

CITY OF ROCKY FORD – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 23, 2024

WORK SESSION: 6:00 p.m.

City Attorney Nathan Shultz, Police Captain Carol Coates, Code Enforcement Officer Natasha Ortiz, Police Chief Sean McDonagh, Mayor Duane Gurulé, Councilmembers Nicole Roberts, Nicholas Martinez, Larry Herrera and Sherry Cordova met for a work session to discuss the following: Possible changes to the city fee schedule, discussion regarding BNSF, the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Rocky Ford and the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce and a proposal from Rodney Fouracre seeking appointment as the Rocky Ford Municipal Judge.

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Robert Barron, Patrice McGowen and Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Rocky Ford City Council met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. Mayor Gurulé called the meeting to order. Those present at roll call were:

Mayor: Duane Gurulé

Councilmembers: Larry Herrera, Nicholas Martinez, Sherry Cordova and Nicole Roberts

Staff: City Attorney Nathan Shultz, City Clerk Rebecca Korinek, Police Chief Sean McDonagh, Police Captain Carol Coates, Code Enforcement/Reserve Police Officer Natasha Ortiz and Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz

Others present: J. R. Thompson, Gary Reed, Patrice McGowen, Robert Barron, Cris Menz, Jennifer Olguin and Thomas Mullins

Mayor Gurulé led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Barron, 1104 Virginia, gave thanks to the Public Works Department for their hard work on the water main break and emergency responses during the freezing period.

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé requested that Council add, under new business, 12.4 Appointment of Rodney Fouracre as Interim Municipal Court Judge for the Municipal Court docket scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gurulé explained the agenda and consent agenda to all. Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the requested addition, under new business, 12.4 Appointment of Rodney Fouracre as Interim Municipal Court Judge. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Consent Item(s) approved:

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes for January 9, 2024

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shannon Wallace had previously submitted her report by email. City Manager Wallace has been sick and was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Milenski submitted a written report giving information regarding the Cemetery.

Library Director Leanna Chavez did not submit a report for tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

International City Manager Association (ICMA) Class – City Manager Shannon Wallace

City Manager Wallace had given Council some information, at the last regular meeting, regarding the ICMA high performance leadership academy. This is a virtual, self-paced, twelve-week course that started on January 8th, at the cost of \$1,995.00. Councilmember Martinez moved to authorize City Manager Shannon Wallace to enroll in the ICMA course. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Update on E.D. Building

City Attorney Nathan Shultz informed Council that he had sent some samples of Requests for Proposal (RFP's) to City Manager Wallace just about the time that she was getting sick. This matter will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for follow-up.

Water Infrastructure Prioritization Plan

Public Works Director Rick Long had given Council information on this matter at the last regular Council meeting on January 9, 2024 and Long had requested that Council consider and possibly approve on tonight's agenda. Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz reminded Council that, with their approval, it would allow the Water Department to have help in locating and prioritizing areas of need and to help with finding the funding for whatever needs to be done. This will be the planning phase to preparing a master plan. Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and authorize the water infrastructure prioritization plan from Advanced Engineering 2S (AE2S), not to exceed \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Martinez. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

City Council Ward III Vacancies – Discussion/Questions with Applicants

Mayor Gurulé informed the interested applicants that each would be called to the podium to introduce themselves and to give Council some information about themselves. Each applicant will be asked, the same, three (3) questions. Council will then have discussion, if needed, and will proceed to the making of any motions and perform voting. The three (3) questions that were asked of each applicant were:

1. Do you think you have any personal or professional relationships that could become a conflict of interest while serving as a Councilmember?
2. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a Councilmember?
3. Based on what you know about City government, what do you see as top priorities for the City and why?

Councilmember Cordova moved to appoint Robert Barron to one of the vacant seats in Ward III. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 5-0

Councilmember Martinez moved to appoint Thomas Mullins to one of the vacant seats in Ward III. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts. Voting results were:

YES	Martinez, Herrera, Roberts
NO	Cordova and Gurulé
ABSENT	None

Motion carried 3-2

Oath of Office - Two (2) selected

City Clerk Rebecca Korinek gave the oath of office to Thomas Mullins and Robert Barron. Both took their seats on the dais.

City Attorney Nathan Shultz informed Council that he will be requesting Council to schedule a one-hour (power point) training, with new Councilmembers. Shultz informed Council that he is usually available on Friday afternoons. Colorado Municipal League (CML) also sends packets for officials as they begin their role as a municipal councilmember. City Clerk Rebecca Korinek will give some packets to Mayor Gurulé for his one-on-one meetings.

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Barron moved to appoint Councilmember Nicole Roberts as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mullins. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 6-0, with one abstention

Councilmember Roberts thanked fellow Councilmembers and told all that “she is good with it”.

Appointment of Councilmembers to City Committees

Council reviewed the current City Committee list to determine boards/committees that have vacancies. The City of Rocky Ford Mayor is, usually, routinely appointed to the Rocky Ford Planning Commission and to the Rural Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighters Pension Board. Mayor Gurulé volunteered to remain on the OCLI/OPI board as an alternate, but asked that Council appoint replacements for the Arts Commission and the Swim Pool Commission. The Museum Board will also need a replacement. Councilmember Roberts asked Councilmember Herrera if he would switch with her and take the Pension Board and, in return, Roberts would like to go to the Planning Commission. Herrera agreed to switch to the Pension Board. Herrera also volunteered for the Swim Pool Commission. Councilmember Barron volunteered to be on the Arts Commission and Councilmember Mullins volunteered to be on the Museum Board. Councilmember Roberts made a motion that Council appoint the following: Councilmember Herrera be appointed to the Swim Pool Commission, Pension Board and Country Club Golf Course Board, Councilmember Barron to be appointed to the Arts Commission, Councilmember Martinez to be appointed to the Tree Board, Councilmember Cordova to be appointed to the Library Board, Mayor Pro Tem Roberts to be appointed to the Planning Commission and Chamber of Commerce Board, Councilmember Mullins to be appointed to the Museum Board and Mayor Gurulé to be appointed to the Planning Commission, Pension Board and as an alternate for the OCLI/OPI Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herrera. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

Appointment of Rodney Fouracre - Interim Municipal Court Judge

Upon the recommendation of City Attorney Nathan Shultz, and having previously reviewed the proposal of Rodney Fouracre for Rocky Ford Municipal Judge, Councilmember Roberts moved to accept the proposal and appoint Rodney Fouracre as Interim Municipal Court Judge and to add Fouracre’s contract to the agenda for Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cordova. Voting results were:

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

Motion carried 7-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

J. R. Thompson, speaking on behalf of the Arts Commission, personally invited everyone to a free band performance, by Academy Winds (a sub-division of the Air Force Academy Band), at the Grand Theater on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Works Foreman Cuco Ruiz gave Council a written and oral report of the current activities of the Public Works Department.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Herrera reported the following:

- Herrera had nothing to report for tonight's meeting for the Country Club or the Planning Commission.
- Herrera will be reporting on the new committees that he will serve on.
- Herrera will be on vacation for a week or two.

Councilmember Barron:

- Gave thanks to everyone and is looking forward to working towards making the community better.

Councilmember Martinez reported the following:

- Nothing to report for tonight's meeting. The Tree Board will have a meeting sometime before Mother's Day.
- Martinez gave thanks to all City workers during the freezing weather.

Councilmember Cordova reported the following:

- Cordova had nothing to report for tonight's meeting. Cordova will attend the next Library Board meeting.

Councilmember Roberts reported the following:

- Roberts attended the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. Roberts reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rocky Ford has been submitted to Council for their review. The Chamber is looking for new board members and invited citizens to reach out if interested.

Councilmember Mullins:

- Mullins gave thanks to everyone for their confidence in him and commented that he is very excited and will do his absolute best.

Mayor Gurulé reported the following:

- Gurulé attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for 10-41 Apparel. A good representation of people attended and it was great to welcome a new business to Rocky Ford.
- Gurulé attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) virtual legislative preview. New Bills, Home Rule Cities/Towns, new laws and land use were discussed.
- The City of Rocky Ford will be hosting a business round-table on Friday, February 9th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
- The City of Rocky Ford will be hosting, on February 12th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., a non-profit round-table.
- Gurulé thanked City staff for hosting an animal shelter, a warming shelter and rides during the freeze.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

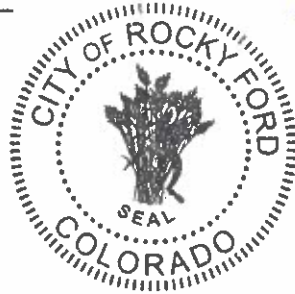
- Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for Work session and 7:00 p.m. for Regular Council meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Gurulé adjourned the regular meeting at 8:13 p.m.



Mayor Duane Gurulé





City Clerk Rebecca Korinek Attest