



RIFLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 1, 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 Joe Carpenter, Councilor Karen Roberts and Mayor Sean Strode.

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

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

No – None.

Others Present:

City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez, City Attorney Jim Neu, Cable 10 Manager Michael Churchill, Human Resource Director Danielle Hogan, Community Development Director Zach Higgins, Utilities Director Jared Emmert, Finance Director Scott Rust, Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew, Chief of Police Debra Funston, Evidence Technician Lyndsey Bogden, Rifle Police Officers – Wyatt Bornholdt, Nick Flatten, Colby Dunn, Jose Valadez, Josh Allison, Kallie McCain, Dawson Hamilton, Mason Burris, Haley Walker, David Winters; Aaron Cumming, Jonathan Rice, Scott Marsh, Garfield Clean Energy (CLEER) Associate Director Morgan Hill and Data and Energy Analyst Christina Matzl.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. Consider Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Regular Meeting
- B. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Rifle Bar, LLC dba Rifle Bar
- C. Consider Modification of Premises for Kum & Go, LC dba Maverik #5031
- D. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Lilly's Kitchen Corporation dba Lilly's Kitchen
- E. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Rolling Fork Grill, LLC dba Brickhouse Pizzeria
- F. Consider Letter of Support for Middle Colorado Watershed Council's Forest Restoration and Wildfire Mitigation Grant Application

Councilor Chris Bornholdt moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E and F; seconded by Councilor Joe Carpenter.

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

No – None.

PRESENTATION

Swearing In of Officer David Winters

Chief of Police Debra Funston expressed the importance of a pinning ceremony. Officer David Winters completed his training and started on his own effective September 26, 2025.

City Clerk Alexis Ramirez administered the Oath of Office on June 30, 2025.

Badge Pinning was done by Fiancé Hannah.

Garfield Clean Energy Annual Update

Garfield Clean Energy (CLEER) Associate Director Morgan Hill and Data and Energy Analyst Christina Matzl provided Council an annual update. Garfield Clean Energy focuses on providing energy efficiency for residential, commercial and public buildings, locally produced renewable energy, clean transportation and economic development and diversification throughout Garfield County. Morgan Hill highlighted a few of the programs that are available and have benefited Rifle residents and the community to date including residential and commercial energy coaching, Re-Energized energy efficiency programs and provided data information on the progress path of improving clean transportation with e-vehicles and e-bikes. Christina Matzl provided summary on the Advance Energy Management (AEM) program that focuses on government buildings and data on locally produced renewable energy.

Morgan Hill emphasized the importance of the continued collaboration and partnership with City of Rifle for the upcoming year as Garfield County moves toward cutting funds. Projections for 2026 include energy management programs to detect energy issues on a quicker basis, new construction incentives with energy rebates, continue seeking opportunities to install EV-charging stations around the City and continue to provide resources to support a bike friendly community that is also part of the Energy and Resilience Action plan.

Comments were heard from Councilor Alicia Gresley and Mayor Sean Strode.

Presentation of the 2026 Proposed Budget

Finance Director Scott Rust and City Manager Patrick Waller presented the 2026 proposed budget for City of Rifle. Municipal budgets act as a policy document, it indicates what services the City will provide the following year and spells out the level of services and reasons for their provisions, as an operations guide, the budget indicates how departments and funds are organized to provide services to the community, as a financial plan, it summarizes the cost to the taxpayers for current and approved service levels and how they will be funded; as a communications tool, the budget is designed to be user-friendly with summary information in text, charts, tables and graphs.

The 2026 proposed budget presented has been discussed at several workshop meetings. The proposed budget total appropriations for 2026 are \$59,694,884. The 2026 Budget presented expenditures by priority – Organizational Excellence being employer by choice and Core Services encompassing updated capital planning, infrastructure improvements, parks & recreation, public space beautification, and additional public amenities. City Manager Patrick Waller described City of Rifle’s mission statement, vision statement, and the organization’s strategic priorities. Also included in the 2026 budget is the implementation of cost-of-living wage increases, and step increases for staff. The proposed 2026 Budget Public Hearing is set to be presented and considered for approval at the City Council meeting on November 19th, 2025. Printed copies of the proposed 2026 budget are available for review by the public through the City of Rifle website or by contacting City Manager or City Clerk.

Finance Director Scott Rust and City Manager Patrick Waller answered questions for Council.

Comments were heard from City Attorney Jim Neu, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Chris Bornholdt and Mayor Sean Strode.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Amending Appendix A of the Rifle Municipal Code Enacting a Refuse Collection Fee for Contaminated Recycling Bins - Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2025 - 1st Reading

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO, AMENDING APPENDIX A TO THE RIFLE MUNICIPAL CODE ENACTING A REFUSE COLLECTION FEE FOR CONTAMINATED RECYCLING BINS

Utilities Director Jared Emmert presented request to consider amending Appendix A of the Rifle Municipal Code to enact a refuse collection fee for contaminated recycling bins – Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2025. Rifle utility customers are increasingly contaminating recycling bins with prohibited items, leading to rejected collections. To address this issue, Mountain Waste and Recycling will charge the City a \$12 fee per rejected bin and occurrence to cover extra handling time and discourage misuse.

The Traveler Program will have a few changes to improve access and efficiency for seniors. The first change that has already been implemented a few months ago, is for those seniors who still hold a driver's license or own a car may now use the Traveler. Upcoming changes for 2026, embrace all individuals aged 70 and older will automatically qualify without an application or assessment and the required ride request notice will be reduced from 48 hours to 24 hours. These changes aim to make the service more accessible, increase ridership, and reduce costs by encouraging shared trips and better bus utilization.

Senior Center & Ute Director Tami Sours answered questions for Council.

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

Councilor Clint Hostettler moved to approve the 7- Party Memorandum (MOU) of Garfield County – Older Adult Program for 2026; second by Councilor Karen Roberts.

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

No – None

Report to City Manager

Reports were heard from City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez, City Attorney Jim Neu, and Community Development Director Zach Higgins.

Comments from Mayor and Council

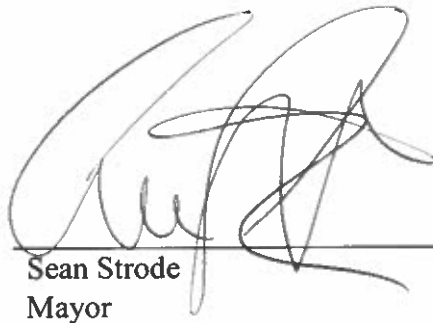
Comments were heard from Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, and Mayor Sean Strode

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.


Alexis Ramirez
City Clerk




Sean Strode
Mayor

