



RIFLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 4, 2026

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 Clint Hostettler.

Present at Roll Call:

Councilor Scott Marsh, Councilor Chris Bornholdt, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Jonathan Rice, Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Alicia Gresley and Mayor Clint Hostettler.

Roll Call: Yes – Michael Clancy, Chris Bornholdt, Alicia Gresley, Scott Marsh, Clint Hostettler, Jonathan Rice, and Karen Roberts.

No – None.

Others Present:

City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez, Assistant City Attorney Wilton Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew, Chief of Police Debra Funston, Lieutenant Mike Kuper, Community Development Director Zach Higgins, Procurement & Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano, Garfield County Library Executive Director Jaimie LaRue, Highwater Farm Executive Director Becca Roberts, Middle Colorado Watershed Council Director Kate Collins, Post Independent Reporter Katherine Tomanek, Brenda Cox and Deb Grissel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were heard from Garfield County Library Executive Director Jaimie LaRue and Deb Grissel.

CONSENT AGENDA – CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. Consider Minutes of the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting
- B. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Kum & Go, LC dba Maverik 5031
- C. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Jalisco Grill, LLC dba Jalisco Grill
- D. Consider Liquor License Renewal for Thai Chili Bistro, Inc dba Thai Chili Bistro
- E. Consider Approval of Purchase Order for Parachute Area Transit System for 2026
- F. Consider Approval of Bookcliff Arts Council GRIT Grant Request in the Amount of \$4,800
- G. Consider Approval of the New Ute Theater Society GRIT Grant Request in the Amount of \$3,800
- H. Consider Approval of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council GRIT Grant Request in the Amount of \$3,000
- I. Consider Approval of the Garfield County Public Library, Rifle Branch, GRIT Grant Request in the Amount of \$3,000
- J. Consider Amending Article 3 of Chapter 16 of the Rifle Municipal Code to Amend Building Height Standards - Ordinance No. 3, Series of 2026 (2nd Reading)
- K. Consider Amending Article 3 of Chapter 16 of the Rifle Municipal Code to Amend Lot Size Standards - Ordinance No. 4, Series of 2026 (2nd Reading)
- L. Consider Amending Article 3 of Chapter 16 of the Rifle Municipal Code to Amend Landscaping Standards - Ordinance No. 5, Series of 2026 (2nd Reading)
- M. Consider the 2026 Intergovernmental Agreement and Purchase Order Request for Mosquito Control with Garfield County
- N. Consider Letter of Support for Garfield County's Road 215 Reconstruction Project - CDS Application

Councilor Alicia Gresley moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N; seconded by Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

Roll Call: Yes - Karen Roberts, Scott Marsh, Jonathan Rice, Alicia Gresley, Michael Clancy, Chris Bornholdt and Clint Hostettler.

No – None.

PRESENTATION

Highwater Farms

Executive Director Becca Roberts provided presentation on Highwater Farm. Highwater Farm is a non-profit, diversified vegetable farm established in 2020 that operates on a five-acre lease in the Silt River Preserve. The farm focuses on three core tenets: growing food, empowering youth, and fueling community. They produce about 35,000 pounds of diversified produce annually, distributing it through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program serving approximately 120 families and currently have a partnership with Lift Up's Food Pantry Program. Highwater Farm has a youth job training program for teens between the ages of 14-17 years old, where they can learn life and agricultural skills. Over 50% of the teens involved in this program, have been participating since 2021, many from Rifle. Highwater Farm also fosters community gatherings through on-farm events such as movie nights, community lunches, fall brunches, and farm-to-table dinners. They rely on donations and volunteers to support their mission.

Comments were heard from Councilor Jonathan Rice.

Executive Director Highwater Farm Rebecca Roberts answered questions for Council.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew presented a request to consider the appointment of Marisa Skajewski as an alternate member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Three applications were received – Tyler Davis, Lydia LaBelle de Rios and Marisa Skajewski. All applicants were interviewed and determined to be qualified. The PRAB board recommends Council's approval in appointing Marisa Skajewski, to fill in the vacant alternate seat on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Comments were heard from Councilor Michael Clancy and Mayor Clint Hostettler.

Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew answered questions for Council.

Councilor Michael Clancy moved to appoint Marisa Skajewski to fill the vacant alternate position on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; seconded by Councilor Chris Bornholdt.

Roll Call: Yes – Scott Marsh, Karen Roberts, Alicia Gresley, Chris Bornholdt, Michael Clancy, Jonathan Rice and Clint Hostettler.

No – None.

Consider Middle Colorado Watershed Council Request for Letters of Support

Letter of Support - Climate Smart Communities Initiatives Grant Application for Improvements to Rifle Creek in Deerfield Park

Middle Colorado Watershed Council Director Kate Collins presented a request to consider a letter of support for the Climate Smart Communities Initiative grant application. The Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) is a nonprofit organization focused on improving the quality and quantity of water in the Colorado River watershed while also supporting regional wildfire mitigation and watershed resilience. The MCWC council works collaboratively with local governments, nonprofits, and community partners to implement restoration, education, and watershed protection projects. Recent efforts include river restoration and watershed improvement initiatives in partnership with the City of Rifle. Engineering and design work is underway for restoration at Centennial Park, while the Deerfield Park project seeks \$112,000 in grant funding through the Climate Smart Communities Initiative. Additional projects include the Grand Tunnel Ditch flume replacement, sediment control improvements on Government Creek, and broader watershed resilience work along Rifle Creek from Rifle Gap to the Colorado River.

Comments were heard from Councilor Michael Clancy and Councilor Alicia Gresley.

Middle Colorado Watershed Council Director Kate Collins answered questions for Council.

Councilor Alicia Gresley moved to approve the Letter of Support for Middle Colorado Council's Climate Smart Communities Initiatives grant; seconded by Councilor Karen Roberts.

Roll Call: Yes – Chris Bornholdt, Jonathan Rice, Alicia Gresley, Michael Clancy, Karen Roberts, Scott Marsh and Clint Hostettler.

No – None.

Letter of Support - Colorado Healthy Rivers Grant Application for Sediment Control on Government Creek

Middle Colorado Watershed Council Director Kate Collins presented a request to consider letter of support for the Colorado Healthy Rivers grant application for sediment control on government creek. The Government Creek Sediment Control Project focuses on reducing sediment entering Rifle Creek by implementing upstream improvements. The project includes installing heavy-duty sediment traps, conducting channel assessments, and developing restoration strategies to slow sediment flow and improve watershed health. Funding includes a \$10,000 grant from the Sonoran Institute, a pending \$20,000 Colorado Healthy Rivers grant, and potential additional support through Colorado River Collaborative flex funding.

Comments were heard from Councilor Michael Clancy and Councilor Alicia Gresley.

Middle Colorado Watershed Council Director Kate Collins answered questions for Council.

Councilor Alicia Gresley moved to approve the Letter of Support for Colorado Healthy Rivers; seconded by Councilor Scott Marsh.

Roll Call: Yes – Jonathan Rice, Karen Roberts, Scott Marsh, Michael Clancy, Chris Bornholdt Alicia Gresley and Clint Hostettler

No – None.

Consider Purchase of Two 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Patrol Vehicles

Chief of Police Debra Funston and Procurement & Grant Reporting Manager Iris Trevisano presented request to consider the purchase of two 2025 Ford Police Interceptor utility patrol vehicles from Phil Long Ford of Denver. The vehicles are included in the City’s 2026 fiscal year budget for police fleet replacement. The purchase price for the two vehicles is \$104,000, with the total project cost estimated at \$180,000 once required equipment upfits are completed.

Councilor Scott Marsh moved to approve the purchase of two 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility patrol vehicles from Phil Long Ford Denver in the amount of \$104,000.00; seconded by Councilor Jonathan Rice.

Roll Call: Yes – Chris Bornholdt, Karen Roberts, Michael Clancy, Alicia Gresley, Scott Marsh Jonathan Rice and Clint Hostettler.

No – None.

Report to City Manager

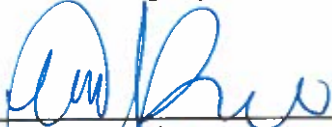
Reports were heard from City Manager Patrick Waller, City Clerk Alexis Ramirez and Chief of Police Debra Funston.

Comments from Mayor and Council

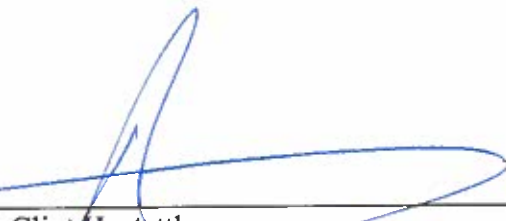
Comments were heard from Councilor Jonathan Rice, Councilor Karen Roberts, Councilor Alicia Gresley, Councilor Michael Clancy, Councilor Scott Marsh, and Mayor Clint Hostettler.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


Alexis Ramirez
City Clerk




Clint Hostettler
Mayor

