



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova, Nicole Roberts and Thomas Mullins met for a work session for discussion regarding §7.3.20 of the City of Rocky Ford’s Municipal Code and for discussion regarding an improvement plan for City streets and sidewalks. Councilmembers will each prepare a list of their preferences regarding streets and sidewalks, then additional discussion will be held later.

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz and Public Works Director Rick Long

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 9, 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 City Manager Stacey Milenski, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Human Resource Director Shelly Valdez, Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz and Museum Curator Rob Marshall

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Susan Jung, Sarah Dillon, Patrice McGowen and Johnnie Fuller

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Sherry Cordova read aloud the City of Rocky Ford's Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

J.R. Thompson reported that approximately 75 people attended the Academy Winds free concert held at the Grand Theater.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Mayor Gurulé requested that the regular agenda be included in the motion. Councilmember Herrera moved to amend his original motion to approve the consent agenda, to also include the approval of the regular agenda as presented. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. 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 previous meeting minutes for March 26, 2024
2. Application for Special Event Permit – **B.P.O.E. #1147 Elks Club – 301 N. 9th Street, Rocky Ford for Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. – Fireman’s Ball**
3. Application for Renewal of Retail Marijuana License – **Rocky Ford Ventures, LLC dba Rocky Farms, 1709 Swink Avenue, Rocky Ford** Approval of Council meeting minutes for March 12, 2024

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski had previously submitted her report with the Council packet by email. Milenski asked if any Councilmember had any questions regarding her report. Councilmember Herrera had a few questions regarding the emergency preparedness plan. Mayor Gurulé informed Herrera that the wording for the topic was confusing and that the plan mentioned in Milenski's report was for snow preparedness, not emergency preparedness.

Human Resource Director Shelly Valdez gave Council an update of the Human Resource Department.

Museum Curator Rob Marshall informed Council that he will be requesting that Council appoint Brian Leikam to the Museum Board.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sarah Dillon – Tri-County Family Care Center

Sarah Dillon informed Council that they are busy getting ready for their 18th Annual Cruisin' into Fun Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Railroad Park, Main Street and between City Hall and Railroad Park. Dillon informed Council of the planned events. Dillon asked Council to waive park permit fees and vendor fees and Dillon also asked Council's permission to close the following streets: Railroad tracks to Maple, Front Street to Walnut and 9th Street and Front Street to 10th Street. Dillon reported that she had already spoken with Fire Chief Ray Gonzales and Chief of Police Sean McDonagh and both have given their permission. Councilmember Herrera moved to waive vendor and park permit fees and to the closure of the requested streets.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Museum Curator Rob Marshall – New Museum Board Appointment

Rob Marshall had requested that Brian Leikam be appointed to the Museum Board. Councilmember Mullins made a motion to appoint Brian Leikam to the Museum Board. 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

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Arkansas Valley Fair Board

Discussion was held at the work session on March 26, 2024 with members of the Arkansas Valley Fair Board Members and a few revisions were made. It was moved by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to approve the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Arkansas Valley Fair Board. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Discussion – Municipal Code §7-2-170 – Refuse, Waste and Junk and §7-2-210 – Dangerous Structures

This matter has been discussed several times and reviewed by many. Much discussion was held. Mayor Gurulé asked that this matter be tabled to allow time for discussion with City Attorney Nathan Shultz. It was moved by Councilmember Herrera and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to table this matter to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. No further action was taken on this matter. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Bid for Concrete Repair at Swim Pool

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski reported that concrete repairs are needed at the swim pool. Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz put out an ad for bids and the bid from Elegant Concrete, LLC was the only bid received. Much discussion was held. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and accept the bid from Elegant Concrete, LLC in the amount \$13,950.00 for Option 1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - *For a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b); Regarding Internal Investigation*

City Attorney Nathan Shultz has been ill and is unable to attend tonight's meeting. Shultz has requested that this matter be continued to the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera reported that the Rocky Ford Country Club (golf course) will have a meeting next Monday.

Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron reported that he is helping the Small Town Project with the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta planned for Saturday, May 4th at the Ark Valley Fairgrounds. A free movie will be shown, at the Grand Theater, for children (admission for the first 50 children will be paid for by Small Town Project).
- Barron gave a "shout out" to Councilmember Sherry Cordova and family. Cordova's daughter was inducted into the Colorado Golden Gloves Hall of Fame.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that a weather spotting class was held and was well attended.
- A solar eclipse viewing was held at Crystal Lake.
- The Tree Board held an impromptu meeting to package seeds. The Coffea Shop and Small Town Project have seed libraries. Seeds are free to anyone. The seed swap and plant sale will be held on May 11, 2024. The Tree Board has been looking into getting some trash totes for the downtown area.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova reported that the library summer reading program will start in June. Each week will feature a different program or event.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber of Commerce held their Easter Brunch, which was a great success.
- Chamber Board will meet next week.
- The Chamber will take part in the upcoming Cruisin' into Fun Festival with a wake-up breakfast.
- Chamber Annual Duck Race will be July 4th.

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported that the Museum Board met and voted to request that City Council appoint Brian Leikam to the Board.
- Rachael Storm Ph.D., Curator visited on March 13th and gave the Board some suggestions to improve the museum.
- Night at the Museum will be held on April 24th with Rachael Storm. Storm will present "History Colorado Rocky Ford"

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that he and Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski attended a government grants program hosted by the Community Resource Center. A topic of interest was the process to apply for government and state grants.
- The Otero County Landfill will be accepting the disposal waste of the Return to Nature Funeral Home in Penrose, CO. The waste that will be accepted is building materials and this process will be overseen by the EPA.
- The Rocky Ford Cemetery is up for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State review will be held on Wednesday and the National review will be held on May 17th.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 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 8:32 p.m.

Mayor Duane Gurulé



City Clerk Rebecca Korinek

