



CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 14, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

At tonight’s work session, Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Larry Herrera, Robert Barron, Nicholas Martinez, Nicole Roberts, Thomas Mullins and Public Works Director Rick Long gathered to discuss and create an improvement plan for the City of Rocky Ford sidewalks and streets. The review of proposed ordinance #979 to reduce grease, oil, fat and sand in the sanitary sewer system of the City of Rocky Ford was also scheduled to be discussed at the work session, but due to time constraints, this discussion will be held later on tonight’s Council agenda.

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson and Gary Reed

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 14, 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, Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz and Finance Director Kyle Crosswhite

Others present (in person): J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Shelly Bauer, George Hanzas and Alan Frantz

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Robert Barron read aloud the City of Rocky Ford’s Mission Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the first public comment session Shelly Bauer, 705 N. 8th Street, informed Council that she purchased her home in 2022 and has been renovating her home since that time. Bauer reported that she had been planning a roof replacement for many months but the roof beams were rotted and needed to be replaced first. Bauer did have Mr. DeLong helping her to re-roof.

Bauer reported that Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz stopped by and informed Bauer that she needed a City permit to continue working on the roof. Bauer completed the form, turned it in with the fee and later reviewed the City ordinance. Bauer requested that Council review ordinance #961, adopted and approved on 7/27/2021. The ordinance reflects that a homeowner does not need a permit to re-roof, but does not make it clear what the definition of “re-roof” means. Much discussion was held between Councilmembers. Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski and Public Works Director Rick Long will be looking into the matter and will report to Council.

ANY CHANGES TO, OR REMOVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – ANY CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the regular agenda and the consent agenda as presented. The 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 previous meeting minutes for April 23, 2024

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski had previously submitted her report by email but added the following: Milenski gave Council additional information, regarding asbestos, at 701 Sycamore. Milenski has been trying to get a quote for removal of the asbestos. Milenski spoke to three CDPHE contractors from Pueblo, CO. The State of Colorado requires two bids. Milenski gave a recap of her written report.

Finance Director Kyle Crosswhite gave Council information regarding the year-to-date budget and an update of the utility and financial department.

OLD BUSINESS

George Hanzas, Secretary and Alan Frantz, President – Update on Pisgah Reservoir & Ditch Company Shares Owned by the City of Rocky Ford

Hanzas and Frantz showed Council a presentation regarding new information regarding the sale or non-sale of Pisgah shares. After the presentation, much discussion was held. This matter will be put on an agenda in June.

Update from Stacy Ayala – 4-H Summer Project

There was no word received from Ayala and no one appeared at tonight's meeting. No further action was taken.

Further Discussion – Proposals for Search Firm for City Manager Candidate

Much discussion was held by Council. Councilmember Roberts made a motion to not accept any of the proposals made by search firms. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

After the vote, there was more discussion regarding how to move forward with recruitment, job description and hiring.

Councilmember Martinez moved to appoint Interim City Manager Stacey Milenski as City Manager, pending contract negotiations and acceptance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 4-3

Veregy Energy Savings Company

It was the general consensus of Council to take no further action on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #979 – *An Ordinance for the Reduction of Grease, Oil, Fat and Sand in the Sanitary Sewer System of the City of Rocky Ford, Colorado, on second reading*

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and adopt ordinance #979, on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Appointments to the Arts Commission Board

Councilmember Roberts made a motion to appoint Laura Thompson (Dec. 2025), Chris Sandoval (Dec. 2025), Mary Mora (Dec. 2026 and Michelle Grasmick (Dec. 2026) to the Rocky Ford Arts Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barron. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Reed expressed his opinion and concerns to Council regarding the Pisgah water shares that were discussed earlier tonight.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

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

Councilmember Barron reported the following:

- Barron reported that he attended an Arts Commission meeting on May 9th. Discussion was held on appointing board members, fees for theater snacks and advertising.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Martinez reported that the Hope for the Valley event will be held from May 30th – June 1st 7:00 p.m. each night.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova reported that the library will have an event.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts reported that the Chamber of Commerce is very busy this time of year and many events planned.

Councilmember Mullins reported the following:

- Mullins reported on upcoming events at the Museum.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé reported that the museum is looking for Rocky Ford yearbooks.
- Reported on the recent clean-up days.
- Business and Roundtable meeting.
- Will attend Clean Valley and Chamber Open House.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 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 10.11 p.m.



Mayor Duane Gurulé



Attest

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek