



CITY OF ROCKY FORD

ORDINANCE NO. 995

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD, COLORADO
APPROVING A FRANCHISE FEE FOR CITY WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE ENTERPRISE

WHEREAS, the City previously created an enterprise for the purpose of providing water, sewer, and garbage services and to collect funds related to such services;

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 31-32-101 and 103, the City may grant a franchise by ordinance after two readings of such ordinance and in accordance with certain notice requirements related to entities desiring to secure a franchise or license;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to impose a franchise fee on the water, sewer, and garbage enterprise as further set forth herein;

WHEREAS, notice requirements have been met prior to adoption of the ordinance;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance has been read twice, first on February 24, 2026, and next on March 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, at second reading on March 10, 2026, the City Council held a properly noticed public hearing to consider the adoption of a franchise fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City hereby establishes a franchise fee on the City of Rocky Ford Water, Sewer, and Garbage Enterprise for the use of the City's rights-of-way to provide such services as follows:
 - A. **Initial Franchise Fee.**
Effective upon adoption of this Ordinance, the City hereby establishes a franchise fee in the amount of **eleven percent (11%) of the base revenues** of the City of Rocky Ford Water, Sewer, and Garbage Enterprise.
 - B. **Adjusted Franchise Fee Beginning 2027.**
Effective January 1, 2027, the franchise fee shall automatically be reduced to **four percent (4%) of the base revenues** of the City of Rocky Ford Water, Sewer, and Garbage Enterprise, and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by legislative act of the City Council.
 - C. **Periodic Review and Adjustment.**
The franchise fee may be periodically reviewed and adjusted by ordinance of the City Council, provided that any such adjustment shall comply with all applicable statutory requirements.
 - D. **Duration.**
The franchise established herein shall remain in effect unless and until amended or terminated by legislative act of the City Council.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED ON FIRST READING, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED IN FULL this 24th day of February, 2026. A public hearing shall be held at the regular meeting of the Rocky Ford City Council on the 10th day of March, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rocky Ford City Hall.

CITY OF ROCKY FORD

Duane L. Gurulé, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Grasmick, City Clerk

READ, ADOPTED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED on second and final reading by a vote of _____ to _____ on the 10th day of March 2026.

CITY OF ROCKY FORD

Duane L. Gurulé, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Grasmick, City Clerk



CITY OF ROCKY FORD

ORDINANCE NO: 996

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE ROCKY FORD MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING ANIMALS AT LARGE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rocky Ford wishes to amend Chapter 7 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code to the prohibition of animals at large in the City.

NOW THEREFORE, IT HEREBY BE ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 7-7-50 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code is hereby amended by the deletion of the definition for "Running at Large."

Section 2. Chapter 7, Article 8 of the Rocky Ford Municipal Code is hereby amended by the addition of a new Division 5, entitled Animals at Large, as follows:

DIVISION 5 – Animals at Large

Sec. 7-8-610. – Animals at Large Prohibited.

(1) No person, as the owner of any animal, unless specifically exempted by this Code, shall fail to keep such animal off the premises of the owner and under the direct and competent control of the owner or the owner's authorized agent by means of a leash, except an animal within the automobile or other vehicle of its owner or owner's authorized agent. An owner also violates this section when an animal is on an unfenced portion of the premises of the owner or owner's authorized agent and the owner or authorized agent is not physically present and able to control the actions of such animal.

(2) For purposes of this Section, the *premises of the owner* shall not include common areas of condominiums, townhouses and apartment buildings; and any animal not in the effective control of its owner by means of a leash within the common areas of a condominium, townhouse or apartment building, or the grounds thereof.

(3) For purposes of this Section, *direct or competent control* does not include leashes anchored to the real property of the animal's owner, or authorized agent if such leash extends beyond the property line of the owner, or authorized agent.

Section 3. The City Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the City of Rocky Ford, that it is promulgated for the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and that this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The City Council further determines that the ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

Section 4. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction invalid, such judgment shall not affect application to other persons or circumstances.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED ON FIRST READING, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED IN FULL this 24th day of February, 2026. A public hearing shall be held at the regular meeting of the Rocky Ford City Council on the 10th day of March, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rocky Ford City Hall.

CITY OF ROCKY FORD

Duane L. Gurulé, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Grasmick, City Clerk

READ, ADOPTED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED on second and final reading by a vote of _____ to _____ on the 10th day of March 2026.

CITY OF ROCKY FORD

Duane L. Gurulé, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Grasmick, City Clerk

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



To: Mayor Gurulé and City Council Members

From: Stacey Milenski

Date: February 24, 2026

PROPERTIES:

- Liberty School:
- Brewer Construction Site:
- 1149 Railroad Update:
- 400 S Main Update:

NEW/OLD BUSINESS/UPCOMING:

- 2/11 – Attended the Museum Board Meeting
- 2/15 – Attended the Swimming Pool Commission Meeting
- 2/16 – City observed President's Day
- 2/16 – Attended Rural Fire Board Meeting
- 2/18 – Met with a 501c3 organization based out of La Junta that would like to support our push to revitalize the Crystal Lake Recreation Area-more details to come
- 2/19 – Gate for Crystal Lake was delivered
 - Purchased with grant funding from the Colorado Housing and Finance Association
 - Once installed, the concrete barricades will be removed
- 2/24 - Meeting with Vicki Sigler from Sage Services regarding an MOU for the Senior Center
 - Vicki said that she has been the Director since 2005 and has never seen an MOU
- Working on an RFP for the Babcock Concessions for the upcoming season March - October
- Meeting with Dr. Snyder regarding the former Washington and Jefferson school grounds
 - Now that the abatement process is nearly complete and fencing has been taken down, community members are starting to use the playgrounds, and with the upcoming soccer season, coaches will be requesting permission to use the grounds for practices
 - I'd like to see the City support the school district to keep up the grounds
 - Ensuring the space remains safe, accessible, and inviting
 - Assist with maintenance
 - Exploring a discount for water usage, as it will be a space mainly used for recreation activities
- 2/23 - Conducted interviews for the Part-Time Library Director
 - The Library Assistant has resigned effective 2/20/20
 - Councilman Martinez and I worked with Racquel to get an idea of how things operate
 - Interlibrary loan process – order book in, sending books out
 - Creating accounts for patrons
 - Contacting vendors
 - Entering new books into the system
 - Contacted the Library Board to update them on this new development



203 S Main Street
Rocky Ford, CO
81067

PH: 719.254.7414
FX: 719.254.7416

Stacey Milenski
City Manager

Duane Gurulé
Mayor

Nanete Mosby
Ward I

Nicole Roberts
Ward I

Johnny McMurray
Ward II

Nicholas Martinez
Ward II

Robert Barron
Ward III

Thomas Mullins
Ward III

City Clerk
719.254.7414, ext. 107

Police Chief
719.254.3344

Fire Chief
719.254.3322

Public Works
719.254.7414, ext. 105

Human Resources
719.254.7414, ext. 110

Parks & Recreation
719.254.7414, ext. 106

February 19, 2026

RE: Mayor's Report

Events/Meetings:

- 2/17: OCLI/OPI
 - OPI: DOLA approved \$800,000 in CDBG funds for Colorado Harvest Markets in La Junta, CO, supporting startup costs and the creation of 40 full-time jobs (new grocery store in old Safeway building)
- 2/17: Black Hills issued an Emergency Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) notice. This is a proactive measure to reduce potential for wildfire caused by downed electrical lines. Fortunately, no shutoff was required in Rocky Ford area.
- 2/27: CML Executive Board

Updates:

- Received additional feedback regarding cemetery policies
- At our 3/3 work session, we will meet with Danelle Berg, Otero County Economic Development to discuss the City's future projects and needs in preparation for our updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). CEDs are required for all municipalities interested in federal funding.
- We will also meet with Sage Services to discuss and update our MOU at the Senior Citizen Center

Mayor's Message:

"Congratulations Meloneer Wrestlers!"

Please contact me with any questions or feedback.

Respectfully,

Duane L Gurulé

Duane Gurule
Mayor, City of Rocky Ford