



ROCKY FORD CITY COUNCIL

September 11, 2018

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers for a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, with Interim City Manager Steve Rabe, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall and members of the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District. City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick, Fire Department employees, volunteers, and several members of the community were also present. The agreement between the City and the Fire District was discussed. It was the general consensus to have Interim City Manager Rabe meet with Fire District representatives to negotiate a new agreement. Larry Johnson, Rural Fire District board member, invited Council and any interested community members to attend their meetings.

Council then met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: J. R. Thompson

Councilmembers: Susan Jung, Cuco Ruiz, Rich Geist, Barbara Hunter

Staff: Interim City Manager Steve Rabe, City Attorney Bart Mendenhall, City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick

Others present: Marty Lee, Ray Gonzales, Curtis Johnson, Nick Silvia, Jesse Smith, Christy Smith, Larry Johnson, Rick Weiss, Meghan Stulp, Ute Bustamante, Tony Garcia, J. M. Tucker, Gerri Clark, Dudley Fechner, Lisa Carter, Daryl Grasmick, Jolly Rose, Laura Thompson. Mayor J. R. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Jung moved to approve the minutes from the regular **August 28, 2018** council meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Geist. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 5-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Thompson read a letter of commendation from Police Chief Mickey Bethel to Fire Chief Ray Gonzales into the record. Police Chief Bethel recounted a recent incident that occurred on August 20, 2018, and praised the dedication and heroism of Jesse Smith and Nick Silvia, two Rocky Ford firemen. They assisted the policemen involved with taking a dangerous suspect into custody.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to approve the agenda as presented. There were no consent items. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 5-0.

APPOINTMENT OF WARD I COUNCILMEMBER

City Council interviewed Marty E. Lee for the vacant council position in Ward I. Mr. Lee was the only person who submitted a letter of interest by the September 6, 2018 deadline. It was moved by Councilmember Jung and seconded by Councilmember Geist to appoint Marty E. Lee to the Ward I council position vacated by the resignation of Charles "Bill" Pattie. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 5-0.

City Clerk Cheryl Grasmick administered the oath of office to Marty E. Lee and then Mr. Lee took his seat with Council.

STAFF REPORTS

Interim City Manager Steve Rabe reported he has been working diligently on the 2019 budget. He has not received the official letter from DOLA but was informed during a recent telephone conversation that the City was approved for receiving additional funds from DOLA for completing phase I of the public safety building construction. He noted that several of the items on his task list provided in the agenda packet are completed.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES

Councilmember Jung reported that Action 22 was holding their Annual Summit meeting in Pueblo, Colorado, on Friday, October 12, 2018. She requested that Council approve payment of her \$75.00 registration fee, as the City representative to Action 22. Councilmember Hunter moved to approve payment of the \$75.00 registration fee for Councilmember Jung to attend the Action 22 Annual Summit on October 12, 2018. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee. Voting results were:

YES	Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSTAIN	Jung
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstaining.

Since none of the current councilmembers thought they had time to devote to attending, Mayor Thompson asked new Councilmember Marty Lee if he would be interested in the appointment as the City's designated representative to the OCLI/OPI Boards. After Lee replied that he would, Councilmember Jung moved to appoint Marty Lee as the designated representative from Rocky Ford to the OCLI/OPI Boards. Councilmember Ruiz seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSTAIN	Lee
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 5-0, with one abstaining.

Councilmember Ruiz reported that the Library Board has two open seats that need to be filled. Mayor Thompson advised him that the Library Board needs to recommend two people for those positions and then bring their recommendation to Council for approval. Councilmember Ruiz had nothing new to report on the community garden but thought it would be organized by next spring.

Mayor Thompson reported on the following items from the recent Arts Commission meeting:

- August financials for Grand Theater were not received, so financial and movie attendance reports were given for months of May through July.
- Three performances of the summer student musical were attended by almost 300 people.
- First Friday art reception at the IDEA Place on September 7 featured works of Nancy Aschermann and her daughter.
- Free showing of three movies featuring music by Leonard Bernstein planned for three Wednesday evenings, Sept. 19, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, if licenses can be secured in time. Costs covered by private donors.
- Candidate forum sponsored by National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) planned for October 10, 7:00 p.m., at Grand Theater.
- Performance by a Christian rap group planned for October 17.
- Free concert by the U.S. Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors from the United States Army Field Band at the Grand Theater will be Wednesday, October 24, 2018.
- Free Halloween movie will be shown on Thursday, October 25.

Councilmember Jung reported that Cindy Abert, swimming pool manager, said that season went well. Swimming Pool Commission will meet in the near future to discuss the summer season and plans for next year.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE AGENDA

- 2019 Budget
- City Manager hiring process
- GOCO Grant Resolution (Stacey's planning grant for recreation)
- Dispatch Supervisor Job Description
- Land Use Agreement – Community Garden
- Retail Marijuana License – Cure Colorado
- Supplemental Budgets – Community Development, Conservation Trust, Gobin Community Building

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Jung moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e) with regard to the contract for services with the Rocky Ford Rural Fire District and to possibly direct negotiators on behalf of the City, with no anticipated action to follow this Executive Session. Councilmember Hunter seconded motion. Voting results were:

YES	Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Thompson
NO	None
ABSENT	Patrick

Motion carried 6-0.

Council left Council Chambers at 7:32 p.m. Those going into executive session in the conference room were Councilmembers Jung, Ruiz, Lee, Geist, Hunter, Mayor Thompson, Interim City Manager Rabe and City Attorney Mendenhall. Council left executive session at 7:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Jung moved to adjourn meeting at 8:01 p.m. There being no further business, Mayor Thompson adjourned meeting.

J. R. Thompson, Mayor

Cheryl Grasmick, City Clerk