



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 12, 2023

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Shannon Wallace, Police Chief Sean McDonagh, Police Captain Carol Coates, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Nicole Roberts, Nicholas Martinez and Sherry Cordova met to discuss city ordinances regarding right-of-way permits, commercial vehicles on residential streets and abatement of dangerous buildings or structures and to discuss a possible proposed resolution for non-compliance of vacant building code and possible changes to the city fee schedule.

Others present: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Robert Barron and Mike Gomez

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Mayor Gurulé called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova and Nicole Roberts

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek,

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Robert Barron, Sarah Dillon, Tri-County Family Care Center, Shelby McCuiston, Carolyn Weimer and Jay Weimer

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Gurulé asked Council and audience to take a moment of silence to recognize the recent death of Michael "Scott" Kerr, Councilmember Ward III and past Mayors Jerold Sitton and Jim Sandoval.

Councilmember Cordova read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Barron, 1104 Virginia, wanted to acknowledge a City of Rocky Ford employee (Barron did not know the name) from the Parks and Recreation Department. Barron reported that he observed the employee cleaning off the gravel by the water plant. Barron noted that the employee was wearing all the needed safety gear and that a good job was done.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

None requested

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for November 28, 2023
2. Application for Renewal of Fermented Malt Beverage & Wine Liquor License – **Mini Mart, Inc. dba Loaf N Jug, 305 North 10th St, Rocky Ford, CO**
3. Application for Renewal of Colorado Beer and Wine License – **Len's Tavern, 901 Railroad Avenue, Rocky Ford, CO**

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

Presentation by Sarah Dillon, Tri-County Family Care Center

Presentation by Donna Hunt, Valley Wide Health Clinic

Oath of Office – Sherry Cordova Councilmember Ward I

Sarah Dillon with Tri-County Family Care Center thanked Council for the opportunity to inform the public of all the services they provide. Dillon went on to give more detailed information regarding help available to families and children. Dillon provided pamphlets with information that can be given out to the public. Dillon thanked Council for their continued support of Tri-County's money-making projects. Dillon asked Council to allow the city and Tri-County websites to be linked.

Robert Barron informed Council that he had talked to Donna Hunt with Valley Wide Health Clinic. Barron expressed that the last quarter of the year is very stressful for people. Barron reported that Valley Wide Health Clinic has many resources to help people and encouraged people to reach out.

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek administered the oath of office to Sherry Cordova, Councilmember Ward 1. Cordova was not able to be present at the last regular meeting when Gurulé and Roberts were sworn in. Cordova gave thanks to all and expressed her pleasure of being able to meet the public while trying to get donations for Christmas lights.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously submitted her report by email, but added the following:

- Christopher McCrary, 605 Bowen, reported that a big tree has caused damage to the water meter, sidewalk and other things. Public Works Director Rick Long went to inspect the situation. The customer is willing to pay for one-half of the cost of the tree removal if the City of Rocky Ford will pay the other one-half. Since the tree is causing damage to City property, the City Manager recommends that the City of Rocky Ford pay for one-half. It was the general consensus of Council to authorize the City Manager to get a few bids for the tree removal and to go ahead with the removal.
- Wallace is ready to prepare an RFP for the work needing to be done on Sycamore.
- Wallace reported that Christmas cards are being sent out. Since Councilmember Sherry Cordova worked on getting donations for Christmas lights, Wallace asked if Councilmember Cordova had any recommendations for Christmas cards.
- SBT came to City Hall and put in three (3) new circuits so that electric heaters could be used until the heating is fixed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Gurulé recessed the regular meeting at 7:29 p.m. and opened the public hearing. The public hearing is being conducted to inform citizens and to solicit public input, either written or oral, regarding the City of Rocky Ford's 2024 budget. Mayor Gurulé asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak regarding the public hearing. There were no written comments or concerns received. Mayor Gurulé closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #975 – *An Ordinance Levying General Property Taxes for the Year 2023 to Help Defray the Costs of Government for the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado, for the 2024 Budget Year, and for the Mill Levy on Each Dollar's Worth of Property as Per the Assessed Value Thereon, as Shown by the Assessor of Otero County for the Year 2023, as Fixed by the Board of Equalization, on second reading*, It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to approve and adopt Ordinance #975, on second reading. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Ordinance #976 – *An Ordinance Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund and Adopting a Budget for the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2024, and Ending on the Last Day of December 2024, on second reading*, it was moved by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to approve and adopt Ordinance #976 on second reading. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Ordinance #977 - *An Ordinance Appropriating Sums of Money to the Various Funds in the Amount and for the Purpose as Set Forth Below, for the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado, for the Year 2024 budget, on second reading*, it was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to approve and adopt Ordinance #977 on second reading. Voting results were:

YES	Roberts, Martinez, Cordova, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Update – Water Distribution Master Plan

City Manager Wallace gave Council information, from Element Engineering, and an update of continuing work on the master plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Bonus

City Manager Wallace had previously emailed Council some options for potential employee bonus'. The money would be paid from the reimbursement received from Pinnacol for the City's worker compensation insurance. After much discussion, Councilmember Roberts moved to allow City Manager Wallace to pay employee bonus' in the amount of \$300.00. Discussion will be held later to determine where the rest of the money will be designated to. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Martinez, Cordova, Roberts, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Resolution #10 – Series 2023 – A Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2023.

It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve and adopt Resolution #10 – Series 2023 as presented. Voting results were:

YES	Martinez, Cordova, Roberts, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Resolution #11- Series 2023 – A Resolution Authorizing City Officials to Conduct Transactions for All City of Rocky Ford, Colorado Bank Accounts.

After some discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to approve and adopt Resolution #11 – Series 2023 as presented. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ford Planning Commission Recommendation – Michael J. Valdez and Martin Valdez application to subdivide property.

Councilmember Roberts moved to accept the recommendation of the Rocky Ford Planning Commission to authorize Michael J. Valez and Martin Valdez to subdivide property located at 1415 Pine Avenue, Rocky Ford, Colorado. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

YES	Cordova, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	Herrera

Motion carried 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Reed informed Council that he had read many comments on Facebook regarding employee bonus'. Reed reported that his trash toter had disappeared. Reed called the utility office to ask for a replacement. Reed remarked that within 35 – 40 minutes, he had already received a replacement for the missing trash toter. Reed commented that, in his estimation, all City employees are doing a good job.

Robert Barron asked Council for additional information regarding Resolution #11 – Series 2023.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that the Tree Board is taking a break until the new year. Martinez wished all a “Merry Christmas”.
- Martinez informed all that a “Coffee with Council” or “Cafecito” is being planned and will be held in the evenings on the second Monday of the month starting January 8, 2024. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova attended a Library board meeting potluck.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber of Commerce Board is working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce and that the board intends to present the agreement at the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Mayor's Summit on November 30th and December 1st. Several trainings were held.
- Gurulé attended to Rocky Ford Planning Commission meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023.
- Gurulé held check ins with Councilmembers.
- Gurulé attended the City Director Staff meeting on December 6th. A retreat with Council and Staff will be held on Friday, February 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Gurulé put out a 100-day action plan.
- Gurulé will attend the Arts Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. WONKA will be playing at the Grand Theater over the weekend. Christmas with the Chosen will be shown on December 12th, 13th and 14th.
- Gurulé asked that if anyone is interested and free on Thursday evening, Jefferson Intermediate School will be hosting a holiday concert at 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 26th was previously vacated to allow time with family and friends.
- Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. work session and 7:00 p.m. for Council meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

