



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 12, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Shannon Wallace, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins met with School Superintendent Kermit Schneider, some school board members and traffic safety committee members Stephanie Jaramillo, Diana Marshall, Sarah Barks and Police Chief Sean McDonagh for a work session to discuss traffic safety around the local schools.

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Ron and Nanc Aschermann, Barbara Macklin, Dennis and Debbie Caldwell, Bill Takeda, Sylvia Hancock, Darren Grap, Sandra Lundquist, Karen Encinias and Susan Jung

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Mayor Gurulé called the meeting to order.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

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

Staff: City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Chief of Police Sean McDonagh, Administrative Assistant Sarah Barks and Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Dennis and Debbie Caldwell, Stephanie Jaramillo, Ron and Nancy and Aschermann, Barbara Macklin, Darren Grap, Diana Marshall, Sandra Lundquist, Karen Encinias, Kermit Schneider, Susan Jung, Richard White, Bill Takeda, Sylvia Hancock, Rod Rol, Nick Knapp, Jeremy Muth, J. Wallace, Travis Morris, Amy and Nate Hoffmeyer, Hunter Gonzales, Ute Bustamante A.J. Foulk, Camea Savoi, Doug Ballard, Daniel Santistevan, Hannah Muth, Van Hollis, Matt Thomson, Meghan Stulp, Tracy Nelson, Cierah Woods, Josh Fief, Tim Bates, Matty Batte, Brad Rowe, Andy Hartless and Dalton Davis

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

President of the Manzanola Rural Fire Protection District Brad Roe, speaking on behalf of the volunteers and entire rural fire board, addressed Council to give unwavering support for Ray Gonzales and asked Council to stop the public, personal and warrantless attack, on Ray Gonzales, immediately.

Former Fowler Fire Chief Matt Thompson, speaking on behalf of the Fowler Rural Fire Protection District, gave support to Ray Gonzales and personal support and endorsement from Thompson, as well.

Assistant Chief of the Rocky Ford Fire Department Nick Knapp, speaking on behalf of the Rocky Ford Fire Department, reported to Council that it was a "big blow" when Ray Gonzales was placed on administrative leave. Knapp commented that Gonzales has done many good things for the Community and has their support. Knapp asked Council to look into this matter.

Darren Grapp, 1509 Locust Avenue, gave his personal support to Ray Gonzales for all he has done for the High Line Canal. Grapp supports Gonzales and asked Council to reinstate Gonzales to his position as Fire Chief.

Councilmember Barron thanked all audience for their attendance at tonight's meeting.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Roberts motioned to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. 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:

1. Approval of Council meeting minutes for February 27, 2024
2. Approval of Special Council meeting minutes for March 5, 2024
3. Approval of an Application for Renewal of Liquor License – Vincent & Priscilla Flores dba Mission Deli, 401 N. 14th St., Rocky Ford

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

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

- Wallace asked Council to use "Gobin Building Complex" in the memorandum of understanding with the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce.
- Wallace advised Council that she would be out of the office on Thursday, but will be in the rest of week.
- Wallace gave Council an update on the police officer that is under medical care.

Fire Captain Josh Fief gave Council a report regarding the Rocky Ford Fire Department.

Museum Curator Rob Marshall submitted a written report. Museum board representative Councilmember Mullins gave information regarding a few items in the report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - *For a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b); Regarding Pending Investigation*

It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to go into executive session. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Those going into executive session are City Attorney Nathan Shultz, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins. Mayor Gurulé recessed the regular meeting at 7:19 p.m. to go into executive session. Executive session ended at 8:08 p.m. Mayor Gurulé reported for the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session. Or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meeting Law, please state concerns for the record.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Cordova directing City Manager Shannon Wallace to immediately reinstate Ray Gonzales to his position as Rocky Ford Fire Chief. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION - *For discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f) and not involving any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; Appointment of Interim City Manager*

It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Barron to go into executive session. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Those going into executive session are City Manager Shannon Wallace, City Attorney Nathan Shultz, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins. Mayor Gurulé recessed the regular meeting at 8:14 p.m. to go into executive session. Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski was asked to join the executive session at 8:23 p.m. Executive ended at 8:37 p.m. Mayor Gurulé reported for the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session. Or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meeting Law, please state concerns for the record.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce (Gobin Building Complex)

The matter has been discussed at many regular work sessions. Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the MOU between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention

Approval of City of Rocky Ford's Purchasing Policy

This matter has been discussed at previous work sessions. It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve the City of Rocky Ford's purchasing policy. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Appointment of Interim City Manager

After the resignation of City Manager Wallace and some discussion in executive session, Councilmember Roberts moved to appoint Stacey Milenski as Interim City Manager effective immediately with all duties, responsibilities and decision making. Shannon Wallace will provide support and training until her last day on March 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Appointment of Alternate for OCLI/OPI – to replace Duane Gurulé

Councilmember Roberts volunteered to accept this appointment. It was moved by Councilmember Barron and seconded by Councilmember Mullins to appoint Councilmember Nicole Roberts as the City's alternate to the OCLI/OPI board. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

President of the Tree Board Diane Marshall gave Council information regarding the Tree Board. Marshall will be asking Council to appoint Meredy Brownstein to the Tree Board at the next regular meeting.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that the bathroom has been fixed at the Golf Course and the greens have been mowed. The board is trying to get some tournaments scheduled.
- Herrera informed all that he and Jane got married.

Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron went with Gurulé to check out the conduit.
- Barron attended the Fireside Chat and encouraged citizens to attend.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported an amazing turnout for the Fireside Chat and thanked those that attended.
- Seed swap will be held Mother's Day weekend.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova attended the Fireside Chat.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber of Commerce Board is looking for member and will host a meet and greet on March 21, 2024 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. and will also host an Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported that the Museum board did not have a meeting.
- Mullins thanked Shannon for staying to help train and support Stacey Milenski.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that he attended a walk through with the Bureau of Reclamation North of the Arkansas River on Highway 266.
- Gurulé attended the Pension Board meeting and discussed financials.
- Gurulé attended the Fireside Chat.
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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

Shannon asked that Council send Stacey Milenski to the CCMA conference that Shannon has already registered for. It was the general consensus of Council to send Stacey instead.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the regular meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Mayor Duane Gurulé

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Attest