



# Rocky Ford

COLORADO *sweet melon capital* since 1887



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL  
March 14, 2017

Rocky Ford City Council met for a work session with City Manager Gary Cox at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 in Council Chambers. Following the work session, they met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Sitton called the regular meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Jarold Sitton

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, J. R. Thompson, Charles Pattie, Rachel Patrick, Rich Geist,

Staff: City Manager Gary Cox, City Attorney H. Barton Mendenhall,

City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Larry Johnson, Nick Knapp, Bill McKnight, Paul Renteria, Harry and Elaine Barnes, Jolly Rose, Dorothy Perea.

Mayor Sitton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the regular February 28, 2017 Council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Pattie. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Thompson, Pattie, Patrick, Geist, Sitton

NO None

ABSENT Ortega

Motion carried 6-0.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to approve the agenda as presented. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Thompson, Pattie, Patrick, Geist, Sitton

NO None

ABSENT Ortega

Motion carried 6-0.

### **CITIZEN'S REQUEST TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL**

Hal Barnes, accompanied by Elaine Barnes, told Council that he had several questions regarding the annexation of the McKeeffe Ventures, LLC and Habitat Construction, LLC properties. Paul Renteria also addressed Council with his questions and concerns. Mayor Sitton advised the residents that Council was only adopting Resolution #3, Series 2017, to set the date for the public hearing for the annexation requests. They may bring their questions and concerns to the public hearing that will held at a date to be determined later in the Council meeting.

### **STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES**

City Manager Gary Cox reported on the following items:

- One of the two excess City cars sold for \$2500.00. Proceeds from the sale will be used to repair the City's road grader and to purchase uniforms and boots for public works department.
- He gave an update on the progress of the new public safety building. Walls are going up.
- Teri Erickson is writing grants for the City and the Rural Fire Board in an effort to obtain more funding for the public safety building. She is currently working on a Gates Foundation grant.
- The public works crew is removing a weed patch in the dirt strip located along Swink Avenue/Highway 50 West by Global Treasurz. Once the ground is prepared, the City and Tree Board will work together to xeriscape the dirt strip.
- City Manager Cox gave an update on the status of the fitness center. After careful consideration of written recommendations for liability coverage made by CIRSA (Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency), associated costs of trying to meet their recommendations, and serious questions and concerns that were previously raised by Recreation Director Stacey Milenski, he determined that the facility will remain closed. The center failed to meet the recommendations and regulations. Reopening the facility with the necessary regulated improvements would be very costly to the City and to the community. City Manager Cox and Councilmember Geist scheduled a meeting with Cris Ford and T. J. Oliver to discuss the fitness center on March 7, but Mr. Oliver did not attend the meeting. Items discussed at the meeting were the January 2016 memo from CIRSA with their recommendations and statement that the facility was not ready for public use.
- City Manager Cox discussed the necessity of cross training in every department with department heads at the recent staff meeting. This will help when departments are short-staffed due to time off, illness or vacations.

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

City Manager Cox and Councilmember Pattie recused themselves from the next item of business because they are members of the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District. Larry Johnson and Nick Knapp, officers from the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District, presented Council with a memorandum of agreement to consider between the Rural Board and the City. They told Council nothing had changed in the memorandum of agreement from last year but they wanted to review it with the new councilmembers. During discussion, City Attorney Mendenhall advised the Rural Fire Board members and Council that in order to make the terms of the agreement valid and enforceable, it had to cite provisions from state statute allowing an agreement between the two entities (C.R.S. § 29-1-203) and name specific terms of time in the agreement. Following discussion, it was the general consensus that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Knapp would revise the agreement with the changes advised by City Attorney Mendenhall. Councilmember Thompson moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District subject to the necessary changes advised by the City Attorney. Councilmember Patrick seconded the motion. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Thompson, Patrick, Geist, Sitton
NO	None
ABSTAIN	Pattie
ABSENT	Ortega

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstention.

**ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION – None**

**RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION**

Randall Kurtz, Managing Member of Habitat Construction, LLC, and William R. McKnight, Manager of McKeeffe Ventures, LLC, submitted annexation petitions. The Rocky Ford Planning Commission met in February to consider the petitions and found substantial compliance of the annexation petitions. The petitions were then referred to City Council to consider at a public hearing. Councilmember Thompson moved and Councilmember Jung seconded to approve and adopt **Resolutions #3, Series 2017: A Resolution Setting A Public Hearing And Initiating Annexation And Zoning Proceedings For Unincorporated Territory In The County Of Otero, State of Colorado To The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado**, setting the public hearing date for the annexation proceedings on April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., and designating the said properties as the Southeast Annexation. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Thompson, Pattie, Patrick, Geist, Sitton
NO	None
ABSENT	Ortega

Motion carried 6-0.

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL - None**

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

Councilmember Geist reported on the Museum Board meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board submitted a request earlier to Council for opening the Rocky Ford Museum full-time so it would be eligible to apply for grant funding. At the present time, the museum is open five days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, but only one day a week from Labor Day to Memorial Day. City Manager Cox and Council will review the budget to see if funding for opening full-time is available. The Board recently purchased security cameras and new glass for display cases and asked the City to install the items. City Manager Cox advised that works orders for these items were received and are pending.

Councilmember Thompson reported on the meeting of the ad hoc group working on improvements for signs at Hurri Back Park. They should receive aluminum panels from the State for the signs within the next 30 to 60 days. Once the panels are installed, they will be covered in Plexiglass to help them last longer. He also reminded Council that the Colorado Municipal League board of directors had two openings available to member communities with populations of 5000 or less.

Mayor Sitton reported that he participated in an Action 22 conference call on the previous Friday. Since there was not a quorum to decide whether to support or deny four house bills under consideration, an email vote for the committee will be held. Matters are going well with the new Action 22 executive director. He then reported that the Tree Board will continue with planting trees and pruning downtown.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

Jarold Sitton, Mayor

---

Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk