

ROCKY RIDGE
PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN MEETING
September 17, 2025
7:30 PM
TOWN HALL

DRAFT

Opening:

Presiding: Mayor Ronald Allred

Present from the Town Council: Ronald Allred, Joanna Covington, Lucy Gold, Chuck Todd, and Andrew Aagard.

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

Others Present: Emma Allred, Rory Allred, Marvin Allred, Shay Morrison, Katie Allred, Tim Allred, Byron Allred.

Invocation was given.

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Changes to August minutes. Council Member Andrew Aagard motioned to approve August minutes and Council Member Lucy Gold seconded the motion; all others voted in favor.

New Business:

1. Shay Morrison stated that grant funding is currently available for metering both municipal and private secondary water systems. The secondary water is owned by the land owner. Council members agreed that metering the park and cemetery would be beneficial, and information on applications will be gathered and shared. Updates followed on upcoming grant opportunities, including the Technical Planning Assistance (TPA) grant for roads and land use planning, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which can fund recreation and infrastructure projects such as parks, sidewalks, and fields. The council also learned about proposed state water fees, effective July 1, 2026, which will assess municipalities based on annual water use. Though smaller towns will face lower costs, members were advised to plan for budgeting. Discussion also touched on impact fees, noting the town does not currently have them, and that new reporting requirements apply if they are adopted in the future.

Shay Morrison also introduced a personnel policy draft; council members will work in smaller groups to determine which portions apply to the town before revisiting it at a future meeting.

Under EMS and CERT updates, members noted there were not enough sign-ups for Teen CERT training this year, but an emergency preparedness drill is scheduled for October 25 at 9 a.m. with participation requested from EMS, security, and fire. The location of a siren is still being determined, and Chuck was asked to coordinate with the fire department.

Financial Statement: August monthly expenditures submitted for review.

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Departments:

1. **EMS/CERT:** Neva Ray noted there were not enough sign-ups for Teen CERT training this year, but an emergency preparedness drill is scheduled for October 25 at 9 a.m. with participation requested from EMS, security, and fire. The location of a siren is still being determined, and Chuck was asked to coordinate with the fire department.
2. **Water:** Casey Reynolds discussed the need to adopt updated APWA construction standards in order to remain compliant with the Division of Drinking Water, which will be scheduled for October along with a possible public hearing. The council also reviewed the town's annual water use disclosure, reporting 225,281 gallons used at town facilities from July 2024 to June 2025, at a write-off value of \$1,394.38. Most use was attributed to the Rocky Ridge Monument, which experienced leaks last year but has since had irrigation improvements and oversight assigned to reduce waste. The fire department's water use continues to be written off as it supports public benefit through firefighting.
3. **Road:** Terry Allred gave an update on the Rockwell project, where the sidewalk has been completed, with only a small section left to finish near the intersection. This area will be addressed soon to ensure children use the crosswalk onto the sidewalk rather than walking in the street. Discussion then turned to pedestrian safety after a recent close call at the main intersection involving school children. A solar-powered, radio-activated crosswalk light system has been ordered to improve safety, though it was not budgeted. The council discussed potential funding options, including community donations and reserves, as the project is expected to cost around \$8,000. Additional safety measures such as signage, community and school education, and possible flyers or door-to-door outreach were also considered to promote awareness and safe practices for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

Terry also stated that the school will use the town hall once a week for an hour during office hours.
4. **P & Z:** n/a
5. **Admin:** The mayor requested a bid for a sound system in the town hall. There have been several complains about not being able to hear the speakers in our town meetings.
6. **Park:** Benjamin stated that there are three signs ordered stating park hours and no motorized vehicles. There are sprinkler zones that go out frequently because of faulty wiring. Benjamin will request funding in next year's budget to run new sprinkler wire to get all of the zones fixed.
7. **Library:** n/a

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Citizen Items:

Rory Allred, a high school Sterling Scholar would like to propose a debate for any candidates running for any position on the town council. Rory has been on the speech and debate team for the last three years and is familiar with the rules and would like to moderate. Her plan is that each candidate will be given five minutes before the debate to talk to the community about their goals and what they see will happen in their turn. She would also plan to open up a part of the time for questions from the community. This experience would not only help her as a Sterling Scholar, but also get our community to be more involved.

Rory will schedule the event and refreshments and will work with Rachel and Neva to post the information on the town web site and the community texting group.

Adjournment:

Council Member Lucy Gold moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Andrew Aagard seconded the motion, all others voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Approved by Neva Ray

Town Clerk/Recorder