reported that City Manager Wallace has completed an ethics training through Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Association) CIRSA, and she has received a certificate of completion.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that the Pension Board has been working to rewrite the bylaws to help ensure proper distribution of retiree funds.

Councilmember Corbin-Romero reported that the Grand Theater has been doing well. The Tree Board, in cooperation with the Rocky Ford Rotary Club, held a workday at Huri-back Park. Corbin-Romero asked Johnette Fuller to report on trees.

Councilmember Herrera volunteered to be appointed to the Golf Course Board as a City representative.

Councilmember Cordova reported that she had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting as a City representative and she will continue to attend.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Discussion and Possible Approval of Any Sealed Bids received for Land in Hancock Subdivision***

Mayor Jung reported that the City received one sealed bid from Eureka Water Company in the amount of \$5,100 plus all legal, survey and transfer fees. Eureka would like to build a storage tank and there may be some issues with valves and other pumps belonging to the City. Eureka would allow the City to have access to the site for any needed maintenance or equipment repair. Mayor Jung recommended that Council accept the bid contingent on a survey to ensure compliance with the sale of the property. Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve the Eureka Water Company bid for 5,100 plus all legal, survey and transfer fees. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### ***Fairground Expo Building – Sewer***

Some discussion was held. There was a general consensus of Council to continue this matter to a future work session or agenda.

### ***Discussion Regarding Water Leak Adjustment***

City Manager Wallace, earlier in her report, had given Council information regarding water leak adjustments given within the last three years. Some additional discussion was held. Councilmember Grasmick moved to leave the water leak adjustment procedure to stay the same except for setting a limit of \$100 to allow a leak adjustment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### ***Business License***

City Manager Wallace informed Council that she needs to get the ordinance prepared and she needs Council to determine the exact verbiage that they would like her to use. Some discussion was held. Council authorized City Manager Wallace to draft the ordinance for next meeting.

Margarito Garcia, City resident, asked if Council or the City Manager could replace street signs in the City. City Manager Wallace reported that she would ask the Chief of Police to look into that.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Drug and Alcohol Policy Change***

City Manager Wallace asked Council to consider using a swab test instead of a urinalysis test for pre-employment testing. The urinalysis test costs \$100 per test compared to \$12.95 per test for the swab. Discussion was held. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to keep the City drug policy the same as it is but use swabs instead of urinalysis, but if test is positive the prospective employee will be asked to have a urinalysis done. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Ruiz, Grasmick, Corbin-Romero, Jung
NO	Cordova
ABSENT	Geist

Motion carried – 5-0

### ***Planning Commission Recommendation for Council to Approve a Special Use Permit***

The City of Rocky Ford Planning Commission held a meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021. At this meeting the Planning Commission conducted a use by review hearing and major impact review. The Commission voted to make a recommendation to the Rocky Ford City Council to authorize a special use permit to Rosalba "Rosie" Trujillo to operate a hair salon at 612 S. Main Street which is in a R2 zone. Rosie Trujillo addressed Council to answer any questions. Councilmember Corbin-Romero asked about the parking. Councilmember Grasmick moved to accept the recommendation from the Rocky Ford Planning Commission and allow the special use permit for 612 S. Main Street. Councilmember Ruiz seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

### ***Dump Tractor Purchase***

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Council to allow him to purchase a Kubota Tractor in the amount of \$48,016 to replace the 30 year old C50 tractor. Finance/HR Director explained to Council that the money would come from capital improvement 1% sales tax that was approved by voters. Councilmember Ruiz moved to allow the purchase of the Kubota Tractor from Rusler Implement in the amount of 48,016. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Grasmick, Romero, Herrera, Ruiz, Cordova, Jung
NO	None
ABSENT	Geist

Motion carried – 6-0

### ***Mower Purchase***

Public Works Director Rick Long asked Council for permission to purchase a Kubota pull behind mower in the amount of \$7,799. Councilmember Grasmick moved to allow the purchase of the Kubota pull behind mower in the amount of \$7,799. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried – 6-0

**Municipal Judge Contract**

Mayor Jung informed Council that she has a big conflict of interest regarding anything to do with the Municipal Judge so she asked Councilmember Cordova to come to the dais and sit in for her. City Manager Wallace informed Council that there is no current contract between the City and Judge Manley. City Attorney Nathan Shultz will put together a contract that will pay \$400 per month whether or not Court is held or not.

**Water Restrictions**

City Manager Wallace advised Council the City Manager recommends water restrictions and then Council approves or disapproves. If and when that happens, the City Manager will advise Council.

**East Well Issues**

Public Works Director Rick Long informed Council that the City has had issues for several years. The east well runs 1,500 gallons per minute. Rick Long presented a bid from SBT Electrical to upgrade the east well from a soft start control system to a variable frequency drive start system. This will help meet the high demand on the well. Long reported that the well controls have to be repaired regularly at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per repair and the current controls do not meet state code. The bid from SBT is for \$59,092.73. Councilmember Grasmick moved to allow the upgrade to the east well in the amount of \$59,092.73 to SBT Electrical. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried, 6-0

**ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION**

***Ordinance #959, An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting Section 13.2.10 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code Setting Forth Responsibility for Water Rents***

City Manager Wallace recommended that Council allow the amendment of the original ordinance to add the following: "the City of Rocky Ford will take action to recover fees, up to and including a lien upon the property". Councilmember Grasmick moved to approve **Ordinance #959, An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting Section 13.2.10 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code Setting Forth Responsibility for Water Rents**, on 1<sup>st</sup> reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova.

Voting results were:

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

Motion carried, 6-0

**Possible New Software**

City Manager Shannon Wallace and Finance/HR Director Azucena Estrada gave Council information about potential new software for the City. Shannon and Azucena gave information about American Data Group, Inc., (ADG). This company is used by the City of La Junta. A price comparison was given to Council between ADG and Incode (Tyler Technologies) that is currently being used. Incode costs between \$27,000 and \$35,000 per year to maintain the system. ADG has offered a new system that will cost \$12,000 per year. The initial start-up of the new system would be \$103,000. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has given the City permission to use \$80,000 of COVID-19 relief funds for this upgrade. The remaining \$23,000 would come from the savings each year. Councilmember Corbin-Romero moved to approve and authorize City Manager Wallace to change from Incode (Tyler Technologies) to ADG. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Grasmick.

Voting results were:

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

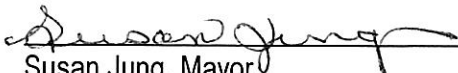
Motion carried, 6-0


**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR WORK SESSION**

Golf Course contract

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Grasmick and there being no further business, Mayor Jung adjourned to meeting at 9:36 p.m.

  
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Susan Jung, Mayor

Attest:   
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City Clerk

