

ROCKY RIDGE
BUDGET WORK SESSION
May 21, 2025
6:00 PM
TOWN HALL

DRAFT

Opening:

Presiding: Mayor Ronald Allred

Present from the Town Council: Ronald Allred, Andrew Aagard, and Chuck Todd.

Excused from the Town Council: Lucy Gold and Joanna Covington.

Present from the Town Staff: Marilyn Allred, Rachel Bronson, Terry Allred, Benjamin Allred, Casey Reynolds, and Neva Ray.

Invocation was given.

Meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

Budget Work Session for 2024-2025 Budget:

Amendments to the 2024-2025 Budget and Preliminary Budget Hearing 2025-2026

Planning & Zoning 2024-2025

Increase in revenue from building permits, rising from an anticipated \$13,000 to \$33,247, largely due to a major project by Precision Welding. Despite increased revenue, council members noted that higher-than-expected expenditures, particularly for building inspections, necessitated adjustments, with inspection wages projected to reach \$14,000 instead of the budgeted \$10,000. Other revisions included paying for a missed subscription billing for "zip flow," which resulted in a \$2,000 allocation.

EMS Budget

Revised to include new benefit expenses following a mid-year staffing change, along with plans to fully utilize the \$3,000 emergency supply allocation by the end of June. Overall, the session focused on explaining budget changes and planning for a final amendment hearing before the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

The budgeted figure was originally \$30,000, but has now been revised to \$32,896, despite the actual being only \$18,275. This increase is partly due to new utility expenses, specifically the waiving of EMS volunteer fees and water charges, which began mid-year and were not included in the original budget.

Sanitation

Sanitation costs increased by \$2,726, largely due to certain dumpsters being undercharged. Garbage collection fees have been reviewed. Accurate tracking and invoicing are in place; the town is meeting its obligations. Request to move church garbage responsibility to the church.

Park Budget

Recreation and Parks is retaining a \$31,000 revision, which includes a plan to purchase metal picnic tables before the end of the fiscal year using existing budgeted funds. This move addresses worn and splintering wooden tables and aligns with a broader goal of replacing all park pavilions

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with metal furnishings. Benjamin, the park contact, originally requested a much higher amount, but a portion of the current year's funds will be repurposed to offset next year's request. In the cemetery budget, although only \$5,000 has been spent, the full \$8,000 was retained due to plans to purchase block materials for a sidewalk and retaining wall project that should be completed by fiscal year-end. The transfer to the new debt service fund was unbudgeted initially but revised to \$52,317 to include both a principal payment on the town hall and an added reserve buildup. These figures are reflected in the debt service section and provide clarity on the total annual town hall payment of \$44,450, split between principal and interest. Lastly, the sports courts and road reserves show the movement of funds in and out during the year. The sports courts reserve had \$200,000 spent on park improvements, then received \$111,295 in new donations. The road reserve originally had \$47,811 pulled out but received a \$50,000 reinfusion, leaving current balances of \$111,295 for sports courts and \$50,000 for roads.

Parks and recreation, capital projects

There was clarification about using \$10,000 allocated for South restrooms before the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and not carrying that amount over to next year's budget. It was noted that the baseball field irrigation system funds should be zeroed out in the revised budget since the project won't be completed this year. A conversation followed about whether irrigation expenses for water usage should be budgeted elsewhere, since it involves payments to a landowner rather than capital improvements. On the water fund, there was unexpected miscellaneous income from a reimbursement for electricity use, and a decrease in budgeted salaries and wages due to postponed well house repairs. The moratorium on new water connections led to less income and unused inventory, though parts were already purchased. It was also mentioned that Casey has accrued significant comp time due to unusual work demands and plans are in place to either compensate or allow him to use the hours. Finally, a negative operating income was explained by depreciation of assets, which is not an actual cash expense but reflects system aging. The group emphasized staying within departmental budgets to avoid compliance issues.

Road Budget:

Highways and Public Improvements section, the revised budget is \$5,000 more than the original, but actual spending is still about \$130,000 under budget. An asphalt project estimated at around \$75,000 is scheduled soon and will be divided among different line items, partially funded by a \$60,000 donation.

Around \$2,000 is allocated to shop supplies, and Terry is currently seeking bids for a new water tank for a water truck needed for road work. He initially expected the tank to cost \$9,000, but bids are closer to \$15,000. Despite this increase, he is willing to stay within the \$21,000 total budget by postponing a \$10,000 item for air tools. Last year Terry spent \$9,000 of a \$22,000 budget due to delays in obtaining bids, and funds do not roll over. Some efficiency was gained because no major road project occurred. He budgeted \$15,000 for equipment repairs and maintenance, and \$2,000 for services. Will purchase road grader tires at about \$1,000 each. Fuel costs were overestimated last year at \$15,000. \$6,000 was used, with one more tank anticipated. Fuel adjusted to \$8,000 for next year. Regarding BNC road funds, which must be used on road surface improvements, about \$75,000 is expected and will remain dedicated to road

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base and asphalt repairs. Two Class B Road construction projects are planned: straightening Church Lane with new curb and gutter, and elevating a trailer court road after the final trailer is removed—both estimated at \$45,000. Additionally, he plans to pave Mountain Ridge to connect roads now that utility crossings are completed.

The total road budget request is \$214,000, significantly lower than last year's \$385,000, which included wages, benefits, and \$110,000 in donated funds. He confirmed this amount should be sufficient. For the mailbox budget, Terry discussed adding new mailboxes for the phase development, which currently lacks mail service. A pad and a lean-to roof will be installed near the rock monument, with one more box to be ordered and asphalt patched for accessibility.

EMS Budget

The total is \$34,852, including \$31,852 for standard EMS operations and an additional \$3,000 for emergency supplies for community and CERT events. A new line item also accounts for waiving EMS personnel's base water rates, which required adding a small budgeted amount to balance the books.

Sports and Recreation Budget

At the town meeting, the council discussed revenue generated from youth sports activities such as dodgeball, flag football, volleyball, and soccer held at the park, noting that while these events bring in income, they also significantly increase maintenance costs. The rise in park usage has led to greater expenses for items like fertilizer, restroom supplies, and general upkeep. Fertilization, for example, has increased from four to seven times per year, with costs nearly tripling to around \$3,500 annually. The added strain on restrooms has also boosted labor and supply needs. In response, council members proposed that the recreation department—benefiting from park use and holding surplus funds—should help cover these additional expenses. Suggestions included contributing a flat amount, such as \$10,000, or basing contributions on actual costs to ensure fairness. There was general support for reallocating some of the department's carryover funds to the park budget, but the council ultimately agreed to continue tracking precise expenses, including staff time and equipment wear, before making a final decision..

Library Budget

The library recently received a new computer, allowing it to operate more effectively.

Cemetery Budget

The budget request was reduced from \$8,000 to \$7,000.

Park Budget

A substantial request of \$194,000 was made for park improvements, including \$75,000 for building structures, \$50,000 for the baseball field, and \$15,000 for landscaping. However, after accounting for some purchases already made, this was adjusted down to \$174,000. There was discussion about potentially reducing costs further by having town employee Benjamin take on excavation work.

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Last year's park budget was \$73,500, with \$50,000 in cuts, particularly to the ball field. The parks department also considered starting with a \$3,500 contribution from local sports programs for fertilizer costs, acknowledging wear and tear on fields. Officials emphasized open dialogue and gradual contributions from sports groups, encouraging them to factor maintenance costs into their own budgets without being overly burdensome. Concerns were raised about past offers from these groups to manage park maintenance, which often fell short due to lack of expertise. The consensus was that park upkeep should remain in-house under the supervision of the park superintendent, with support from the mayor and town council.

Planning and Zoning

Proposed implementing Civic Review software at a cost of around \$9,000, pending comparison with another vendor.

The council also discussed the significant jump in total revenue—from the original \$731,976 to a revised \$1,284,303—noted to be heavily influenced by a \$498,000 adjustment related to a retracted state grant. This amount was categorized under miscellaneous expenses and offset through an appropriated fund balance, which raised concerns among some members. Additionally, some budget items were moved to a newly required debt service fund, such as \$33,000 in reserve payments for the town hall.

Admin

Financially, the town is facing a projected deficit of \$329,000 for the upcoming fiscal year, with only \$25,000 left in reserves if current budget requests are approved. To maintain a buffer similar to last year's \$125,000, departments were asked to cut \$100,000 from their budgets. Suggestions included postponing the baseball field again and trimming the library's budget—though there was resistance to cutting reading programs.

New town clerk pay structure proposed. Start at \$14.00 hr, proposed 6% COLA raise to \$14.84. December she will be on her own. Should raise .50 taking on full responsibility. Increase \$1.50 raise when she gets her Utah Certified Clerk designation. This takes a year or two to get. A \$2.50 raise when she gets her CMC designation with a maximum \$20.00 per hour. Marilyn recommends in July her wage increases to \$18.00 an hour. There will not be a large number of hours. Recommend Rachel changes to \$17.00 per hour beginning July 1st. When Rachel receives her Treasurer's certificate she would move to \$18.00 per hour.

The meeting concluded at 7:36 with recognition that hard decisions would need to be made to balance the budget.

Adjournment:

Council Member Ron Allred moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Neva Ray

Approved by Town Clerk