

ROCKY RIDGE
PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN MEETING
June 17, 2026
7:30 PM
TOWN HALL

DRAFT

Opening:

Presiding: Mayor Ronald Allred

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

Present from the Town Staff: Tanna Jenson, Neva Ray, and Casey Reynolds.

Others Present: Katie Allred, Marvin Allred, Alrah Todd, Alden Covington, Laurie Reynolds, and Preston Covington.

Invocation was given.

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

Approval of Minutes:

No Changes to May's minutes. Council Member Andrew Aagard motioned to approve May minutes and Council Member Joanna Covington seconded the motion; all others voted in favor.

New Business:

1. Spanish Fork Canyon Water Conservation Project - The Council received information regarding upcoming public meetings related to the Central Utah Project water conservation improvements in Spanish Fork Canyon. The project proposes replacing portions of open canal systems with buried pipelines to reduce water loss from evaporation and improve aging infrastructure.

Staff reported that public information meetings will be held on June 24, 2026, at Payson City Hall and June 25, 2026, at Juab High School in Nephi, both from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Notices had previously been distributed through community communication channels.

Council members discussed the importance of community representation at the meetings and expressed interest in attending to better understand potential impacts to local water users and water conservation efforts. Staff noted that project representatives have been actively conducting outreach and public engagement with affected communities.

Discussion also included concerns regarding proposals allowing a portion of conserved water to be retained within the project system as compensation for infrastructure improvements.

2. Consolidated Fee Schedule Review - The Council reviewed the consolidated fee schedule and discussed the need for a comprehensive evaluation of permit, inspection, licensing, and development-related fees.

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Questions were raised regarding current inspection fees and whether existing contractual agreements may affect future fee adjustments. Staff indicated additional research is needed regarding current contracts and expiration dates before recommendations can be made.

Council members discussed concerns that many permit and development fees are significantly lower than those charged by neighboring communities and may not adequately cover administrative and inspection costs as future development occurs.

The discussion also included animal control fees and dog licensing requirements. Staff noted that older ordinances appear to require dog licensing; however, enforcement has not occurred for many years. Council members questioned whether maintaining a dog licensing program remains practical or beneficial. Additional research will be conducted regarding the status of existing ordinances and licensing requirements.

Due to the absence of several department heads whose input is needed for fee recommendations, the Council agreed to table further discussion until a future meeting.

Unfinished Business:

1. General Zoning Regulations – Signature Needed on Approved Ordinance

Staff reported that signatures are still needed for recently approved zoning ordinance amendments. After reviewing prior ordinances, staff determined that Planning and Zoning Commission representatives had historically signed zoning amendments following Council approval.

The Council confirmed that the ordinance had already been approved and directed staff to conduct additional research regarding proper signature procedures before finalizing documentation.

2. WUI Code Posted to Town Website – Updated WUI Code has been posted to the town website on June 17th as requested by town council.

Departments:

1. **EMS/CERT:** Staff reported continued progress on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training efforts. Three community members have volunteered to participate in train-the-trainer certification courses, including Jenny Todd, Jenny Robinson, Jeffrey Bronson, and Benjamin Allred. Staff noted that statewide organizers are attempting to schedule an in-person training session later this year. Council members expressed appreciation for community volunteers willing to support emergency preparedness efforts.

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EMS staff reported that emergency services operations continue to function well but noted that medical supplies will require replenishment due to recent usage.

2. **Water:** Staff provided an update regarding a new statewide water funding program being developed to support future water infrastructure projects. The program would collect a small fee based on water usage from water systems throughout the state and place those funds into a centralized financing program for loans and water project assistance. The fee is not paid by the town but is covered through the Juab County program.

Staff explained that the proposal previously received significant opposition from water systems statewide, resulting in revisions and delays to implementation. Additional information will be provided as the program develops.

Well House Project

Staff reported that construction of the Well No. 3 well house project continues to progress successfully. Concrete wall pours were scheduled for the following day, and additional project billing documentation will be submitted as construction advances.

Drought Conditions and Water Conservation

The Council reviewed current statewide drought conditions and potential impacts on Rocky Ridge.

Staff discussed critically low water levels throughout the Colorado River Basin, including Lake Mead and Lake Powell, and concerns regarding long-term water supply and hydroelectric power generation. Discussion included evaporation losses, declining reservoir levels, and ongoing negotiations regarding Colorado River water allocations among western states.

Staff presented information regarding Utah's statewide drought emergency declaration issued on June 9, 2026. Key points included:

- Utah is experiencing its warmest winter on record.
- Snowpack levels are the lowest recorded since 1930.
- All counties within the state are experiencing drought conditions.
- Twenty-two counties are classified in extreme drought.
- Reservoir storage levels have declined significantly compared to the previous year.
- State agencies have activated drought response measures and conservation programs.

Staff noted that additional state-directed conservation requirements may be forthcoming and could require municipalities to implement additional water conservation measures.

Discussion also focused on local impacts. Staff reported that water flows from Wash Canyon are significantly below expected seasonal levels and that water availability will likely remain a major concern throughout the year.

Council members expressed concern regarding declining groundwater conditions and requested future reports tracking aquifer levels and well performance.

3. **Road:** No significant road-related updates were reported. Staff indicated that routine operations continue.
4. **P & Z:** No Planning and Zoning update was presented due to the absence of Planning and Zoning representatives.

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5. **Admin: Rocky Mountain Power Utility Review** - The Council reviewed utility expenditures and discussed concerns regarding unusually high electrical costs associated with town facilities and water infrastructure.

Staff reported that representatives from Rocky Mountain Power recently met with town staff and agreed to review utility billing classifications, rate schedules, and service accounts to determine whether cost savings opportunities exist.

Questions were raised regarding a utility account identified as "cell service equipment." Staff clarified that the account appears to be associated with water system infrastructure and communication equipment rather than cellular service. Further review will be conducted to verify account classifications, meter assignments, and applicable rate schedules.

Council members requested additional information identifying each utility meter, corresponding facility location, and associated billing schedule to assist with future utility cost evaluations.

6. **Park: Dinosaur Park Playground Repairs** - The Council reviewed a proposed budget request for repairs to the Dinosaur Park playground equipment.

Staff reported that portions of the dinosaur-themed structure have deteriorated significantly due to age, weather exposure, and repeated repairs. Replacement components are no longer manufactured, limiting available repair options.

Two potential approaches were discussed:

Continue repairing existing plastic components through welding and reinforcement methods.

Remove the deteriorated dinosaur structure and replace it with a stair assembly recommended by the playground equipment manufacturer.

The proposed replacement stair assembly would cost approximately \$3,620, while replacement custom-fabricated components and shipping costs would increase total project expenses to approximately \$8,620.

Council members discussed concerns regarding liability, long-term maintenance costs, playground safety, and the age of the existing equipment. Several members noted that the plastic components have become increasingly brittle after approximately twenty years of exposure and that continued repairs may only provide temporary solutions.

Additional discussion centered on playground usage by older youth and the possibility of installing age-limit signage at playground facilities to help reduce future damage.

No formal action was taken. Staff will continue evaluating repair options and budget implications prior to final budget adoption.

7. **Library:** No library update was presented.

Citizen Items:

Questions were raised regarding library reporting requirements and communication with library personnel. Staff indicated that the library has been temporarily closed and that communication has occurred regarding updates when available.

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Town Council Items:

Council members briefly discussed playground facilities and park maintenance concerns. No additional council comments were presented.

Adjournment:

Council Member Andrew Aagard moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Byron Allred seconded the motion, all others voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

S/Neva J. Ray _____
Approved by Town Clerk