



# Rocky Ford

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## Rocky Ford City Council

May 23, 2017

Rocky Ford City Council met for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 in Council Chambers. Brenda from Colorado Department of Transportation presented information and plans for the Bustang Outrider Bus Service transportation network in the local area. CDOT will update Council on any changes and procedures for the program during the next year. After her presentation, City Manager Cox gave Council updates on various city issues.

Following the work session, Council 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, Rich Geist, Leon Ortega

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

Others present: Bill McKnight, Kevin Lindahl, Bob Penrod, Steve Culver, Jolly Rose, Dorothy Perea.

Mayor Sitton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the regular May 9, 2017 Council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Pattie. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Thompson, Pattie, Geist, Ortega, Sitton

NO None

ABSENT Patrick

Motion carried 6-0.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Jung to approve the agenda with consent item as presented. Voting results were:

YES Jung, Thompson, Pattie, Geist, Ortega, Sitton

NO None

ABSENT Patrick

Motion carried 6-0.

Consent item was a special event permit for American Legion Post #8 for a beer garden at "Cruisin' Into Summer" event held at Railroad Park from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2017.

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

Bill McKnight publicly apologized for speaking with two Councilmembers beforehand which necessitated them recusing themselves from voting on an ordinance at the last meeting. He will try not to let that happen again and asked that Council advise him anytime he oversteps. Mr. McKnight read selections to Council from the November ballot initiative #300 and from Ordinance 916 regarding locations of medical marijuana establishments in commercial C-2 zones only. He feels that processing and cultivation facilities would be better located in industrial zones (I-1) for safety and noise reasons. Mr. McKnight asked Council to amend Ordinance #916 to allow cultivation and manufacturing for infused products in an I-1 zone. Mayor Sitton advised Mr. McKnight that Council would need to discuss this and will get back with him on this issue.

Kevin Lindahl thanked Council for approving Ordinance #918 which allowed the sale to the Lindahls' of a small portion of property adjacent to his in the Industrial Park plat. He then asked Council if the City would work with him on dealing with overgrown trees along the property line. Mr. Lindahl finally asked that Council grant him an easement along the Industrial Park property that City is possibly selling. He has used the road to access his farm fields for more than 30 years and needs the easement to continue moving large farm equipment on that road into his fields.

## **PRESENTATIONS/ HEARINGS– None**

## **STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES**

City Manager Gary Cox reported on the following items:

- He advised Council that City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick received an email from Destiny Johnson of CIRSA asking who would represent the City of Rocky Ford as the designated voter at the June 20, 2017 general membership meeting in Breckenridge. It was the general consensus of Council to appoint Susan Jung as Rocky Ford's designated voter. The city clerk will notify CIRSA.
- Council will not have a work session before the June 13 regular meeting. Erica Chaves from Congressman Ken Buck's asked to hold office hours at City Hall before she addresses Council at their regular meeting that evening. Office hours were tentatively set beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers but that will be confirmed as soon as it is finalized.
- Tree limb removal is pretty well done. After City Manager Cox spoke with Lex Nichols from Otero County regarding potential health hazards, city crews burned most of the limbs and branches at the fairgrounds without filling the city with smoke. The one day that smoke reached as far as Loaf N Jug, burning was stopped. Burning excess tree limbs and branches saved the City several thousands of dollars. City crews will not return to areas where limbs have already been picked up, but city residents may still bring their limbs to the north side of fairgrounds.
- He read thank you letter to Council that he wrote to Dennis Caldwell on behalf of the City, thanking him for the many man hours of help and use of equipment for helping pick up branches and limbs after the last severe storm. Mr. Caldwell hauled over 100 loads of tree limbs in two trucks.
- Eric Van Dyk and the Rocky Ford High School FFA Chapter volunteered over 3 hours to help clear limbs and clean the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day. They will also build a storage shed for the swimming pool. City Manager Cox will send a thank you note to them also.
- City Manager Cox noted that the City could not run without the many volunteers who have helped so generously over the many years. The Mayor and City Council extended a great big thank you to Caldwell, City crews, Eric Van Dyk and the RFHS FFA chapter for the tremendous job. They also thanked **all** of the City staff for **all** of the work they are doing.
- Repair of potholes will continue once everything dries from the recent rains.

- Work on swimming pool continues in preparation of opening for the season.
- Work on new public safety building continues to move forward. Construction will stop when money runs out. City Manager Cox is still waiting for a response from USDA regarding a request for documents and information on loan application; he continues to work on alternate ideas for funding.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Sitton reported that legal counsel is still in the process of working out an agreement with Jack Barker for purchase of Industrial Park property. It will be brought to Council for consideration once an agreement is ready.

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

**ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION – None**

**RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION – None**

**CITIZEN’S REQUEST TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL – None**

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

Councilmember Pattie reported that OCLI still has not received word from the state health department regarding cover soil for old landfill. Meanwhile, they received notice from another state department that it is not in time compliance for closure of the landfill. OCLI also learned that it cannot pump contaminated water from the landfill onto the road or anywhere that does not have a liner. On May 16, approximately 20 volunteers worked on a southeast rural Colorado waste diversion study for the Bent and Otero County Health Departments at the Otero County Landfill. They were sorting and auditing recyclable materials being disposed at the local landfill. Councilmember Pattie said it was well organized and they did not leave a mess.

Board representatives on OPI learned there is a possibility of bringing a dog trainer to La Junta. Taylor Stokes is remodeling an old building recently purchased and plans to re-locate the Sign Shop there. There is \$174,000 in OPI loan funds that must be distributed in the next 2 years. Otero Partners Inc. (OPI) is in search of qualifying businesses and/or entities for the funds.

Councilmember Jung reported that she, Mayor Sitton and City Attorney Mendenhall attended Governor’s bill signing on May 18 at Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District office. The block grant meeting was cancelled because of bad weather conditions. She attended municipal court Monday night. Five cases were scheduled on the docket. There were 3 bench warrants issued for no shows, one of the defendants settled before court while 2 of the defendants showed up for court. The Swimming Pool Commission is anticipating a good season at the pool

Mayor Sitton announced that Sara Blackhurst was confirmed as executive director at the recent Action 22 meeting. The committee approved findings of task force for governance of organization and took action on several bills before the legislature. Several bills were signed into law by governor on his recent trip, three of which were for our area. The new Action 22 director, Sarah Blackhurst, toured the city with the Mayor to look at economic potential of the area while she was here May 18 for the governor’s bill signing. The Tree Board met on May 22. They discussed the tree damage from recent storms, made plans for planting this

year, and noted they received calls from several citizens for advice treating and caring for trees in aftermath of storm.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Presentation by Congressman Ken Buck's representative
- Update on Bill McKnight's request
- Update on IWT agreement

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Jarold Sitton, Mayor

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Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk