

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Day
Browning
Day (by phone)
Lockwood
Madison
Sizemore
Smith

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Attorney
Police Chief
Comm. Dev./Planner
Public Works Supt.

Joy
Massey
Massih
Thompson
Thomson
Kilduff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present with the exception of Trustee Day by phone.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. It was noted that there was the addition of the Parks Update to the agenda. Trustee Browning made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of June 2, 2026, as submitted with changes to Trustee Lockwood's question during the liquor license hearing, specifying the parking lot use. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Trustee Madison asked about the process for the sales tax that was paid to the county. Town Clerk Massey responded that the town collects sales tax that belongs to the county and the town must pay that money to the county. A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated June 16, 2026. Second by Trustee Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

STAFF UPDATES

Public Works

Public Works Super Kilduff reported there were 14,857,088 gallons of water pumped in May. They ran an extra Ground Water Under Direct Influence sample for June and are waiting for the results. Kilduff stated there were power issues upriver and a breaker went bad. Friday Levi went to Denver for parts, he and Ducey's rebuilt the main internal breaker in the upriver pumphouse. Timberline started the installation of the final stages of the fluoride system; the pumphouse will be out of service for 2-3 days and JAK and

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Levi will be running the water system by hand. Kilduff reported that they investigated and fixed the Sage Hills park leak, worked on keeping Cricle park from flooding too badly and are currently hauling Sage Hills slash piles to the landfill.

Police

Chief Thompson reported there were 258 calls for service for the month of May with a total of 2 arrests; and 17 citations issued. Thompson said they attended some training and our K9 officer attended the K9 challenge in Steamboat, they won 7 different prizes including 2nd place for bite. He also stated in May the police department participated in the middle school career day and elementary safety day.

Community Development/Planning

Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson stated the update for May 15th through June 12th is included in the BOT packets. Thomson said she has accepted four new planning applications since our last meeting and will be holding a Planning Commission meeting on July 13th and three of those applications will be on the July 21st agenda for the Boards consideration.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Massey reported there were two other special event liquor licenses that were renewed for the Lion's Club for the annual 4th of July celebrations at the fairgrounds which included the usual indoor and outdoor arenas, grandstands and ballfield July 3rd-5th. Clerk Massey is scheduled to attend the Colorado Municipal Clerks Institute in Fort Collins for a week in the middle of July. She reported that we began budget conversations for 2027 and is working on scheduling meetings with departments over the next couple of months so that we can ensure we meet the required budget deadlines with the hopes of having board input and capital planning in August. September will be the annual meeting for board members to review the draft budget before we present the proposed budget in October.

Town Attorney

Attorney Massih reported she has been helping where needed. There will be no court in June or August and she continues helping with other stuff as needed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Day opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm. Town Clerk Massey stated the application is for a special event liquor license with the Lion's Club for the Meeker Poker Run to be held at the Fairgrounds, 700 Sulphur Creek Road. J.H. Sheridan from the Lion's Club is present standing in for Mark Rogers and the event manager is Mike Jackson. The licensed area is inside the 4-H building from 4:00 pm to 12:00 am, July 11th. Entrances and exits will be signed with "No alcohol beyond this point," IDs will be checked at the bar, and food will be available. Permission has been received from the county for use of the property, the public hearing was advertised, and the property posted. Police Chief Thompson has no objection to the license and staff recommends approval providing there is appropriate signage for the perimeter, entrances and exits along with Lion's Club members monitoring the licensed premises. Mayor day appreciates the Lion's Club.

At 7:12 pm. Mayor Day closed the hearing. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Browning. Seconded by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes and Trustee Madison abstained. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding Robert/Mimi Connector

Mayor Day stated there are two active applications on the topic of the Robert and Mimi Street Connector, the board will wait to discuss this matter so there are no conflicts and said the board is open to any public comment on the topic. Public comment from Lindsey Short stating she lives near Sanderson on Mimi Circle. Short believes there should be private and possibly public access, she is against denying access to landowners and believes it is a misuse of taxpayer money, there should be public access, or the landowners should have access to the road. She stated she will come in at a separate time to speak with Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson to get all the information regarding the emergency access road. Short

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stated she was not informed of the access road changes until construction happened. Thomson gave her the dates and times for the planning commission meetings for her to get more details as well. Mayor Day informed Short she would have the opportunity to speak more on the matter at a later meeting and apologized that she was not notified.

Parks Update

Administrator Joy stated the parks have been managed under the town for the last 2 weeks now. The parks were handed over in okay condition. Cameras should be installed by June 30th. Park conditions fit into three different areas; small issues such as broken soap dispensers and some small bathroom leaks. Moderate issues needing immediate attention included flooding at Circle Park, which required putting in a culvert so Smiths can access their field. Sprinklers were winterized but not ready for spring so some had to be fixed and parts purchased. ERBM knew about Sage Hills leak, but Town staff fixed it which took two days. Water is just now going onto Sanderson Park with the booster pump that cost us \$5,000 to repair. Circle Park will need a weir installed in the fall, and Betty Kracht is aware. Joy reported the most concerning is the letter from the ERBM with a statement regarding the district reserving rights to water existing at Circle Park. Attorney Massih said she spoke to Rob Pierce, a water attorney. This is not straight forward and should be discussed in executive session. Trustee Madison asked if the ERBM is claiming they have rights due to them leasing. Attorney Massih said the ERBM were co-applicants and the Town paid for water attorney Ed Olszewski to review the water application and the ERBM attorney took the lead. The board needs to be briefed on the discussion between attorneys.

Administrator Joy said JAK and Fallon started a list of projects to make the parks better and whether they are doable this year or in 2027. They are adjusting well and taking things on, as they come. Public Works Superintendent Jak said they are doing well for what they have. Margie said we are starting to see the magnitude of costs. Mayor Day said the water at the pond was extraordinary, Trustee Madison interjected that it was all irrigation water and no one's fault. Attorney Massih stated there is no response needed but it needs to be discussed as there may be options for the Town. Mayor Day read a letter regarding the condition of Sanderson Park that Trustee Madison received. Mayor Day stated the booster pump was an issue, but it was fixed today and Trustee Madison told the author of the letter that we did not have the parks until June 2, and he will call the person and update them on the water issue being fixed.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation about NWCDC and NCIC

Administrator Joy introduced Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson for her presentation and informed the board about the regional economic development organization. She also stated that the Chamber was invited to be involved as well. Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson presented, in small rural communities there are significant gaps in capacity, resources and talent to focus on economic development. By working through a regional model small communities are able make meaningful gains in developing our economic ecosystem. The regional organization can leverage resources, talent and opportunities, grow capacity through an "economy of scale" model, and fill gaps that local communities do not have the resources for. Finally, the regional model has great appeal to funders such as granting agencies and philanthropic organizations and relocating businesses.

In 2021 what is now the Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC) came together as an IGA to include the current geographical area to collaborate on regional economic development. At this time covid recovery and the scheduled sunset of the coal industry were the two top priorities. Due to our proximity and shared challenges surrounding coal transition the regional approach and connections were very clear. The group hired Certified Economic Developer, Christine Rambo with Upsize Marketing, to assist in future planning and consulting services. Thomson also noted that Rio Blanco County has since left the organization.

In 2022 the NWCDC began working on the Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap through a task force approach and broad community engagement. Through this process the NWCDC identified five pillars to

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address for the region; Economic diversification and transition, workforce development, housing access and affordability, childcare and transportation. Following the adoption of the Resiliency & Recovery Roadmap the NWCDC partnered with the National Association of Counties Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) to develop and Economic Diversification Action Plan. The NWCDC was given economic diversification strategies and initiative which included:

Infrastructure enhancement: develop regional broadband connectivity, enhance regional air services and enhance regional transportation. Targeted Industry Development: Expand meat processing and cold storage, develop and market value-added agriculture, prepare and market industrial sites, develop regional outdoor recreation assets, expand our development manufacturing and repurpose Craig Station assets. Housing Access & Affordability: Support regional housing projects, champion regional housing solutions, advocate for workforce housing. Workforce development: reskill coal workforce to other energy technologies, support construction trades training, support entrepreneurship and small businesses, identify future workforce skills needs. Renewable Energy: Support Xcel Hayden station conversion, support renewable energy project, support, reuse studies for Craig station and recruit and support renewable energy production. Coal Transition Capacity; establish NWCDC as a legal organization, expand capacity funding, advocate for proactive funding, and promote aligned partner led initiative. From the final strategy to increase coal transition capacity the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC) was born. A private public partnership and CNCC is part of it.

In 2024 a steering committee was launched that established the NCIC as a 501c3 non-profit, a board was seated, and bylaws were adopted. The board members include private and public sector representation from all three counties and have been charged with advancing the economic diversification strategies with the current focus on workforce development, business retention and expansion and entrepreneurship. The NCIC plans to utilize a Hub and Spoke model with the headquarters/Hub being located at the Craig Industrial Park, where we have begun planning of the facility. The Meeker spoke will utilize the Business Center here at Town Hall, where the same services can be delivered to our residents. To address Workforce development the NCIC is building relationships and working with community partners (existing businesses) and is working with Coal Transition Navigators and the Small Business development centers. As well the NCIC is developing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs by partnering with community colleges, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and existing employers to form workforce pathways to address regional industry demands. Our current focus is construction, manufacturing and business occupations; however, we have also recently identified Health Care as a likely next target industry. These programs will be available for high school students to adult workers and will not be limited to Coal transition workers.

The NCIC is also actively working on the small business development strategy which is multifaceted but includes business retention and expansion and entrepreneurship. This includes working closely with the Small Business Development Center to provide free or low-cost business counseling and educational opportunities for existing and startup businesses. As well the NCIC has developed and deployed our own revolving loan fund for existing and start-up businesses. This opportunity is restricted to our three-county region and offers low-interest microloans that can be used for various business expenses. Second or third microloan today. Since the origination of the NWCDC in 2021 and later the NCIC the Town of Meeker has seen a wide range of impact from the organizations. Through the Office of Just Transition over \$850,000 dollars in grant funds have been received. The NCIC received a donation of laptops from AT&T, of which nearly 40 of those were given to businesses and entrepreneurs in Meeker. We currently have at least 3 existing business or startups that potential applicants for the Northwest Catalyst Microloan and various others that have taken advantage of business support. Lastly the Town of Meeker has been able to take advantage of grant support in review of our applicants. That is what they are doing for economic development.

Administrator Joy said it is nice to have structure and capital coming back to our community and they will have new resources too. Trustee Lockwood requested an email of the presentation from Thomson.

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Trustee Browning asked who was hired, Thomson responded that one applicant pulled out and the other didn't work out, the other two applicants understand our area better and they will be closer. Thomson stated the week of 29th will be a meet and greet and interviews. Mayor Day asked if the Town can still participate even though the county is not, Thomson responded yes. Trustee Browning said apprenticeship is a great option, bringing skilled trades to the area. Wendy Gutierrez stated she would like Thomson to present this to the Chamber and asked about the meeting room use and if the Chamber will still have access, Thomson stated the Chamber will still have access. Thomson noted that the micro loans are huge for the community, they can be stacked and can be used to pay off other loans and are very low interest. The loans are more character-based lending not just on credit but how a business will help the community and the loan takes 6 to 8 weeks to process.

Chipping Day Proposal

Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson stated conversations over the last couple weeks with Vanessa Trout director of the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts, had informed the staff about a chipping program that the districts are implementing in their service area and consideration if the Town could be a partner for greater impact. The program that the districts developed with local business High Rise Tree Care, would allow property owners to perform wildfire mitigation to their property and easily dispose of the branches through free chipping. However, Town residents are not included in the districts service area. Staff proposes that the Town sponsors a chipping day to be held in conjunction with Districts program, where any property located within the Town of Meeker would be eligible to participate. Included in the Board memo are guidelines and restrictions that the Districts and High-Rise Tree Care have already put together and those would apply to Town properties as well. In speaking with High Rise Tree Care it was estimated that two days would be sufficient to complete the work in town, however it may be able to be completed in one day. Staff request is to allocate up to \$8000 from the Community Improvement line item of the General Fund Systems Development budget for up to two community chipping days.

Thomson also noted High Rise Tree Care can refuse any piles for any reason mainly due to the contents of the piles and their location and Public Works would do some streets clean up. Thomson verified the cost of \$4,000 a day with no piles on the street only on their property i.e. driveway. Mayor Day asked Public Works Super JAK if it would be street sweeper clean up and he said yes. Trustee Madison asked how people would know about the pre-registration, Thomson replied by social media, the newspaper and that the conservation district is also doing the registration. Administrator Joy said registration will help with knowing where to go for pickups and would give us an idea of what next year would look like. Trustee Sizemore suggested we could do another one in the fall for those that don't get picked up now. Sizemore motioned. Trustee Smith second. All ayes. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Joy gave an update on the water study stating staff gathered the last 10 years of water usage, our housing study, and a master plan for future usage, the draft report should be ready early July. Joy said July 22nd is being considered for the joint meeting between the Town Rangely, Meeker and Rio Blanco County at 6:30 pm. Joy reported the Cusi transition will be finalized this month, and customers saw a normal bill in May with a sticker notification that changes are coming in July for June's water bills. Jess the Water Clerk and Lisa Pakuer have been training on the new system and will train the rest of the staff for back-up. Joy said she will attend the AGNC meeting June 17, Comm. Dev/Planner Thomson will attend the JOLT meeting June 18th. July 16th is the Board Roles and Responsibilities workshop with DOLA. Joy stated that DOLA prefers to work directly with the town rather than other combined with other entities and she will verify the date with DOLA. The board packet has AGNC flyer for the annual economic summit, board members are welcome to attend and will need to RSVP. Comm. Dev/Planner ended with an announcement; Thursday the Flattops Trail Scenic Byway Committee is hosting an open house at the museum in conjunction with the Americans Exhibit at 5:30.

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MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Day has no remarks.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

None

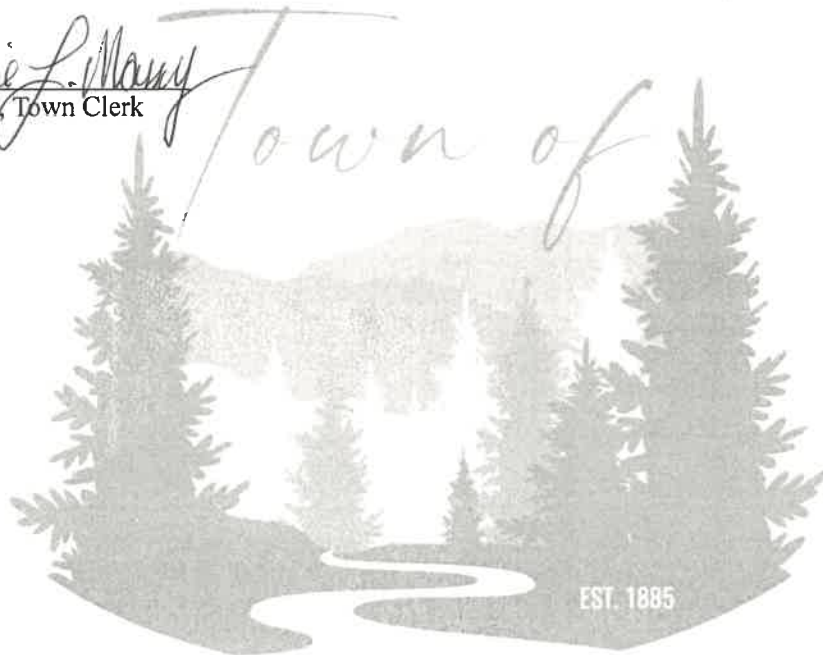
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day closed the meeting at 8:08 pm.

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Travis Day, Mayor

Attest:

Dannie Massey
Dannie Massey, Town Clerk



M E E K E R
C O L O R A D O