



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 26, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins met with Arkansas Valley Fair Board members, Sally Cope, Darren Garcia, Pebble Pearl, Dayla Elliot, Allen Lewis, Derrick Carroll and Ashley Venem, to discuss a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Arkansas Valley Fair Board.

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Pebble Pearl, Diana Marshall and Gloria Jaramillo

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 26, 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: Interim Manager Stacey Milenski, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Chief of Police Sean McDonagh, Administrative Assistant Sarah Barks, Police Officers Robert Powell, Ralph Cabalar, Mark Montano, Jaron Berig and Travis Morris, Captain Carol Coates, Sargent Tim Moore and Shannon Wallace

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Pebble Pearl, Diana Marshall and Gloria Jaramillo

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Nicholas Martinez read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé requested the addition, under new business 12.5, of fairground arena improvements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Mayor Gurulé requested the addition, under new business 12.5, of fairground arena improvements. Councilmember Herrera moved to amend his original motion, to include the approval of the requested addition 12.5 to the regular agenda. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. 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 March 12, 2024

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

Pinning Ceremony – New Police Officers Mark Montano and Jaron Berig

Police Chief Sean McDonagh gave brief introductions of Officers Mark and Jaron and welcomed them. McDonagh pinned each officer. There was much applause from Council and audience.

STAFF REPORTS

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski had previously submitted her report with the Council packet. Milenski asked if any Councilmember had any questions regarding her report. None were mentioned. Milenski did highlight the fact that the City of Rocky Ford was awarded an additional \$400,000.00 on the GOCO grant to continue the plan for revitalization of the Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds and Crystal Lake for recreation.

Police Chief Sean McDonagh gave Council his departmental report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Colorado Municipal League (CML) – Annual Conference

Mayor Gurulé shared information on the three (3) day training agenda for the CML conference to Council. Gurulé will be attending, as well as Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski. Three (3) other Councilmembers expressed interest in attending the conference. Councilmembers will advise the City Clerk Rebecca Korinek if they choose to go. Korinek will do registration and any reservations that need to be made.

Finance Director Kyle Crosswhite informed Council that funds would be made available for Councilmembers to attend the CML conference.

RFP for City Manager Search Firm

Mayor Gurulé presented the RFP to Council. It was moved by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Herrera to approved the RFP for executive search firm for the City Manager candidate search. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Emergency Snow Preparedness Plan Changes

Discussion was held at the work session on March 12, 2024. Discussion was also held regarding the City's equipment. Changes to be made: Additions to the plan to include, sidewalk on the south side of Washington, sidewalk on the south side of Elm Avenue from 9th Street to Main Street. It was moved by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to approve the suggested changes and additions to the snow preparedness plan made by Mayor Gurulé. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Appointment of Meredy Brownstein – Rocky Ford Tree Board

Diana Marshall, President of the Rocky Ford Tree Board recommended that Council appoint a new member to replace Patrice McGowan. It was Councilmember Roberts moved to appoint Meredy Brownstein to the Rocky Ford Tree Board. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Purchase for Fairground Arena Improvements

This matter was discussed at tonight's work session. After some additional discussion. Councilmember Roberts moved to authorize and approve bids in the amount of \$50,000 and \$62,759.35. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Reed gave Council information and expressed his concerns regarding water sales to Aurora.

J.R. Thompson reminded everyone about the concert at the Grand Theater on Thursday.

Councilmember Herrera gave Council information regarding some grants that he may be able to get through the Rocky Ford Elks.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that he may be able to get some grants through the Rocky Ford Elks.
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Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron urged all to attend the Fireside Chat.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez asked Diana Marshall to report on the Tree Board.
- Marshall reported that the City of Rocky Ford had achieved the "Tree City" designation.
- Marshall will be submitting an Arbor Day Proclamation to Council in April.
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Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova had nothing to report for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber of Commerce Board will host an Easter Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024 and will also be offering brunch at the Baggage Room.

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported that work is being performed at the Museum.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that the Rocky Ford Police Department held an Easter Egg Hunt at Babcock Park and had a great turnout.
- Will attend a grant training in Limon on Wednesday.
- OCLI/OPI met and approved Nicole Roberts as the City's alternate.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, April 23, 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 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Duane Gurulé

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

Attest