

CITY OF ROCKY FORD-CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

August 12, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00 PM

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Mayor Gurulé called the meeting to order. Those present were:

Mayor Gurulé, Thomas Mullins, Nanette Mosby, Johnny McMurray, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts, Robert Barron

Public in attendance: JR Thompson, Gary Reed, Police Chief Matt Wallace, Sally Cope, Cheyanne Jackson, Tyrone Jackson, Public Works Director Rick Long

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Barron gave the mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé asked for a vote on the consent agenda with no changes. Councilmember Mullins made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Councilmember Martinez seconded. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

- **Approval of Council meeting minutes** from July 22, 2025 – Regular meeting at 6:00 pm
- **Approval of Council meeting minutes** from August 5, 2025 – Special meeting at 2:00 pm
- **Application for a Special Events Permit** – Malt, vinous, and Spiritous Liquor, BPOE #1147, 301 N 9th, Rocky Ford, CO on August 15, 2025 and August 16, 2025 from 9:00 am to 2:00 am

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé requested the addition to Old Business: 12.1-Approve the resignations of Museum Board Members Donna Bush and Darla Marshall. Councilmember McMurray moved to approve the Agenda with the requested addition to Old Business, and Councilmember Martinez made the second. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Gurulé presented two proclamations. One for Rocky Ford Watermelon Day, signed by Gov. Polis, and one for the City of Rocky Ford. Both proclamations designated August 16, 2025 the official watermelon day, statewide. Proclamations were given to Sally Cope, Arkansas Valley Fair Board Manager.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Stacey Milenski gave a report to the Council and audience.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Martinez-Nothing to report.

Barron-Update on Arts Commission, thanked the RF Police Department for their efforts, recognizing National Night Out-a community awareness and engagement event hosted nationally every year. Noting a great turnout for families at the Rocky Ford Swimming Pool. Thanked City staff for prepping for the 148th Arkansas Valley Fair. Thanked Code Enforcement Officer, Tony Jones, for his efforts. Discussed new parade route.

McMurray commented on the positive feedback he'd received regarding the public murals around town
Mosby-Nothing to report.

Roberts: Wake up breakfast-doors open at 6:30 am, \$10 per person, discussed Arkansas Valley Fair events.

Mullins-Museum is seeking an engineering report. Cost is expected at \$90K and seeking a grant to cover expenses with 25% match from the city. Rob Marshall will have a booth at the Fair. The Museum has a new volunteer, Aresha Burns, the Museum Board has revised policies and bylaws, and an updated job description for the Curator.

Gurulé spoke on recent events throughout the city, new murals in town and the progress. Jeff Hurd was hosting mobile office hours at the Public Safety Building on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Sent invitations to all the local Mayors in the valley to attend the Arkansas Valley Fair.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hearing opened at 6:42 pm.

Application for Tavern License – Boss's Pizza, Chicken, and Sports Bar LLC, 411 N Main Street, Rocky Ford, CO, by owner Tyrone Jackson. Along with a food menu, adult beverages will be served, planning on outdoor seating, family family-oriented establishment. There was no public comment. Council concern: McMurray commented that Rocky Ford is saturated with bars, but appreciates the family aspect. Roberts stated she was excited for a new business in town. Barron said he was in support of this application. Gurulé commented that it's been in a master plan to have storefronts on Main Street serving a purpose and driving economic development, investing in the community. Public hearing closed at 6:49 pm.

Mayor Gurulé asked for a motion on approval for a Tavern License – Boss's Pizza, Chicken, and Sports Bar LLC, 411 N Main Street, Rocky Ford, CO, by owner Tyrone Jackson. Councilmember Barron made the motion to approve the Tavern License. Councilmember Mullins gave a second. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING: Hearing opened at 6:51 pm.

Application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License – EZ Spirits, 914 Railroad Ave, Rocky Ford, CO by Judy Campbell. Judy would like to open a small retail liquor store for beer and wine. Selection would be different than Tiger Hunt, a nearby establishment. Councilmember Roberts then questioned if this new establishment was at least 500 ft from Tiger Hunt per State guidelines. Mrs. Campbell stated that she thought it was. Councilmember Barron had questions about the application, noting some items didn't appear to be in order. There was no public comment. The public hearing closed at 7:06 pm.

Mayor Gurulé suggested that this action item be tabled until the application was corrected and someone from the city measured the distance between the proposed address and Tiger Hunt on Main Street. The public hearing would be reopened at the next regular meeting on August 26, 2025. Councilmember Roberts voted to table approving the application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License – EZ Spirits, 914 Railroad Ave, Rocky Ford, CO, by Judy Campbell. Councilmember Martinez gave the second. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Mayor Gurulé gave City Manager, Stacey Milenski, instructions to go through the application with Judy Campbell and make arrangements to get a true and exact measurement from Tiger Hunt.

OLD BUSINESS:

12.1 Resignations of Museum Board Members: Donna Bush and Darla Marshall. It was motioned by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember McMurray to approve the resignations. Voting results were:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

13.1 Application for Tavern License – Boss's Pizza, Chicken, and Sports Bar LLC, 411 N Main Street, Rocky Ford CO-Voted on and approved after Public Hearing per City Attorney's recommendation

13.2 Application for Retail Malt Beverage and Wine License – EZ Spirits, 914 Railroad Ave, Rocky Ford, CO -Voted to table after Public Hearing per City Attorney's recommendation

13.3 Nuisance Property Priority List – Council members voted to prioritize nuisance properties for the City Attorney. It was decided to prioritize the old McKenzie Building on Main Street and the former Liberty School building. Both properties are privately owned. It was motioned by Councilmember Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to prioritize the McKenzie Building and Liberty School. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motioned carried: 7-0

13.4 Job Description-City Clerk – City Manager, Stacey Milenski brought to Council the need to look at the City Clerk’s position and determine if it was a full-time job or part-time. In making that determination, adding administrative duties to assist the City Manager. Mayor Gurulé recommended that a Bachelor’s degree be required for the position. It was moved and seconded by Councilmember Mullins and Councilmember Barron to approve the change to the City Clerk job description. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13.5 Job Description-Public Works General Worker – Public Works Director, Rick Long requested a new job description be approved by the Council. The new job description was for a general worker in Public Works, not specific to Streets, Refuse, Parks. It was motioned and seconded by Councilmember Martinez and Councilmember Roberts to approve the Public Works General Worker job description. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13.6 Job Description-Museum Curator – Councilmember Mullins discussed the Museum Curator job description. Mayor Gurulé suggested that a change be made so that the Museum Curator reports to the City Manager and not the Museum Board. It was motioned and seconded by Councilmembers Mullins and Mosby to approve the Museum Curator job description with the suggested change. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13.7 Authorization to do Business from Otero County Clerk – Mayor Gurulé discussed the Authorization to do Business. This is an annual authorization required by Otero County to allow the City Manager to do business on behalf of the City of Rocky Ford. It was motioned and approved by Councilmembers Roberts and McMurray to approve the Authorization letter to the Otero County Clerk. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13.8 IGA Otero County Clerk – Coordinated Elections & Designated Election Official – Mayor Gurulé discussed the IGA with the Otero County Clerk. This IGA designated the City Clerk as the Designated Election Official for the City of Rocky Ford. The City Attorney recommended that wording on Page 2, Paragraph 2, be changed to “the City Clerk, rather than specifying Stacey Milenski” as the Designated Election Official. This suggestion was made because Stacey Milenski is serving as the Interim City Clerk while seeking to hire someone for this position. It was motioned and seconded by Councilmembers Roberts and Martinez to approve the IGA with the Otero County Clerk regarding the Coordinated Elections and Designated Election Official. Voting results were:

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

NO: None

Motion carried: 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

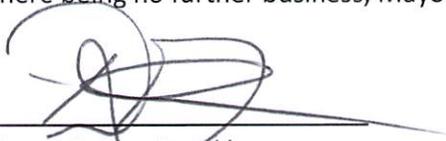
UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – 2 pm to 4 pm - City Council Work Session

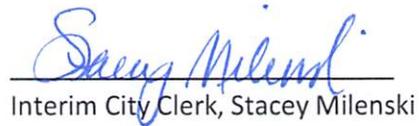
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 6 pm – Regular City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm



Mayor Duane Gurulé



Interim City Clerk, Stacey Milenski

