



**Rocky Ford**  
 COLORADO  
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**ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL**

***Approved Minutes***

***June 28, 2016***

City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2016 in Council Chambers.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Jarold Sitton

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, J. R. Thompson, Margaret Grasmick, Robert Perez,  
 Daryl Grasmick and Leon Ortega

Staff: Acting City Manager G. Cox, City Attorney H. Barton Mendenhall, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Jesus Berumen, Nancy Aschermann, Ron Aschermann, Lynne Feik, Milly Donelson, Ron Nesslage, Peggy Meyer, Elladine Foley, Melissa Foley, Eric Encinias, Mike Gillen, Deb Butler, Bill Butler, Barb Macklin, Shelly Bauer, Bob Oaks, Ruth Freidenberger, Steve Culver, Lonnie Brummit, Hazel Brummit, Phyllis Adkins, John Adkins, Rick Long, Gene Gauna, Monica Escalante, Oscar Escalante, Brian Leikam, Marla Leikam, Rachel Patrick, Harry Barnes, Elaine Barnes, Jolly Rose, Irma Freidenberger, Mickey Bethel, Justin Bethel, Carol Coates, Michelle Griego, Paul Carter, Lisa Carter, Jim Sandoval, Susan Holsclaw, Bill Holsclaw, Rev. Marty Lee, Sandy Lee, Devorah Kaiser, Ian Kaiser, Rudy Meyers, Debbie Meyers, Brian McCaig, Warren McClure, Jane Milenski, Patricia Martin, Norman Kincaide, Lenore Lucero, Criston Menz, Douglas Powers, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Moreland, James Satt, Terri Kitch, Peggy Jo Dowell, Dorothy Perea and Susan Pieper. Other names on sign-in sheet were not legible.

Mayor Sitton called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES      *June 14, 2016***

It was moved by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Perez to approve the minutes of the regular June 14, 2016 meeting as presented. Voting results:

YES                      Thompson, Perez, M. Grasmick, D. Grasmick, Ortega, Jung, Sitton

NO                        None

Motion carried 7-0

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the agenda as presented with the consent items. Motion was seconded by Councilmember D. Grasmick. Voting results:

YES                      Perez, M. Grasmick, D. Grasmick, Ortega, Jung, Thompson, Sitton

NO                        None

Motion carried 7-0

The consent items approved were special event permits for the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce at The Gobin Building on Saturday, July 30, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday, September 4, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and the Restaurant Liquor License Renewal for the Fiesta Café.

**CITIZENS' REQUEST TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL**

Nancy Aschermann, Criston Menz, Brian McCaig, Pastor Marty Lee, Susan Holsclaw, Richard White, Bob Oaks, Jim Sandoval and Chris Lucero addressed Council to voice their opinions of the Council's action to place City Manager Ian Kaiser on administrative leave.

**PRESENTATIONS**                      None

**STAFF REPORTS, UPDATES, PRESENTATIONS**

Acting City Manager Gary Cox reported on the following:

- The Dove Hunt Festival is coming soon. Nancy Aschermann and Peggy Meyer will address Council at the next meeting.
- Brian Henson reviewed the use of the City solar panels and based on his report, the City owns the panels and will continue to pay for the panels until the contract is up.
- Property located at 307 South Main Street has two lienholders. Council will need to decide whether or not to purchase the tax lien.
- Supercross will be coming soon. Larry White will be addressing Council in the near future.
- Request from a citizen to purchase cement turtles that were found in storage behind the fairground horse stalls. The turtles were, at one time, at the Park and had been removed for safety concerns.

Councilmember Perez moved to gift the turtles to the citizen. Motion was seconded by M. Grasmick. Brief discussion was held with City Attorney Mendenhall regarding any City liability. Voting results:

YES	M. Grasmick, D. Grasmick, Ortega, Jung, Thompson, Perez, Sitton
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Consideration of Ordinance to Put Sales Tax Question on Ballot***

Discussion was held regarding extending the 1% sales tax and modification of the usage of the tax to allow the money to be used wherever needed.

Councilmember D. Grasmick moved to approve, by title only, Ordinance #917, on first reading, with the adjustments suggested by Councilmember Thompson. Motion was seconded by Councilmember M. Grasmick. Voting results.

YES	D. Grasmick, Ortega, Jung, Thompson, Perez, M. Grasmick, Sitton
NO	None

Motion carried 7-0

**NEW BUSINESS**                      None

**ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION**

**RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION**                      None

**CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Councilmember Jung reported that the swimming pool is doing well and recently held a three day swim meet that was well attended. Bike to Build riders, in association with Habitat for Humanity, swam and were fed at the Presbyterian Church and went to the movie.

Councilmember Thompson mentioned that the Friends of the Library are continuing their Concerts in the Park. Lex Nichols will perform at the Library on Thursday.

Councilmember Grasmick reported that the Otero County Landfill/Otero Partners, Incorporated (OCLI/OPI) met. OPI approved a loan for a new business in La Junta that will bring a few satellite businesses with it. OPI has received additional applications and one from Rocky Ford. More money has been loaned this year than the last two years combined. OPI has applied for additional money and has received some. OCLI is in need of a new compactor and they run between \$400 and \$500 hundred thousand. OCLI is getting pricing from various companies and will add this to the 2017 budget. Darren Adame is a new member from La Junta and Kevin Bosley is a new member from Manzanola. Financials are good.

Mayor Sitton reported that he will or has attended the following meetings:

- June 17<sup>th</sup>            Valley Wide Open House
- July 11<sup>th</sup>            US 50 Corridor East Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing
- July 12<sup>th</sup>            US 50 Corridor East Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing
- June 29<sup>th</sup>           Meeting with the Action 22 Chairman
- July 8<sup>th</sup>             Action 22 meeting in Pueblo

The Tree Board advised Mayor Sitton that trees are in and will be planted soon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Thompson moved to enter into executive session for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b). Those attending will be Councilmember Jung, Councilmember M. Grasmick, Councilmember Perez, Councilmember D. Grasmick, Councilmember Ortega, Councilmember Thompson, Mayor Sitton and City Attorney Mendenhall. City Attorney Mendenhall noted for the record that the purpose of the legal advice is to discuss communication from Mr. Kaiser’s attorney. Motion was seconded by Councilmember D. Grasmick. Voting results:

- YES                    Ortega, Jung, Thompson, Perez, M. Grasmick, D. Grasmick, Sitton
- NO                    None

Motion carried 7-0

Council went into executive session in the Conference Room at 8:00 p.m. Council returned to Council Chambers at 9:05 p.m. Mayor Sitton announced that executive session was concluded and the participants in the executive session were Councilmember Jung, Councilmember Thompson, Councilmember M. Grasmick, Councilmember Perez, Councilmember D. Grasmick, Councilmember Ortega, Mayor Sitton and City Attorney Mendenhall. No one

stated any concern for the record when Mayor Sitton asked if any participants believed any improper discussion or action occurred during the executive session.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – Ordinance #917
- Dove Hunt presentation

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Thompson moved to adjourn meeting. There being no further business, Mayor Sitton adjourned meeting.

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Jarold Sitton, Mayor

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Rebecca Korinek, Deputy City Clerk