

CITY OF ROCKY FORD - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

November 10, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00pm

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Monday, November 10, 2025. Mayor Duane Gurulé called the meeting to order.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Johnny McMurray, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, and Thomas Mullins. Nanette Mosby was in attendance online by Zoom and there were times that audio was not available. Nicole Roberts arrived during Presentations, Awards, and Proclamations.

City Staff: City Manager Stacey Milenski, City Clerk Michelle Grasmick, Police Chief Matt Wallace, Public Works Director Rick Long, Water Department Foreman Cody Baylor, Fire Chief Ray Gonzales, Captain Andrew Hartless, Officer Mark Montano, Officer Zander Rypkema. City Attorney Dan Harvey was in attendance online by Zoom.

Public attendance: American Legion Post Commander Jonathan Rodriguez, Selina Rodriguez, Ashley Haun, Eric Haun, Joana Tilton, J.R. Thompson, Steve Hicks, Laura Hicks, Gary Reed, James Budnick, Patty Gauna. Multiple residents in attendance online by Zoom.

Mayor Duane Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1 James Budnick did not provide an address. but stated that he lives in the County outside of Rocky Ford city limits. James expressed concerns about persons convicted of a felony serving in city leadership positions, suggesting the need for a policy preventing representation of the city.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins.

Voting results were:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Roberts

Motion carried: 6-0

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

6.1 Approval of Council meeting minutes from October 28, 2025 – Regular meeting at 6:00pm

6.2 Application for Special Events Permit – Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce, Gobin Building, 105 N Main Street, Rocky Ford, on Saturday, November 22, 2025 from 5:00pm to 2:00am

6.3 Application for Special Events Permit – Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce, Gobin Building, 105 N Main Street, Rocky Ford, on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 5:00pm to midnight

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7.1 Mayor requested the addition of **11.3 Application for Tavern License – Hwy 50 Bar and Grill, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford** under New Business. Councilmember McMurray moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of 11.3 Application for Tavern License – Hwy 50 Bar and Grill, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford under New Business. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez.

Voting results were:

YES: Martinez, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Mosby, Roberts

Motion carried: 5-0

8. PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

8.1 Proclamation – Hospice and Palliative Care Month 2025

8.2 Proclamation – Veterans Day

9. PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Councilmember McMurray moved to enter Public Hearing to discuss the application for Tavern License for Hwy 50 Bar and Grill at 606 Elm Avenue. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion.

Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Mayor Gurulé opened the public hearing at **6:18 PM** to consider comments for or against the application for a Tavern License submitted by Highway 50 Bar and Grill, LLC. City Clerk Michelle Grasmick confirmed that public notice was posted at the business location (606 Elm Avenue) and at City Hall (203 S. Main Street) on October 31, 2025.

Applicants Eric and Ashley Hahn introduced themselves and described their intention to reopen the former Dawggghouse (and subsequently, Dawghouse) location as Highway 50 Bar and Grill, emphasizing

a family-friendly, restaurant-focused environment. Their concept includes a grill-style menu featuring hot wings, car/highway-themed décor, pool, darts, cornhole, outdoor seating improvements, and occasional weekend events. The applicants stated that their goal is to build a business legacy for their family and contribute positively to Rocky Ford.

Councilmembers raised several questions regarding the applicants' prior involvement with a Turkey Trot event held at the location. Concerns were noted that alcohol had been advertised on older Dawghouse flyers. The applicants clarified that they did not advertise or sell alcohol for the event, and that all references to alcohol originated from materials created by the previous owner. They stated that they only hosted participant sign-ups and served breakfast burritos. Council also discussed criminal history disclosures. Eric acknowledged past DUI offenses, explained that he has since stopped drinking, completed all required classes, and is committed to operating responsibly. Council discussed rehabilitation and his ability to manage a liquor-licensed establishment. Additional concerns arose about the number of alcohol-serving establishments already in the community. The applicants reiterated their focus on being a restaurant first, with alcohol offered but not emphasized, and noted planned non-alcoholic specialty beverage options. The City Attorney requested verification of Ashley Hahn's listed affiliation with the LLC; the applicants confirmed that both are included in the LLC documents.

Police Chief Matthew Wallace testified regarding the October 4th complaint associated with the Turkey Trot event. Chief Wallace stated that he responded to reports of alcohol consumption at the premises but did not observe any alcohol being served. He noted that, because the business is not yet licensed, he could not legally conduct an interior inspection. He explained that if alcohol had been on the premises, it could constitute a violation, but no such activity was witnessed. He also clarified that online posts referencing mimosa and Bloody Mary bars were tied to the previous Dawghouse operator, not the current applicants. The applicants offered no further response.

Patty Gauna, former owner of the Dawggghouse and a relative of the applicants, spoke in support of the license. She stated that the business was historically successful and beneficial to the community, noting her family's operation of the establishment dating back to the 1970s–80s. She expressed strong family support for the applicants and confidence in Eric's understanding of the responsibilities involved in running the business.

With no additional comments, Mayor Gurulé closed the public hearing at **6:44 PM**.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 None

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.3 Application for Tavern License – Hwy 50 Bar and Grill, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford

Councilmember McMurray moved to approve the Application for Tavern License at Hwy 50 Bar and Grill, 606 Elm Avenue, Rocky Ford. Councilmember Roberts seconded the motion.

Voting results were:

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

NO: Mullins

Motion carried: 6-1

11.1 Approve/disapprove purchase order by Rocky Ford EMS for transmission repair

Councilmember Mullins moved to approve the purchase order from Tri-County Lamar for transmission repair on 2013 Ford F550. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts.

Voting results were:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mosby

Motion carried: 6-0

11.2 Approve/disapprove purchase order by Rocky Ford Water/Sewer Department for two gas chlorinators

Councilmember McMurray moved to approve purchase order for two gas chlorinators. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion.

Voting results were:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mosby

Motion carried: 6-0

12. STAFF REPORTS

12.1 City Manager – Stacey Milenski summarized written City Manager's report to Council. Chief Matthew Wallace provided an update on the nuisance property list.

12.2 Museum Curator Report - Rob Marshall, (written only)

13. COUNCIL REPORTS

Martinez – No recent meetings for Library Board or Tree Board. Lego Club has had great attendance on Fridays at the Library. Fireside Chat next Monday, November 17th.

Barron – Suggested multiple ways to support the theater. Upcoming movies - Wicked and Wicked: For Good.

McMurray - No updates on Boards.

Mosby – Disconnected from Zoom meeting; no audio available.

Roberts – Thanked those in attendance at trunk or treats, balloon festival, haunted house, Dia de los Muertos. Youth Biz Marketplace at Gobin Building this weekend. Another concert on November 22nd – Los Amantes Del Norte. Rocky Free Kitchen – November 19th in the Baggage Room. Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Gobin Building 11am-2pm on November 27th. Parade of

Lights with free chili supper after at Gobin Building on November 29th. Community Christmas Party at Boogie's Event Center on December 12th.

Mullins – History Colorado Association came for a tour – largest community group for museums in Colorado. Modern Woodsman organization from La Junta also toured the museum. Invited the community to see Professors Warren McClure and Mark Korbits on November 21st for a presentation on prehistoric identification.

Gurulé – Tomorrow is Veterans Day, City will be closed in observance of this federal and state holiday. Trash service will not run; Tuesday trash route will be picked up on Wednesday. Flags will be put out tomorrow – call for volunteers to help American Legion put out and collect flags. 11/17 OCLI-OPI meeting. 11/18-Meeting with the Otero County Commissioners and Economic Development to discuss the traffic study on US Hwy 50 and 14th Street done by Circle K. Highlighted more volunteer opportunities. YEEHAW – provides emergency shelters for extreme cold days; requires at least two male and two female volunteers to oversee the shelter at all times.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

14.1 None

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

15.1 None

16. UPCOMING MEETINGS

16.1 November 18, 2025, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm City Council Work Session

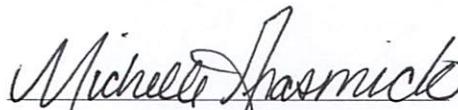
16.2 November 25, 2025, at 6:00pm - Regular City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



City Clerk, Michelle Grasmick