



CITY OF ROCKY FORD - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

August 26, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00pm

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Mosby called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor Pro Tem: Nanette Mosby

Councilmembers present: Nicole Roberts, Johnny McMurray, Robert Barron, and Nicholas Martinez.

Councilmember Thomas Mullins was in attendance online by Zoom.

Councilmembers absent: Mayor Duane Gurulé

City Staff present: 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, Lisa Perez, Desiree Montano, and Judy Campbell. Susan Jung was in attendance by Zoom.

Mayor Pro Tem Mosby led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember McMurray read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Mosby asked for a vote on the consent agenda with no changes. Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES: Barron, Martinez, Mosby, McMurray, Mullins

NO: None

ABSENT: Gurulé

ABSTAIN: Roberts

Motion carried: 5-0 with one abstaining

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

- **Council meeting minutes for August 12, 2025** – Regular meeting at 6:00pm
- **Application for a Special Events Permit** – Malt, Vinous, and Spiritous Liquor, Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce/Mexican Independence Day and Al Hurricane Jr. Concert, 105 N Main St, Rocky Ford, CO - September 13th, 10:00am to 12:00am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was noted that both scheduled presenters requested to cancel and/or reschedule their presentations due to inability to attend. Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of Presentation 8.1 - Energize Colorado and Presentation 8.2 – Peer 404. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMurray. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Gurulé

Motion carried: 6-0

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING: Hearing reopened at 6:08pm.

Application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License – EZ Spirits, 914 Railroad Ave, Rocky Ford, CO by Judy Campbell. This Public Hearing was a continuance of the Public Hearing at Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 and as such, all evidence and statements from the prior meeting may be considered. Continuance was previously requested to correct application and to get a true and exact measurement between the proposed address and Tiger Hunt on Main Street to ensure compliance with State Guidelines. Judy Campbell stated that she and City Manager Stacey Milenski went through the application together to make the requested corrections. Both Councilmember Roberts and City Manager Milenski determined that the proposed location is not 500ft from Tiger Hunt. However, it was clarified that the 500ft guideline only applies to Retail Liquor, so the distance requirement does not apply. Councilmember Barron requested to view supporting documents submitted with the application and also questioned that Leonard Gonzales was still listed as a 50% owner of the business even though he only owns 50% of the building and has no share of the business. The application was corrected to indicate 100% ownership by Judy Campbell and initialed by Judy during Public Hearing. There was no public comment. The Public Hearing closed at 6:16pm.

OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License – EZ Spirits, 913 Railroad Ave, Rocky Ford, CO by Judy Campbell: Councilmember McMurray moved to approve the application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES: Mosby, Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Martinez
NO: None
ABSENT: Gurulé

Motion carried: 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 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 First Reading: Councilmember Barron moved to approve Ordinance No. 991 on First Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES: Roberts, Mullins, McMurray, Barron, Martinez, Mosby
NO: None
ABSENT: Gurulé

Motion carried: 6-0

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Stacey Milenski invited Police Chief Matt Wallace to give an update on the status of the Nuisance Property Priority List. Chief Wallace reported that a letter was served to the registered agent with the McKenzie Building (400 S. Main St.), as well as the property at 9th & Pine. Letters have been prepared for El Capitan (501 N. Main St.) and former Liberty School (608 N. 11th St.). The owners of the Popcorn Factory (1149 Railroad Ave.) have been in communication and are working to board windows. City Manager Stacey Milenski gave a report to the Council and audience. Milenski was asked about the status of street signs. Milenski indicated that the signs ordered from Colorado Barricades were shipped last week and should be arriving soon. Milenski started to provide an update on the Sidewalk Improvement Plan and 50/50 Sidewalk Program, but then a question was posed and much discussion followed. Milenski continued with the report to update that the Expo Building at the Fairgrounds was also approved for the Black Hills Energy incentive

program. There will be a meeting with Directors on Thursday, August 28th regarding department budgets. Recommendations from Finance Director, Kyle Crosswhite will be presented to the Council after meeting with Directors.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Martinez – No update on Boards. Martinez gave a “shout out” to those cleaning up the City after the rain and putting out fires; keeping the community safe.

Barron – No recent meeting for Arts Commission. The Grand Theater will be showing the 50th Anniversary of Jaws this weekend. Barron gave a “shout out” to all those involved in the Arkansas Valley Fair. Citizens were also encouraged to assist with cleaning their own gutters.

McMurray - No updates on Boards.

Roberts – Thanked those who came out to the Arkansas Valley Fair and Taste of Summer. Upcoming events - Grand Opening of Sugar Rush on August 30th, Early Settlers Day in La Junta on September 6th, Melon Chunkin’ Festival at the Fairgrounds on September 13th, Mexican Independence Day in Depot Square on September 13th. 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, Fire Dept, and Police Dept. Also reported the Craft Fair will be on November 8th and Parade of Lights on November 29th. Roberts encouraged community to watch for more upcoming fall festivals and holiday events.

Mullins - No updates on Boards.

Mosby – No updates on Boards. Mayor Pro Tem Mosby read aloud the Mayor’s Report provided by Mayor Duane Gurulé. Mayor Gurulé attended many Fair events including Wake-up Breakfast, Parade, Derby, 5K, and Watermelon Pile. On August 21st, Gurulé met with City Attorney to get clarification on distance requirements for pending liquor license application. On August 25th, Gurulé accompanied CD3 Rep. Jeff Hurd and FSA State Director Jeffy Sonnenberg on a Farm Tour of processing/packaging operations at Hirkata Farms and farm market operations at Knapps Farm Market. Gurulé also met with Otero County Economic Development Director Danelle Berg about future development opportunities in Rocky Ford. Gurulé advised that this Friday, RFHS is hosting a Cross Country meet and thus Washington Avenue between Meloneer Drive and 2nd Street will be blocked temporarily for the runners. Gurulé reminded that Monday, September 1st is Labor Day and City Hall, Library, and Trash Services will be closed, and also thanked dedicated City Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

JR Thompson commented on the many murals throughout town, but noted there is a mural that is located in the alley behind Len’s Tavern and can be difficult to see due to placement. Discussion took place indicating that there is another mural on the side of The Pickled Onion that is hidden by an adjacent building and is difficult to see from the highway. It was reminded that the City did not provide any funding for this project; it was funded and coordinated through La Sandia Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 6pm – Regular City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Mosby adjourned the meeting at 6:54pm.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



Interim City Clerk, Michelle Grasmick

