



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 23, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Duane Gurulé, City Manager Stacey Milenski, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins, Public Works Director Rick Long and Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz met for a work session for discussion on a proposed 50/50 sidewalk replacement program and for discussion of code enforcement.

Others present: Gary Reed and J. R. Thompson

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 23, 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 Stacey Milenski, Public Works Director Rick Long, Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz and Manuel Treviso as interpreter (Spanish), Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Others present: Gary Reed, J. R. Thompson, Sally Cope, Ark Valley Fair Manager, Rebecca Goodwin, Marty and Dora Maes, Susan Jung, Diana Marshall, Tom Martin and Deanna Hostetler

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

J. R. Thompson thanked Council for the donation of their time.

Rebecca Goodwin informed Council that the Rocky Ford Cemetery has been placed on the national registry of historic places. The cemetery was placed on the national registry due to its unique design and due to the Japanese history of the cemetery.

ANY CHANGES TO, OR REMOVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera 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

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

Approval of previous meeting minutes for July 9, 2024, approval of special meeting minutes for July 10, 2024 and approval of special meeting minutes for July 15, 2024

Application for (4) four Special Event Permits – *Ark Valley Fair & Expo Association – Ark Valley Fair GRANDSTAND BEERGARDEN, 800 N. 9th, Rocky Ford for 8/14 & 8/15 11 am to Midnight and 8/16 & 8/17 11 am to 1:00 am*
Application for (4) four Special Event Permits – *Ark Valley Fair & Expo Association – Ark Valley Fair PAVLION BEER GARDEN, 800 N. 9th, Rocky Ford for 8/14/24 & 8/15 11 am to 12am and 8/16 & 8/17 11 am to 1am*
Application for a Special Event Permit – *Ark Valley Fair & Expo Association – Car Show & Meet n’ Greet – Railroad Park, for Sunday, 8/11/24 1 pm to 6 pm.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Stacey Milenski had earlier provided her report to Council by email. Milenski added some information to her report.

Fire Chief Ray Gonzales gave Council his departmental report and also gave Council information regarding his recommendation for immediate action on 501 North Main Street and his declaration that the building is a nuisance and dangerous building requiring immediate emergency action due to imminent danger and potential for serious injury to the public safety. Some discussion was held. This matter is also on the agenda for this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Dee Hostetler – Clean Valley Recycle Center – Increase to Curbside Fees

Dee Hostetler informed Council that recycling fees for curbside pickup will be increasing by \$2.00, effective September 1, 2024, to offset an increase in fuel and insurance costs. Hostetler will provide something for the Utility Department to go out in the bills.

Courtesy Letters to Abandoned Property Owners

A courtesy letter would be sent to property owners informing them of the City’s municipal code. Then City Code Enforcement would implement the City’s municipal code. Much discussion was held.

Action on Abatement of Nuisance-Imminent Danger Property Located at 501 North Main Street

Much discussion was held regarding this matter. Owner of the property, Elifonso Avelar-Pena, also spoke to Council through interpreter Manual Treviso. Councilmember Martinez moved to declare this property as an abatement nuisance and as an imminent danger to the public safety and authorized the City to take immediate action. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-3

Application for Closure of Public Streets – Main Street and Front Street for the Arkansas Valley Fair Car Show on August 11, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to approve the closure of Main Street and Front Street for the Ark Valley Fair Car Show on August 11, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Award for Bids on Concrete and Asphalt Projects

Much discussion was held amongst Council. It was moved by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Cordova to approve the bid from Justin's Paving for the asphalt projects. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-1, with 1 abstention

Councilmember Mullins asked to amend his motion regarding Justin's Paving, to include, the completion of Burrel Street. Councilmember Cordova also asked to amend her second to the motion, to include, the completion of Burrel Street. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-1, with 1 abstention

It was moved by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve the bid from Elegant Concrete for the concrete sidewalk projects. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-1, with 1 abstention

It was moved by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to place this matter on the next regular meeting agenda. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-1, with 1 abstention

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sally Cope informed Council of the upcoming events to occur during the Arkansas Valley Fair.

Marty Maes requested information from Council regarding the yard waste bags and asked that City Hall workers state their name when they answer a phone call. Maes also commented that he felt that code enforcement has not been enforcing the loose dog ordinance.

Dora Maes asked Council for information on the schedule for mosquito spraying.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that he had been on vacation for three weeks but did go to the golf course and the golf greens are looking very good.

Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron reported that the spay and neuter clinic went well and Barron thanked all the volunteers.
- Grand Theater attendance has been good. Barron gave information regarding sales on concessions and tickets. Barron thanked all volunteers.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that the Tree Board has been looking at trees that need trimmed.
- Martinez reported that there was some public that attended the last Fireside meeting.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber has a meeting last Thursday.
- Fourth of July projects were well attended.
- Chamber is getting prepared for the Ark Valley Fair.

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported on events at the Museum.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that code enforcement will be discussed at the next meeting and asked the public to attend if they would like to help in the strategy.
- The City's sewer rate needs to be increased and will be discussed at a later meeting.


UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

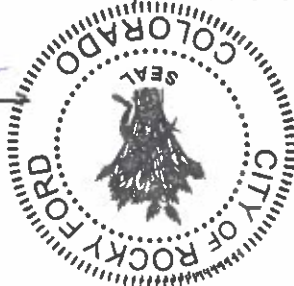
Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

ADJOURN

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



Mayor Duane Gurulé



 Attest

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek