



RIFLE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 7, 2025
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, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Clint Hostettler, and Mayor Sean Strode.

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, Public Works Director Brian Prunty, Systems Administrator Brenda Maes, Police Chief Debra Funston, Police Executive Assistant Angela Mills, Board President of Rifle Community Foundation Kasey Nispel, Rhonda Bell, Records & Evidence Manager Shelby Beitzel, Lieutenant Mike Kuper, Officer Dawson Hamilton, Officer Jose Valadez, Sergeant Nick Flaten, Code Enforcement Officer Alan Lambert, Code Enforcement Officer Dawn Neely, Detective Sergeant Dewey Ryan, Officer Mason Burris, and Officer Wyatt Bornholdt.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard from Rhonda Bell.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. Consider Minutes of the April 16, 2025 Regular Meeting
- B. Consider Conveyance of Cemetery Space
- C. Consider Proclamation Recognizing National Police Week
- D. Consider Appointments to the Senior Center Advisory Board
- E. Consider the 2025 Intergovernmental Agreement for Mosquito Control with Garfield County

Councilor Alicia Gresley moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, and E; seconded by Councilor Michael Clancy.

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

No – None.

PRESENTATION

Proclamation Recognizing National Police Week

Police Chief Debra Funston provided an explanation and proclamation regarding the recognition of National Police Week. The 63rd Anniversary of National Police Week is recognized May 11th through May 17th, 2025. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community. City of Rifle recognize the men and women of Rifle Police Department and their dedication to protecting the lives, property, and rights of Rifle's residents.

Badge Pinning of Officer Dawson Hamilton

Chief of Police Debra Funston introduced Officer Dawson Hamilton to Council, who has completed the required training to become a POST Certified Police Officer with the Rifle Police Department.

The wife of Officer Dawson Hamilton, Kayla Hamilton, pinned Officer Dawson Hamilton's badge.

Officer Dawson Hamilton's family was present.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Purchase Order for Rifle Community Foundation

Board President of Rifle Community Foundation Kasey Nispel and City Manager Patrick Waller presented a request to consider the purchase order for Rifle Community Foundation in the amount of \$76,000. The Rifle Community Foundation is a nonprofit and a Board of Directors makes decisions on which applicants receive funding. The mission of the organization is to, "enhance the lives of the people of the Colorado River Valley from South Canyon to De Beque Canyon by providing an avenue for donors to invest in legacy projects and worthy activities benefiting area citizens." Councilor Roberts is the City of Rifle representative on the Board of Directors. The Rifle Community Foundation is funded by the City of Rifle and disperses grants to local non-profits. This expense was included in the 2025 budget. Staff recommends approval of the purchase order for Rifle Community Foundation.

Board President of Rifle Community Foundation Kasey Nispel and City Manager Patrick Waller answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve the purchase request for the Rifle Community Foundation in the amount of \$76,000; seconded by Councilor Alicia Gresley.

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

No – None.

Consider Habitat for Humanity Bond Issuance - Emergency Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2025

City Attorney Jim Neu presented a request to consider the Habitat for Humanity Bond Issuance – Emergency Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2025. Habitat for Humanity has proposed to construct a 65,000 square foot factory to construct modular housing units on City of Rifle property located on the UMTRA mill tailing site. Habitat for Humanity has gone through the development process, which includes: Habitat and the City of Rifle approving a lease agreement to allow the facility to operate on the property, Habitat for Humanity receiving Planning Commission approval of a Conditional Use Permit to operate the facility on the site, and Habitat for Humanity receiving a building permit from the City of Rifle. City Council previously approved the conduit bond financing at the January 15, 2025 meeting. Market conditions and recent fluctuations are requiring a revised ordinance to be passed for the conduit bond issuance. The only notable change in the new Ordinance is the parameters of the interest rate. Bond Counsel has reviewed the offering and indicated that there will be no financial impact to the city. If the bond moves forward, there will be relatively minimal reporting required from the Finance department. Staff recommends moving forward with the approval of the bond issuance.

Former Habitat for Humanity Chief Executive Officer Gail Schwartz and Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Bower introduced the new Chief Executive Officer Darla Calloway. Former Habitat for Humanity CEO Gail Schwartz provided an update of current operations and projects.

City Attorney Jim Neu answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve emergency Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2025 on its first ad only reading as presented, and order it to be published as required by Charter; seconded by Councilor Alicia Gresley.

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

No – None.

Consider Approval of Xcel Energy Easement Request on Lift Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant Parcels

Public Works Director Brian Prunty presented a request to consider the approval of the Xcel Energy Easement Request on Lift Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant parcels. On April 2, 2025, Council approved the Xcel Energy permanent easement request for the eastern parcel of this project located SE of Grand River Hospital. The current request is for locations that are part of the same transmission line project. This item is the second part of the project to rebuild and

Rifle City Council Meeting May 7, 2025

upgrade the Xcel Energy transmission line. This project involves granting permanent access easements to the property where the Wastewater Treatment Plant is located, and then temporary construction and de-watering easements for the current transmission line corridor. Additionally, there is a request for temporary construction easements and access on the south Rifle lift station property. The project includes two separate pull pockets for constructing major angle point poles. For consideration of these easements, Xcel Energy will compensate the City of Rifle to the amount of \$36,115.00. Staff recommends approving the requested Xcel Energy easements.

Public Works Director Brian Prunty answered questions for Council.

Councilor Alicia Gresley moved to approve Xcel Energy's request for construction and access easements to upgrade the 115kv line on the City of Rifle's Lift Station and Wastewater Plant parcels; seconded by Councilor Clint Hostettler.

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

No - None.

Consider Approving the Street Light Installation Contract by Xcel Energy for the Park Avenue Extension

Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding presented a request to consider approving the Street Light Installation Contract by Xcel Energy for the Park Avenue Extension Project. This project has received funding from the Department of Local Affairs, covering 80% of the total project costs to install all of the utilities, roadway, and bridge associated with the Park Avenue Extension. This contract will allow for the installation of the necessary lighting, as well as the conduit and pull box for a future signal at Park Avenue if warranted. This expense is included in the project budget and is a reasonable expense based on previous bids and contracts with Xcel. Staff recommends approving the Street Light Installation Contract.

Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding answered questions for Council.

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve the Lighting Installation Contract for Xcel Energy for the Park Avenue Extension; seconded by Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

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

No - None.

Consider Purchase of Robotic Field Painter for Parks Department

Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew and Procurement & Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano presented a request to consider the purchase of a Pro X Robotic Field Painter from TinyMobileRobots for \$43,600. This robotic system will significantly improve the efficiency of field maintenance, reduce reliance on manual labor, and ensure higher quality and consistency in sports field marking. Currently, 14-18 sports fields in Rifle are used weekly for baseball, softball, and soccer, hosting approximately 200 games annually. The Robotic Field Painter will autonomously mark field lines, ensuring precision and uniformity while reducing the time and labor required for maintenance. The unit will be integrated into the existing Parks and Recreation Department operations, streamlining field preparation and contributing to long-term cost savings. This aligns with the City's goal of improving public recreational infrastructure while optimizing operational efficiency. In 2024, there were over 2,008 field reservations across 10 sports fields. The Robotic Field Painter will be used daily to support baseball, softball, flag football, and soccer while also maintaining outdoor basketball courts, tennis and pickleball courts, parking lots, and even painting logos on grass and pavement. A Request for Bid was put out for two weeks, and three bids were received. After review, TinyMobileRobots is the best fit for the needs for the Parks Department. Their price includes the Robot, installation, and a 5-year subscription for a total of \$49,600, with a discounted total of \$43,600. Staff recommends approval of the purchase of the Pro X Robotic Field Painter from TinyMobileRobots. Although the anticipated grant funding was not secured, \$33,000 was included in the 2025 Budget for this item; the price difference can be covered with cost savings from vehicle purchases and other equipment.

Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew and Procurement & Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano answered questions for Council.

Councilor Michael Clancy moved to approve the purchase of the Pro X Robotic Field Painter from TinyMobileRobots for \$43,600.00; seconded by Councilor Joe Carpenter.

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

No – None.

Report to City Manager

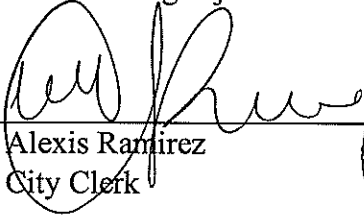
Reports were heard from City Manager Patrick Waller, Civil Engineer Craig Spaulding, Main Street Manager Kim Burner, and Police Chief Debra Funston.

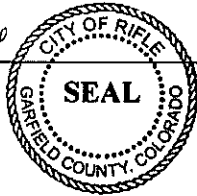
Comments from Mayor and Council

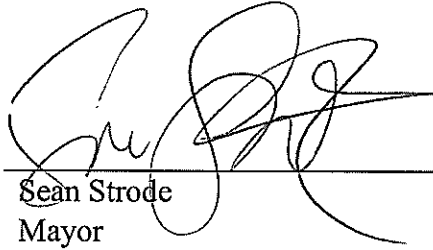
Comments were heard from Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Joe Carpenter, and Mayor Sean Strobe.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.


Alexis Ramirez
City Clerk




Sean Strobe
Mayor