



RIFLE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 2024
7:00 p.m.
202 Railroad Avenue, Rifle, CO

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Rifle City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Sean Strode.

Present at Roll Call:

Councilor Joe Carpenter, Clint Hostettler, Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, and Mayor Sean Strode.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to excuse Councilor Alicia Gresley from tonight's meeting; seconded by Councilor Karen Roberts.

Roll Call: Yes - Chris Bornholdt, Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Clint Hostettler, Karen Roberts, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Others Present:

City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez, City Attorney Jim Neu, Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew, Procurement & Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano, Community TV/Multimedia Manager Michael Churchill, Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding, Main Street Manager Kim Burner, Planning Director Zach Higgins, Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan, and Police Chief Debra Funston.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. Consider Minutes of the December 4, 2024 Regular Meeting
- B. Consider Approving City of Rifle Employee Handbook - 2024 Version
- C. Consider Cancellation of January 1, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve Consent Agenda Item A, B, and C; seconded by Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Clint Hostettler, Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Chris Bornholdt, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Request to Waive City of Rifle Fees for Habitat for Humanity Modular Factory
Chief Operating Officer of Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Sheryl Bower presented a request to consider waiving City of Rifle fees for Habitat for Humanity Modular Factory. Habitat for Humanity has proposed to construct a 60,000 square foot factory to construct modular housing units on City of Rifle property located on the UMTRA mill tailing site, within the Energy Innovation Center and adjacent to the City of Rifle Wastewater Facility. With this construction and new business, 64 jobs will be created, promoting economic growth for the community. Funds that are saved on fees will be reinvested into the project and the mission of amplifying the public benefit and maximizing impact for the residents of Rifle. Impact and Building Fees are accounted for on the revenue side of the budget and have historically been difficult to budget. Historically Council has waived fees on a case by case basis depending on the application. Staff recommends that Council waive: Building Permit Fees, Offsite Street Impact Fees, Water Rights Dedication Fees, Water System Improvement Fees, and Sewer System Improvement Fees.

Chief Operating Officer of Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Sheryl Bower and City Manager Patrick Waller answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve fee waivers as identified in City Staff's memo for the amount of \$14,712.63; seconded by Councilor Michael Clancy.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Chris Bornholdt, Clint Hostettler, Michael Clancy, Joe Carpenter, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Consider Approval of 2025 Premiums for City of Rifle Workers' Compensation Insurance

Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan presented a request to consider approval of the 2025 Premiums for City of Rifle Workers' Compensation Insurance. This cost was included in the 2025 Budget. City of Rifle is required to carry Workers Compensation insurance. Annual rates are determined by the Division of Insurance and Pinnacol Assurance. The initial annual premium amount was \$196,583.00, however City of Rifle received several discounts, which brings the total annual premium down to \$152,204.00.

Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan answered questions for Council.

Councilor Chris Bornholdt moved to approve the 2025 premiums for City of Rifle Workers' Compensation Insurance through Pinnacol Assurance in the amount of \$152,204.00; seconded by Councilor Clint Hostettler.

Roll Call: Yes - Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Chris Bornholdt, Karen Roberts, Clint Hostettler, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Consider Approval of 2025 Premiums for City of Rifle Employee Health Insurance

Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan presented a request to consider the approval of the 2025 Premiums for City of Rifle Employee Health Insurance. County Health Pool provides a long-term stable option for public entities to provide benefits to their employees. The loss ratio for City of Rifle for 2022 and 2023 was 136%, which is used to determine the rate increase for 2025. The rate increase that City of Rifle received for 2025 is 9%. Staff recommends remaining with County Health Pool until the City of Rifle loss ration decreases.

Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve the 2025 premiums for City of Rifle Employee Health Insurance with County Health Pool in the amount of \$1,947,543.00; seconded by Councilor Joe Carpenter.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Clint Hostettler, Chris Bornholdt, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Consider Awarding Bid to Martinez Western Constructors for the Construction Services for Park Avenue Extension Project

Procurement and Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano and Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding presented a request to consider awarding bid to Martinez Western Construction, Inc. for the Construction Services for the Park Avenue Extension Project. This project was included in the 2025 Budget. This project includes the installation of the road and water for the Rifle Apartments that are being constructed, which will be approximately 250 feet of waterline, 1,060 square yards of asphalt paving, 3,926 square feet of concrete for the road, and 7,600 square feet of concrete for a trail. Two bids were received for this project: one from Johnson Construction, Inc. and one from Martinez Western Constructors, Inc. Staff recommends awarding bid to Martinez Western Constructors, Inc., who provided the lowest qualified bid.

Procurement and Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano and Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding answered questions for Council.

Councilor Michael Clancy moved to award bid to Martinez Western Constructors, Inc. for the Construction Services associated with the Park Avenue Extension Project in the amount not to exceed \$820,844.45; seconded by Councilor Karen Roberts.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Chris Bornholdt, Joe Carpenter, Clint Hostettler, Michael Clancy, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Consider Approval for an Additional Police Officer Position for the Rifle Police Department

Police Chief Debra Funston presented a request to consider approval for an additional police officer position for the Rifle Police Department. Rifle Police Department has been short-staffed for several years. The cost for hiring a police candidate is a minimum of \$107,400.00. City of Rifle has had this position budgeted in the past but was never close to being fully staffed to take advantage of an additional position. Within the past couple of years, the Police Department has gotten close to being fully staffed. While this position is not currently in the budget, a supplement may not be required based on the vacancy savings that are available in the Police Budget. An over-hire position provides a safety net in the event that the Police Department loses an officer. If staffing remains full, the additional position will allow for growth in Rifle Police Department staff to support the growing community. This position would also allow for options for assignment into the schools or detective division.

Police Chief Debra Funston and Human Resources Director Danielle Hogan answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve the hiring of an additional police officer for the Rifle Police Department; seconded by Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

Roll Call: Yes - Chris Bornholdt, Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Clint Hostettler, Karen Roberts, and Sean Strode.

No – None.

Report to City Manager

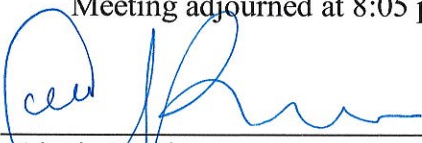
Reports were heard from City Manager Patrick Waller and City Attorney Jim Neu.

Comments from Mayor and Council

Comments were heard from Councilor Karen Roberts, Michael Clancy, Clint Hostettler, Chris Bornholdt, Joe Carpenter, and Sean Strode

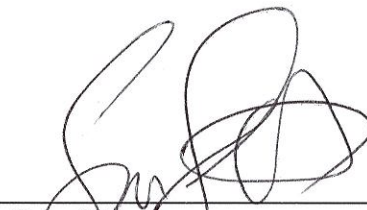
Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Alexis Ramirez
City Clerk





Sean Strode
Mayor