



# CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**September 10, 2024**

## **WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Duane Gurulé, City Manager Stacey Milenski, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins, along with many members of the Rocky Ford Country Club Board, met for a work session to hold discussion regarding a long-term lease agreement between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Country Club.

Others present: J. R. Thompson and Gary Reed

## **REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.**

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Mayor Gurulé called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins.

Staff: City Manager Stacey Milenski, Water/Wastewater Foreman Cody Baylor and City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Many in attendance for tonight including: Gary Reed, J. R. Thompson, Steve Culver, Keith Kidd, Hunter Zinanti, Debbie West, Lorene Welsh, Jonathan Rodriguez, Sgt. Ret., Victoria Rodriguez, Bill Takeda, Lou Cordova, Claudio Aragon, Katie Hershey, Judy Brown, Sandie Dell, Mike Shima, Michelle Grasmick, Nancy Jenniges, Nancy Andrews, Jack Barker, Priscilla Cardenas, Timothy Cardenas, Albert Cardenas and Angela Hernandez

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the audience came forward for public comment.

Councilmember Larry Herrera reported that he had been informed that the cemetery had no water.

## **ANY CHANGES TO, OR REMOVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

Councilmember Barron asked that consent agenda item 7.4 be moved to the regular agenda under new business 14.4, to be discussed during the regular meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the consent agenda with the requested removal. Councilmember Mullins seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0 Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

- 7.1 Approval of previous meeting minutes for August 27, 2024
- 7.2 Application for Renewal of Retail Liquor License – **Lobos Curve Liquor, LLC dba Lobos Curve Liquor, 1504 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford**
- 7.3 Application for a Special Event Permit – **Sponsored by: Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce for the MELON CHUNKIN FESTIVAL BEER GARDEN, 800 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Rocky Ford (Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds) for Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Gurulé asked Council to add, under new business 14.4, Application for a Special Event Permit – **Sponsored by: Goodwood Festival at LEN'S TAVERN, 907 Railroad Avenue, Rocky Ford for Friday, September 13, 2024 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.**, and 14.5 Permission to enter from the Bureau of Reclamation. It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to approve the meeting agenda with the requested additions. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0

## **PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS**

Proclamation: Proclamation declaring the City of Rocky Ford as a Purple Heart City and establishing August 7<sup>th</sup>, annually as Purple Heart Day for the City of Rocky Ford.

Presentation: Innovative Water Technologies informed Council of their plans to establish a water training campus in Rocky Ford.

Presentation: Friends of the Grand Theater informed Council that they are looking into grants and other options to do some remodel, assisted by the Otero County Preservation Board, to the part of the building that used to be the Chic Patee Beauty Salon. The Grand Theater is owned by the City of Rocky Ford, however, grant applications must be submitted by a non-profit, so the Grand Friends will need written approval from Council and asked Council for a letter of support. Council gave general consensus to proceed with the project.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager Stacey Milenski had earlier provided her report to Council by email. Milenski gave Council some additional updates. A discussion was held regarding the new water meters recently installed and how it may affect customer bills.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program**

Council discussed this matter at length. Councilmember Roberts made a motion to approve the 50/50 sidewalk program with the corrections and additions made at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barron. Voting results were:

YES Roberts, Mullins, Herrera, Barron, Martinez, Cordova, Gurulé

NO None  
ABSENT None

Motion carried 7-0

### **Precision Concrete – Scope of Work Update**

No further action was needed at tonight's meeting.

### **Approval/Disapproval of Job Description – City of Rocky Ford Administrative Assistant**

There was some additional discussion on this matter. It was the general consensus of Council to table this matter to a future agenda.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Five Star Automation – Service Agreement**

Discussion was held with Keith Kidd and other representatives of Five Star and Water/Wastewater Foreman Cody Baylor. A discussion was held. Council asked many questions and requested that a few things be changed or added to the written agreement. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the service agreement between the City of Rocky Ford and Five Star Automation, with the requested additions or changes requested at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins. Voting results were:

YES Martinez, Roberts, Mullins, Gurulé  
NO Barron, Herrera  
ABSENT None

Motion carried 4-2

### **Request to Close Public Street for a Special Event and an Application to Grant a Special Event Permit – Sponsored by Goodwood Festival to be held at Len's Tavern, 907 Railroad Avenue, Rocky Ford on Friday, September 13, 2024 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.**

Len's Tavern sponsored by: Goodwood Festival requested the closure of Railroad Avenue from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Alley on September 13, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. It was moved by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Mullins to approve the requested street closure and to approve the application for a special event permit **Sponsored by: Goodwood Festival at LEN'S TAVERN, 907 Railroad Avenue, Rocky Ford for Friday, September 13, 2024 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.** Voting results were:

YES Roberts, Mullins, Herrera, Barron, Martinez, Gurulé  
NO None  
ABSENT None

Motion carried 6-0

### **Resolution #7 – Series 2024 - A Resolution Pursuant to C.R.S. §31-10-507 and Rocky Ford Municipal Code §2-1-30 Cancelling Election**

It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Herrera to approve and adopt Resolution #7 – Series 2024. Voting results were:

YES Roberts, Mullins, Herrera, Barron, Martinez, Gurulé  
NO None  
ABSENT None  
ABSTAIN: Mullins

Motion carried 6-0, with 1 abstention

## **Permission to Enter – Bureau of Reclamation**

The Bureau of Reclamation has requested permission for entry. The Bureau will be looking at the route of the Arkansas Valley Conduit. It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Mullins to give permission to enter, onto City of Rocky Ford property including the Golf Course, the Cemetery and north of the River on Highway 266, to the Bureau of Reclamation. Voting results were:

YES	Herrera, Barron, Martinez, Roberts, Mullins, Gurulé
NO	None
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 6-0

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that the annual golf tournaments are being held here again.

Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron gave information on the recently shown movie, Beetlejuice 2, at the Grand Theater and thanked all volunteers and Secom for their donation for, free admission, to the first 50 kids. Barron asked all to support the Grand Theater.
- Pier 4 will be having a grand re-opening on Wednesday.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that the community clean-up days are September 27<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The last Fireside Chat was very productive. No Tree Board meeting lately. The Tree Board will be co-sponsoring the Trunk or Treat this year at Crystal Lake. Martinez will help the Chamber out at the Melon Chunkin Festival.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova no present at tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber will be sponsoring the Melon Chunkin Festival on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Chamber will be having three more flea markets on 9/28, 10/19 and 10/26. The Chamber will also be a co-sponsor for the Trunk or Treat and the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Balloon Festival will be 11/01 – 11/03. Craft fair, honoring Peggy Meyer, is coming soon.

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported that the Museum Curator is taking some training.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that he attended the pinning ceremony for the Fire and EMS Departments on Monday night.
- Gurulé will attend the Mayor's Leadership Academy on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Gurulé attended a meeting regarding the homeless population. Rocky Ford will be looking at making abandoned buildings more secure.

## **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the regular meeting at 9:55 p.m.

  
Mayor Duane Gurulé

  
City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

