



RIFLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 15, 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 Alicia Gresley, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Clint Hostettler, Councilor Karen Roberts and Mayor Sean Strode.

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

Roll Call: Yes - Alicia Gresley, Karen Roberts, Clint Hostettler, Michael Clancy and Mayor Sean Strode.

No – Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

Others Present:

City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez, City Attorney Jim Neu, Video Production Specialist Brandon Steele, Community Development Director Zach Higgins, Parks and Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew, Senior Center & Ute Director Tami Sours, Detective Sergeant Dewey Ryan, Western Colorado Alliance Representatives Kimberly Leitzinger, Deb Grizzle, Alex Garcia, Parachute Town Manager Travis Elliot, Parachute Community & Economic Development Director Vinnie Tomasulo, Rifle Area Mountain Biking Organization Vice President Ari Phillipson, Energy Development Partner Representative Dan Roberts, Jonathan Rice, Rick Steffen, Joan Campbell, Missy Anderson, and Grand River Health Occupational Therapist Christina Senechal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were heard from Rifle Area Mountain Biking Organization (RAMBO) Vice President Ari Phillipson and Energy Development Partner Representative Dan Roberts.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. Consider Letter of Support for BLM Grant Application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Good Management Grant for Off Highway Vehicle Crew
- B. Consider Amending Appendix A to the Rifle Municipal Code Enacting a Refuse Collection Fee for Contaminated Recycling Bins - Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2025 - 2nd Reading

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

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

No – None.

PRESENTATION

Western Colorado Alliance - Transit Survey Presentation

Western Colorado Alliance Representative Kimberly Leitzinger, Deb Grizzle and Alex Garcia, presented the results of a public survey held for a period of 12 months on transportation challenges in Western Garfield County. Western Colorado Alliance of Garfield County is a non-profit organization that focuses on helping and representing residents in decision-making initiatives. They provide support to organize campaigns, provide leadership training, and create a support system in the region that benefits the community.

The transportation survey highlighted the dissatisfaction and lack of reliable bus routes between local communities, which has made commuting and travel difficult for seniors and workers. The organization identified key needs such as better access to medical services, grocery stores, restaurants, libraries, schools, community events and workplaces to name a few between Parachute and New Castle. Over one-third of riders requested more stops routes and frequent trips. Residents also highlighted the lack of bus stop shelters and emphasized the need for improved services to Glenwood Springs.

Representatives expressed that while funding is one of the biggest challenges at this point, survey results also indicated that 73% of Rifle residents and 81% of Silt residents are in support of a 0.5% sales tax increase to improve bus services.

Western Colorado Alliance Representatives answered questions for Council.

Public comments were heard from Missy Anderson, and Grand River Health Occupational Therapist Christina Senechal.

Comments were heard from Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Clint Hostettler, Councilor Michael Clancy and Mayor Sean Strode.

Parachute Area Transit System- Update and Funding Presentation

Parachute Town Manager Travis Elliott and Community & Economic Director Vinnie Tamasulo presented the annual update for the Parachute Area Transit System (PATS). In 2024, PATS provided 6,673 rides across Parachute, Rifle and nearby areas, with a 2025 projection of 6,000 rides, including steady ridership demand. A newly formed PATS Advisory Board is exploring ways to expand transit options, including a pilot program “Downtownner” offering flexible, on demand rides during off-peak times. This initiative aims to enhance service within Rifle, maintain current routes and meet growing regional transportation needs. With the growing demand and benefit to the community, PATS was very fortunate to receive a CDOT FASTER Grant, that will fund 80% of the cost for two new transit vehicles, expected to arrive in Spring 2026. They have also submitted a CTSE-SB24-230 Grant application request to expand services through a potential partnership between the pilot program “Downtownner” and PATS, letters of support were provided by Garfield County Board of Commissioners and the City of Rifle.

Parachute Town Manager Travis Elliott provided Council with a summary of the 2025 budget and the preliminary 2026 shortfall estimates. Parachute Town Manager Travis Elliot and Community & Economic Development Director Vinnie Tamasulo will return to present PATS 2026 funding request with significant increase; Council will then have a discussion for budget purposes as the City of Rifle provides annual financial support.

Parachute Town Manager Travis Elliot and Community & Economic Development Director Vinnie Tamasulo answered questions for Council.

Comments were heard from City Manager Patrick Waller, Councilor Clint Hostettler, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Michael Clancy, and Mayor Sean Strode.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider the 7-Party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Garfield County – Older Adult Program for 2026

Senior Center & Ute Director Tami Sours presented the 2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Garfield County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) and the City of Rifle. The purpose of this agreement is to collaboratively administer and fund countywide meals and transportation services for the Garfield County Older Adult Program during the 2026 calendar year. The 2026 MOU reflects an increase of 8.6% for a total increase of \$25,615.51 from 2025. Senior congregate meals increased by \$18,386.00, with Rifle meal counts going from 5,545 in 2025 to 7,189 for 2026. Transportation costs show an increase of \$7,230.33 from 2025 with ridership going from 4,409 in 2025 to 5,140 in 2026. Figures were based on the usage period from July 2024 through June 2025.

An amendment to Appendix A of the Rifle Municipal Code allows the City to pass this fee on to the responsible customer. Customers are encouraged to request a bigger or second garbage container if needed or contact Mountain Waste & Recycling with any questions. Staff recommends approval of Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2025.

Utilities Director Jared Emmert answered questions for Council.

Councilor Karen Roberts moved to approve Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2025 on first reading as presented, and order it to be published as required by charter.; seconded by Councilor Alicia Gresley.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Joe Carpenter, Michael Clancy, Alicia Gresley, Chris Bornholdt and Sean Strode.
No – None.

Report to City Manager

Report was heard from Patrick Waller.

Comments from Mayor and Council

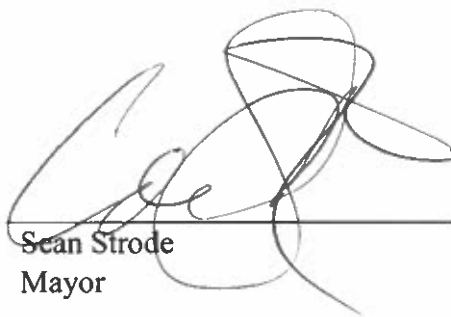
Comments were heard from Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, Councilor Joe Carpenter and Mayor Sean Strode.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Alexis Ramirez
City Clerk



Sean Strode
Mayor

