



CITY OF ROCKY FORD - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Council Chambers | 203 S. Main Street, Rocky Ford, CO

September 9, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00pm

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Mayor Duane Gurulé called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Thomas Mullins, Nicole Roberts, Nanette Mosby, Johnny McMurray, Robert Barron, and Nicholas Martinez.

City Staff: City Manager Stacey Milenski, Interim City Clerk Michelle Grasmick, and Police Chief Matt Wallace. City Attorney Dan Harvey was in attendance online by Zoom.

Public in attendance: J.R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Shaun Luttrell, Rebekka Saunders, Adrian Hart, Murisa Jackson, Grant Jobe. Cuco Ruiz, Kira Gonzales, and several unidentified participants were in attendance by Zoom.

Mayor Duane Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

YES: Barron, Martinez, Mosby, Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Gurulé

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

- ***Council meeting minutes for August 12, 2025*** – Regular meeting at 6:00pm
- ***Application for Liquor License Renewal*** - Lobo's Curve Liquor – 1504 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMurray. Voting results were:

YES: Martinez, Mosby, Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Ordinance No. 991 - An Ordinance Of The City Of Rocky Ford, Colorado, Approving An Interim Loan From CoBank, ACB In The Aggregate Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$20,351,000, Including A Bridge Loan In Amount Not To Exceed \$1,700,000; Authorizing The Form And Execution Of The Interim Loan Agreement And Promissory Note To Evidence Such Loan; Authorizing The Construction Of A Project; And Prescribing Other Details In Connection Therewith; On Final Reading. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve Ordinance No. 991 on Final Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

YES: Mosby, Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Martinez, Gurulé

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Job Description – Corporal

Councilmember Martinez moved to approve Job Description – Corporal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMurray. Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Martinez, Mosby, Gurulé

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

11.2 Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint against Councilmember Nic Martinez; discussion of next steps:

Three nonresidents addressed the City Council regarding a complaint of alleged misconduct involving Councilmember Nic Martinez. Rebekka Saunders spoke in opposition to Martinez, Shaun Luttrell expressed support, and Murisa Jackson identified herself as the author of the complaint. Mayor Duane Gurulé sought legal guidance from Attorney Dan Harvey. The Council was advised that, per its Guiding Principles, any rule violation may warrant consideration of formal protocols at a publicly noticed meeting. The decision at hand was whether to schedule a future Public Hearing. It was clarified that a Public Hearing would require a finding, by a preponderance of evidence that a rule violation occurred. Council discussed whether the alleged misconduct pertained to Martinez's official role or personal conduct, and emphasized the need to review any supporting evidence prior to scheduling a hearing. It was also noted that the complainants are nonresidents and therefore ineligible to vote in a recall.

Councilmember McMurray moved not to pursue a Public Hearing due to insufficient evidence. Councilmember Roberts seconded the motion.

YES: Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Mosby, Roberts, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Martinez

Motion carried: 6-0 with one abstaining.

STAFF REPORTS

12.1 City Manager – Stacey Milenski provided written update to Council and discussed below:

8th Street Property: Closing completed; Mayor signed the paperwork. Councilmember Martinez inquired about property tax revenue and it was noted the property was purchased by a commercial LLC.

Liberty School: A letter was sent to the last known lien holder.

Elegant Concrete: Meeting to be rescheduled.

50/50 Sidewalk Program: Communication ongoing with both contractors. One resident requested a refund stating that the process has been too long. Would like to distribute packets for the next round of applications soon and will discuss any needed changes at an upcoming work session.

Street Signs: Partial shipment received; installation planned for fall.

Election Update: Two candidates for Mayor: Duane Gurulé and Johnny McMurray. Ballot order was determined alphabetically by the Interim City Clerk. Nanette Mosby will be a write-in candidate for Ward I. No candidate for Ward II.

Budget Planning: Department directors are preparing their budgets and will begin discussions at the next work session. Recommendations will be sent to Council.

Community Clean-Up: Scheduled for September 26–27.

Traffic Concerns:

- **Main Street STOP Signs:** Councilmember Roberts raised questions about decision authority. Chief Wallace supports removal; further input will be sought from Chief Gonzales before returning to Council.
- **11th Street:** One-way signs removed and STOP signs added; origin of changes unclear. Residents may be parking incorrectly. Both issues will be addressed at the September 23rd meeting.

12.2 Public Works Director – Maple Avenue Update (written). Rick Long was ill and not able to attend. Council would like to review information in provided packet.

12.3 Museum Curator Report – Rob Marshall (written only).

COUNCIL REPORTS

Martinez – *No update on Boards.*

Barron – *Apologized to citizens for delay on 50/50 Sidewalk Project and asked for understanding with the process. Apologized for audio on recording of last meeting; encouraged to attend in person. Arts Commission – next meeting on Tuesday, September 16th @ 6:00pm. This weekend’s movie is Freakier Friday. Support the Grand Theater by attending shows and buying concessions, buy movie posters, advertise on big screen, rent venue. Thank you to volunteers throughout the community. Shoutout to Tim at Rocky Ford Food Market – always helping out the community. Community Clean Up at the Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds on September 26th and 27th. Consider volunteering to help with clean up.*

McMurray – *No updates on Boards. Relayed complaint from constituent who said he was discriminated against at the Grand Theater based on political t-shirt and was asked to leave. Council requested more information on complaint.*

Mosby – *No updates on Boards.*

Roberts – *Busy upcoming schedule. Melon Chunkin’ Festival at the Fairgrounds on September 13th - charging gate fee of \$2 this year. Mexican Independence Day at Depot Square on September 13th - vendors, Mexican dancing, dunk tank, bounce house, Al Hurricane concert in the evening. Concert tickets are almost sold out - \$25 single, \$40 couple. Tarantula Fest in La Junta September 26th – 27th. Trunk or Treats are also coming up for Halloween. The Chamber Board voted to return Trunk or Treat to Depot Square this year. There will be additional Trunk or Treats at Crystal Lake (drive thru), High School, Fire Dept, and Police Dept. Balloon Festival Weekend*

Nov 7-9th, first full weekend in November. 10th Annual Craft Fair will be on November 8th - balloon glow with s'mores that evening. Kick off Christmas season with Parade of Lights on November 29th. Roberts encouraged community to attend local events.

Mullins – Reported that the Museum now has a gift shop that offers Rocky Ford hats and t-shirts with a plan to expand items. Museum Curator would like to begin sharing information in person with senior citizens through collaboration with Senior Centers and Nursing Facilities. Would like to dedicate 1-2 days per month for sharing. Stated that there is a bulletin board with map of United States at the Museum. A donation of any size allows you to put a pin on the map to represent your hometown.

Gurulé – Thank you to Mayor Pro Tem Mosby for leading last meeting in his absence. Provided written Mayor's report discussed below:

9/2: Met with potential business interested in opening seed business in Rocky Ford

9/8: Meeting with Elegant Concrete regarding sidewalk project updates – rescheduled

9/9: 8th Street property closing – will start seeing property tax, no longer have to maintain property

9/11: Meeting with LJ/Otero Housing Authority to discuss fire safety and emergency management – Stacey Milenski, Chief Gonzales, Robert Barron, and Mayor Gurulé

9/12: CML Executive Board meeting in Denver

9/13: Melon Chunkin' Festival at Fairgrounds, Mexican Independence Day

9/15: OCLI/OPI meeting.

Added: 08/30 Attended Ribbon Cutting for Sugar Rush. 2 Good 2 Be Used will have an upcoming ribbon cutting after moving business across the street on Elm. Another business has moved into their old location. More grand openings for new businesses to come. American Legion will be putting out flags for the anniversary of 9/11 – looking for volunteers to help with putting up and taking down. More Halloween events including Dia de los Muertos event – details to follow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Murisa Jackson addressed Council again to state she will provide evidence on the complaint before the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 – 2pm to 4pm - City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 – 6pm – Regular City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the meeting at 7:13pm.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



Interim City Clerk, Michelle Grasmick