



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

July 28, 2026

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00pm

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. Mayor Duane Gurulé called the meeting to order.

Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Nicholas Martinez, Robert Barron, and Nicole Roberts.

Councilmembers absent: Joe Pentlicki, Thomas Mullins, and Nanette Mosby.

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

Public attendance: JR Thompson, Gary Reed, Sally Cope, Sawyer Menz, Dee Hostetler, Ally Palmer.

Mayor Duane Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1 None

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Roberts motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez.

YES: Barron, Roberts, Martinez, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

6.1 **Approval of Council meeting minutes from July 14, 2026** – Regular meeting at 6:00pm

6.2 **Application for Renewal of Liquor License** – Tiger Hunt, 206 N Main Street, Rocky Ford, CO

6.3 **Application for Renewal of Liquor License** – Fiesta Cafe, 400 N. 11th Street, Rocky Ford, CO

6.4 **Application for a Special Event Permit** – Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds - Grandstand Beer Garden, 800 N 9th Street, Rocky Ford, CO on 08/19/26 & 08/20/26 from 11:00am-12:00am and 08/21/26 & 08/22/26 from 11:00am-1:00am

6.5 Application for a Special Event Permit – Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds - Pavilion Beer Garden, 800 N 9th Street, Rocky Ford, CO on 08/21/26 & 08/22/26 from 11:00am-1:00am

6.6 Request to Close Public Street for Special Event – Arkansas Valley Fair – Car Show, Main Street and Front Street closures on August 16, 2026 from 1:00pm-6:00pm

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Martinez motioned to approve the Agenda with the amendment of moving the executive session to occur before presentations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts.

Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Martinez, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

15.1 Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) concerning abandoned buildings within the City

Councilmember Roberts moved to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Martinez, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

Mayor Gurulé recessed the regular meeting at 6:09pm to go into Executive Session.

Those going into Executive Session were City Attorney Dan Harvey, City Manager Stacey Milenski, Police Chief Matthew Wallace, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Nicole Roberts, Robert Barron, and Nicholas Martinez.

Executive Session 15.1 started at 6:17pm and ended at 6:52pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:53pm.

Mayor Gurulé reported, for the record, that if any person who participated in the executive sessions believed 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, that they should please state their concerns for the record. There were none.

8. PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

8.1 State Recycling program update – Dee Hostetler, Clean Valley Recycling

Dee Hostetler and Ally Palmer with Clean Valley Recycling provided an update on recycling initiatives at both the state and local levels. They reported that new Colorado legislation will make recycling free for residents where service is available, with the Circular Action Alliance responsible for implementing the program statewide. The organization is currently working to finalize a contract to provide service in this area, and once the agreement is executed, recycling is expected to become free, potentially as early as this fall. The statewide recycling goal is to achieve a 58% recycling rate by 2035, while the local program currently serves approximately 125 residents. They noted that increased participation would benefit the City of Rocky Ford through reduced landfill fees, resulting in cost savings as more recyclable material is diverted from the landfill. Residents who currently use two trash bins may also realize cost savings by reducing their service to a single trash bin while participating in the recycling program. The program will continue using recycling bags for now, while pursuing a grant to purchase 5,000 blue recycling totes and eventually transition to a single-stream recycling system. The recycling service will remain opt-in to ensure residents want the service and to minimize contamination from trash being placed in recycling containers.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 None

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Discussion/Action – **Sale of 701 Sycamore Lot** – consider offers

City Clerk Michelle Grasmick confirmed that, in accordance with Council's June 23rd direction, the property was listed for more than 30 days. No additional offers were received, and the two existing offers remained at \$10,000 and \$15,000. City Attorney Dan Harvey advised that discussion of potential plans for the property should not be considered as part of the sale decision and recommended focusing on the offers and fair market value. Council discussed the offers.

Councilmember Roberts motioned to approve the bid for \$15,000 for the lot at 701 Sycamore Ave. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez.

Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Martinez, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

10.2 Discussion/Action – **Resolution No. 3 Series 2026** – A Resolution Calling for a Special Election for the City of Rocky Ford on November 3, 2026 and Submitting a Ballot Issue Regarding a Sales Tax Increase to be Used for Public Safety Services to the Registered Electors of the City of Rocky Ford

Council reviewed and discussed Resolution No. 3, Series 2026, calling a November 3, 2026 special election to submit a proposed 1.5% sales tax increase for a period of three years to Rocky Ford voters. City Attorney Dan Harvey confirmed that the ballot language met TABOR requirements and verified that the stated purpose of funding, operating, and maintaining public safety services, including police, fire, and EMS, was accurate. City Manager Stacey Milenski reported that next steps include review and approval of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Councilmember Roberts motioned to approve Resolution No. 3 Series 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barron.

Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Martinez, Barron, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Discussion/Action – Approval of new swamp cooler for Expo Building

City Manager Stacey Milenski reported that two evaporative coolers at the Expo Building were not functioning. After inspection and repairs, one unit was restored to working condition and is expected to remain operational through the fair. Milenski advised that the Fair Board had already purchased a replacement cooler and requested Council consider approving the purchase of a second replacement unit as a contingency in the event the repaired cooler fails during fair week. Council discussed the age and condition of the existing units, the Fair Board's ongoing improvements to the fairgrounds, and the availability of Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) revenues for the purchase. Council also discussed purchasing an identical unit and having it picked up at the same time so it would be available when needed, noting that only one bid was required for the approximately \$5,500 expenditure. Council expressed support for sharing costs with the Fair Board.

Councilmember Roberts motioned to approve the purchase of a new swamp cooler for the Expo Building from Grainger. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez.

Voting results were:

YES: Martinez, Barron, Roberts, Gurulé

NO: None

ABSENT: Pentlicki, Mullins, Mosby

Motion carried: 4-0

12. STAFF REPORTS

12.1 City Manager – *Stacey Milenski summarized written City Manager's report to Council. Milenski included updates that occurred after the report was written.*

13. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmembers provided updates and reports on their respective boards and community events. Mayor Gurulé also provided his Mayor's report, a written report was not provided in advance of the meeting.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Police Chief Matthew Wallace thanked Mayor Gurulé for assisting with a trailer tire blowout while en route to pick up police motorcycles, enabling staff to continue their trip. Chief Wallace also recognized the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments for their response to storm-related incidents, including downed power lines and trees, and commended their efforts in serving the community during the severe weather event.

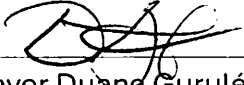
16. UPCOMING MEETINGS

16.1 August 4, 2026, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm City Council Work Session

16.2 August 11, 2026, at 6:00pm - City Council Regular Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



City Clerk, Michelle Grasmick