

RESOLUTION NO. 32 - 26

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITIZENS FOR APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026 PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER §3-10(D)

WHEREAS, City Council is required by City Charter §3-10(d) to provide for an annual "Report to the Citizens" in order to maintain accountability to citizens; and

WHEREAS, City Council appreciates its role as the legislative body of municipal government and values the citizen input it receives during the course of its regular business and during town halls and other special meetings; and

WHEREAS, City Council is proud to adopt its annual Report to the Citizens, outlining City Council's activities and achievements from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, and providing citizens with information about its responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. Pursuant to City Charter §3-10(d), City Council hereby adopts the City Council's Annual Report to the Citizens from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, attached as Exhibit A and made a part of this Resolution.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 14th day of April, 2026.


Lynette Crow-Iverson, Council President

ATTEST:


Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk



FOCUSED

on the

FUTURE

REPORT *to the* **CITIZENS**

APRIL 1,
2025



MARCH 31,
2026



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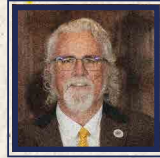
Colorado Springs City Councilmembers



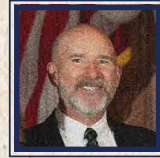
Lynette Crow-Iverson
Council President,
At Large



Brian Risley
Council President Pro Tem,
At Large



David Leinweber
At Large



Dave Donelson
District 1



Tom Bailey
District 2



Brandy Williams
District 3



Kimberly Gold
District 4



Nancy Henjum
District 5



Roland Rainey
District 6

YEAR in REVIEW



Each year, the Colorado Springs City Council provides an annual Report to the Citizens to highlight our work, share our progress, and reaffirm our commitment to transparent, responsible, and forwardlooking governance. This year included a municipal election in April, during which voters selected six District Councilmembers. We were pleased to welcome them as they joined or rejoined the Council, bringing fresh perspectives and continued dedication to the work ahead. Guided by the City Charter and the trust you place in us, the City Council continues to focus on thoughtful policymaking, responsible growth, and maintaining a high quality of life for all Colorado Springs residents.

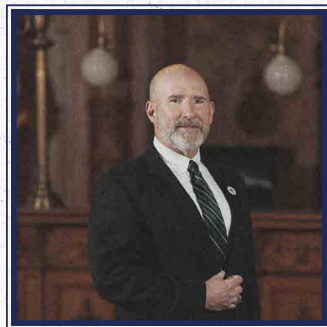
Over the past year, City Council took a deeper and more comprehensive dive into the City's budget than ever before. Through expanded reviews, detailed discussions, and strengthened oversight, we worked to ensure the City's financial priorities align with community needs, long-term sustainability, and the effective delivery of essential services.

This year also brought several significant land use hearings that engaged the community and required careful and balanced decision-making. Among them were complex proposals such as the ONE VeLa building in downtown Colorado Springs, the Flats at Sand Creek, and the Colorado Springs Temple. These projects represent a range of land use considerations from infill development and housing needs to transportation, infrastructure, and neighborhood character.

As we look ahead, the City Council remains committed to collaborative planning, fiscal accountability, and meaningful public engagement. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the continued involvement of residents who help shape the future of Colorado Springs.

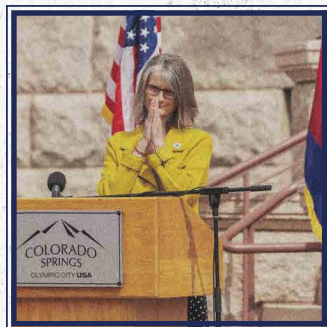


NEW *and* RETURNING COUNCILMEMBERS



Dave Donelson

City Councilman Dave Donelson was reelected to a new four-year term on City Council representing Council District 1 in the Northwest part of Colorado Springs. A retired U.S. Army Major and Green Beret with 21 years of service, including deployments to Iraq, South Korea, and Kazakhstan, he first took office in 2021. After retiring from the military in 2010, Dave worked as a Physician Assistant, including serving as a clinic director in Colorado Springs. Known for refusing developer donations, he has chaired Colorado Springs Utilities Board and the El Paso County Board of Health. During his first term, he led efforts to preserve local libraries and open spaces, and spearheaded legislation to license massage therapists in an effort to aid Colorado Springs Police Department and curb human trafficking.



Nancy Henjum

Nancy Henjum was re-elected to represent Colorado Springs' District 5 in April 2025. A 35-year resident of her district, mother of two, and grandmother of two, she draws on over 20 years of experience as a clinical social worker and a career as an executive coach and leadership consultant. During her first term, she successfully opposed the Constitution Avenue extension to protect established neighborhoods, voted for the acquisition of over 1,300 acres of open space and parkland, and championed the Fire Department's Community Response Team and Homeless Outreach Program. She remains committed to listening, collaboration, civic engagement, and responsive leadership.

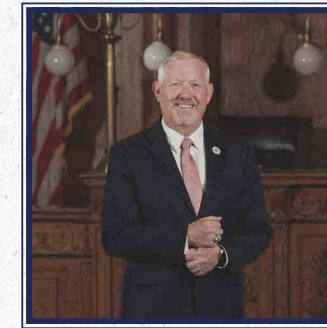


Brandy Williams

Brandy Williams returned to the Colorado Springs City Council in April 2025, winning the District 3 seat. This marks her second tenure on City Council where she previously served as an At Large member starting in 2011. Brandy is a Colorado Springs native and registered Professional Engineer, she holds a degree from Carnegie Mellon University and emphasized during her campaign a commitment to strengthening ties between city government and Colorado College.

Tom Bailey

Tom Bailey was elected in April to represent District 2 on City Council. A native of La Junta, Colorado, he served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Colonel after roles as an intelligence officer, educator, and Pentagon staffer. Since retiring in 2012, Tom has served on the El Paso County Planning Commission and managed real estate investments. Following a certified recall petition by District 2 residents, Tom Bailey resigned from the City Council in March 2026. City Council will appoint a new District 2 Councilmember in April of 2026.



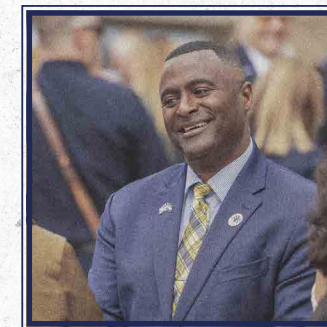
Kimberly Gold

Kimberly Gold was elected to represent District 4 on the Colorado Springs City Council in the April 2025 election. Kimberly is a seasoned community advocate and has led nonprofits and social-service organizations to include roles with the Department of Defense, American Red Cross, and Blue Star Families. Kimberly recently served as President & CEO of the Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce remains committed to strengthening representation and support in southeast Colorado Springs.



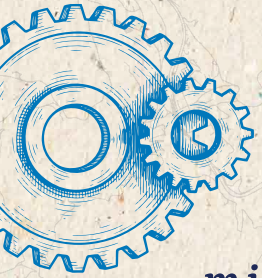
Roland Rainey

Roland Rainey Jr. was elected in April 2025, to represent District 6 on the City Council. A New Orleans native and retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, he served from 1993 to 2022 in space, intelligence, and command roles before transitioning into the defense industry as a senior executive and entrepreneur. Roland has been active in local education and civic initiatives, including serving on the Banning Lewis Academy board and the Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission.



Councilmembers Dave Donelson, Tom Bailey, Brandy Williams, Kimberly Gold, Nancy Henjum, and Roland Rainey attend the 2025 swearing in ceremony for Councilmembers

strategic PLAN



mission

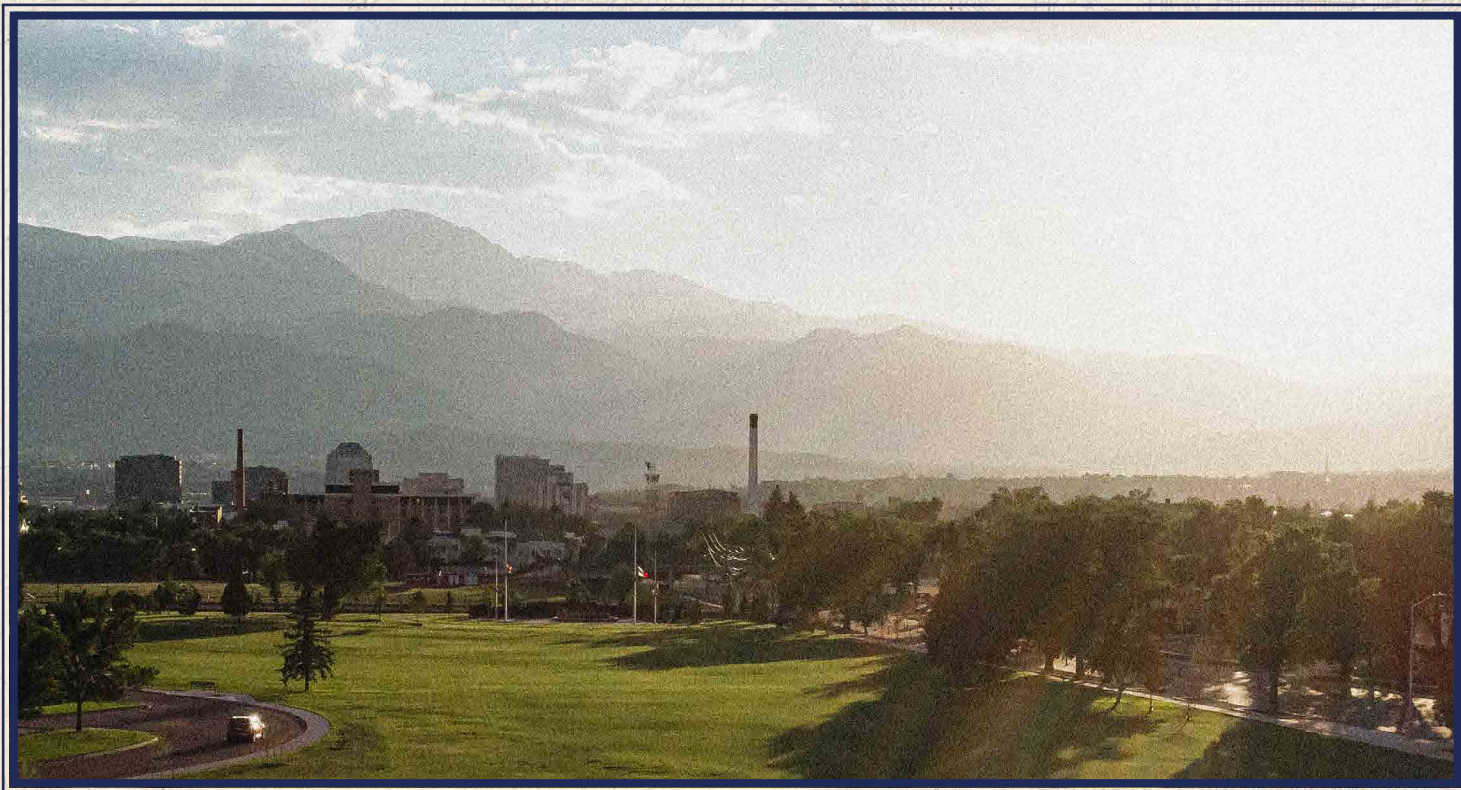
We lead by representing citizens and delivering essential City services through prioritizing quality of life, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with community partners.

vision

To be a City at the threshold of Pikes Peak and the Great Plains that preserves our heritage and ensures prosperity hereafter.

core values

EXCELLENCE
INTEGRITY
SERVICE



Boards, Commissions, and Committees

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Ensure the legislative purposes of City Council appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees provide advisory value
More informed decision-making by City Council and increased volunteer engagement

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Increase public access to Board, Commission, and Committee meetings, including broadcasting and accessibility of agendas and minutes
Increased transparency and public awareness about City Council Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Budget

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Review and provide budget oversight of existing allocations
Ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars by revisiting current expenditures to align with new community needs

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Prioritize annual budget expenditures based on long-range vision for Colorado Springs
Strategic allocation of funds for sustainable projects and programs

Land Use and Long-Range Planning

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Develop and implement long-range planning tools
Provide consistent decision-making surrounding sustainable growth

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Ensure land use policy is clear and effective
Revised City Code that aligns with City objectives and community needs

Policy

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Continue to uplift the roles and responsibilities of the City Council through actionable public policy
Elevated awareness of the authority of City Council and related positive community impact

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Receive regular status reports from City Departments to best understand operational needs
Improved City services, efficiencies and community relations

Responsive Local Government

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Initiate and review City policy to ensure City services and processes align with the needs of the community
Enhanced understanding of department challenges and funding needs

OBJECTIVE **OUTCOME**
Continue to develop processes to support citizen engagement and bring awareness to the work of partner agencies
Increased connectivity among the community and improved public perception of the work of the City and City Council



city BUDGET

Key Highlights of the 2026 Budget

Reduction in Force (RIF)

38 civilian positions, or approximately 1% of the City's workforce, was eliminated, excluding sworn public safety roles. Several unfilled vacancies remain unfunded.

Furlough Program

Five scheduled unpaid furlough days were implemented for 2026 for City employees, excluding public safety, critical operations, and grant-funded positions. These days have been pre-scheduled throughout the year to spread out

financial impact for employees, and for clear communication to residents. Employees earning \$72,000 or more annually will take two additional floating furlough days.



Council President Pro Tem Brian Risley receives the Proposed 2026 City Budget from Mayor Yemi Mobolade with Councilmembers Kimberly Gold and Roland Rainey in October of 2025.

Capital and Operational Efficiencies

The City leveraged alternative funding sources to continue projects and reduce spending. Approximately \$11.2 million in departmental savings were identified, along with a \$3.5 million reduction to the Capital Improvement Program.

Meadows Park Community Center Closure

The community center permanently closed on October 10, 2025, following an evaluation of program participation, staffing constraints, and availability of similar services at other community centers. The closure is projected to save approximately \$775,000 annually.

Compensation Adjustments

There are no cost-of-living or performance-based raises in 2026. Civilian employees earning below the midpoint of their salary range will be eligible for up to a 2% pay progression on their job anniversary. Sworn step increases will continue as scheduled.



One of the core responsibilities of the Colorado Springs City Council is the careful review and approval of the annual City budget. This year, City Council placed an even stronger emphasis on transparency, fiscal discipline, and strategic prioritization as the City worked through the impacts of a \$31 million budget shortfall in 2026. In response to the City's budget reductions, Councilmembers engaged in a comprehensive evaluation of the proposed 2026 budget to ensure it responsibly addressed this shortfall while continuing to support essential City services and longterm community priorities.

To accomplish this, City Council conducted an extensive series of department-level budget meetings, allowing for deeper discussions and a clearer understanding of operational needs in a constrained fiscal environment. These conversations provided critical insight into how departments planned to adjust, recalibrate, and find efficiencies in response to the shortfall. This deliberate, hands-on approach strengthened the budget review process and reaffirmed City Council's commitment to accountability, thoughtful resource allocation, and maintaining a high quality of life for residents even during challenging financial circumstances.

Fire Academy and Colorado Springs Police Department Budget

For the 2026 Budget, City Council directed additional Retail-Marijuana Sales Tax funding to support the Colorado Springs Fire Department Fire Academy and operational needs within the Colorado Springs Police Department. This investment helps recruit and train first responders, maintain service levels, and ensure public safety agencies are equipped to meet the growing needs of our community. By using voter-approved Retail Marijuana Tax Revenue, City Council prioritized long-term public safety sustainability.



In September 2025, the City of Colorado Springs opened the brand new Fire Station 24 near Powers Boulevard and Interquest Parkway. Cutting the ribbon are Councilmember Roland Rainey, Councilmember Tom Bailey, Fire Chief Randy Royal, Mayor Yemi Mobolade, former Councilmember Randy Helms, and Councilmember Kimberly Gold.

Retail Marijuana (RMJ) Tax Dollars to Clean and Safe Pilot Program

Retail Marijuana (RMJ) Tax Dollars to Clean and Safe Pilot Program - In August 2025, City Council approved the allocation of \$700,000 in Retail Marijuana Sales Tax revenue to support the Downtown Clean and Safe Program. This investment enhances public safety in the downtown core. By utilizing dedicated Retail Marijuana Sales Tax revenues in accord with approved voter ballot language, City Council strengthened safety and ensured that downtown remains welcoming, clean, and economically vibrant for residents, businesses, and visitors. Additional funding to this program also helps provide daily cleaning services, graffiti removal, safety coordination, and public space maintenance in the program area.

Colorado Springs Police Department Technology Surcharge and Fee Updates

On October 27, 2025, Council considered an ordinance amending City Code to establish a Police Technology Surcharge on municipal traffic and criminal convictions. This ordinance creates a dedicated funding source for critical police technology systems used in response, investigation, enforcement, and documentation of crimes. Funding supports body-worn cameras, digital evidence systems, records management systems, electronic citation systems, vehicle intelligence cameras, and other required technologies. The surcharge applies only upon conviction and does not impact law-abiding residents. Estimated annual revenue is approximately \$540,000, helping offset nearly \$3.9 million in annual technology costs. This action ensures compliance with state mandates and enhances transparency, officer safety, and operational efficiency.

in depth BUDGET REVIEW



by the NUMBERS



Councilmember Kimberly Gold and Mayor Yemi pose with Southeast constituents at Sierra High School in 2026.



Council President Lynette Crow-Iverson and President Pro Tem Brian Risley host a tour of Air Academy High School students during a visit to Colorado Springs City Hall in January 2026.

12

town halls & community meetings

475

public comments
(nearly 24 hours)

75

ordinances passed

15

tours & visitors
to City Hall

185

resolutions adopted

91

board appointments

3,013

constituent responses

PRESENTATIONS

5/12/25

Update from Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance

5/12/25

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Pikes Peak Commission on Aging

6/9/25

TESSA

7/7/25

Clean and Safe Pilot Program

7/21/25

Salvation Army's Family Hope Center

7/21/25

Careers in Construction Colorado

5/12/25

VisitCOS Resident Sentiment Survey and Destination Marketing Plan

8/11/25

PikeRide

8/11/25

Front Range Passenger Rail District

8/11/25

UCHealth Chapter Veterans

9/8/25

Crime Stoppers

9/8/25

Colorado Springs Walkability

9/22/25

Circular Economy Development Center

9/22/25

Pikes Peak Library District

10/27/25

First Tee Southern Colorado Redevelopment

10/27/25

Coroner's 2024 Annual Report

11/24/25

Trails & Open Space Coalition

11/24/25

Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families

12/8/25

UCHealth and Children's Hospital Annual Reports

12/8/25

Housing Needs Assessment

1/12/25

Colorado Wildfire Incident Management Team

1/12/26

Update on Colorado Springs Police Department Recruitment and Training Academy

1/26/26

Home Front Military Network

1/26/26

Pikes Peak Community Foundation - Our Spacious Skies Report

2/9/26

City Horticulture and Horticultural Art Society

2/9/26

Pikes Peak Regional Building Department Year in Review

2/23/26

Red Cross

2/23/26

Wasteless COS

3/9/26

Public Finance Tools: Tax Increment and Special Districts

3/23/26

Update to the City of Colorado Springs Community Wildfire Protection Plan



actions from PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL

in April 2025, BEFORE THE NEW CITY COUNCIL WAS SWORN IN, THERE WERE THREE NOTEWORTHY ITEMS THAT DREW CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST AND HAD LASTING CHANGES TO COLORADO SPRINGS.



Artist rendition of the anticipated ONE VeLa Building in Downtown Colorado Springs

ONE VeLa

The ONE VeLa proposal involved a 27-story mixed-use building planned for downtown Colorado Springs. The project proposed approximately 400 residential units and 7,000 square feet of retail space. After conducting a public hearing and reviewing all submitted evidence, the City Council approved the development on a **6-1 vote**.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

City Council advanced a new approach to permitting accessory dwelling units in single-family neighborhoods, prompted by recent changes in state law. **By a 5-3 vote**, City Council approved a revised ordinance allowing homeowners to add one attached or detached ADU per lot in any residential zone, subject to several key restrictions. ADUs must be no larger than half the size of the primary residence or 1,250 square feet, may not exceed 16 feet in height, must include one off-street parking space, and, in Wildland-Urban Interface areas, are limited to attached units only.

Karman Line Ballot Measure and Special Election

In early 2025, following a lengthy public hearing, the City Council approved a flagpole annexation of approximately 1,876 acres for an area East of Colorado Springs known as Karman Line. Following a successful citizen-led referendum petition submitted to voters, a Special Municipal Election in June 2025 took place to determine whether Karman Line should be annexed into the City of Colorado Springs. The measure was decisively rejected by voters with approximately 81.8 percent voting against annexation, overturning City Council's original approval. Therefore the land was not annexed into the City.

LAND USE

Bradley Ridge and Royal Pines Housing Bonds

In 2025, City Council approved private activity bonds for two multifamily housing projects in Colorado Springs. In May 2025, City Council approved \$40 million for Royal Pines to help support 232 units, and in September 2025 City Council approved \$76 million for Bradley Ridge which add 336 units of affordable housing.

Flats at Sand Creek Appeal

The Flats at Sand Creek proposal sought approval to construct 144 multifamily housing units on roughly 6.94 acres in the eastern portion of the city near Sand Creek High School. This project also drew substantial community interest during its public hearing. Following review and deliberation, the City Council approved the proposal by a **vote of 7-2**.

Colorado Springs Temple Public Hearing

Another large public hearing addressed appeals of the proposed construction of the City's first Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints Temple in the Flying Horse Community of northern Colorado Springs. This project generated substantial community participation, with residents offering a wide range of perspectives for City Council's consideration. After reviewing all testimony, evidence, and staff analysis, **City Council voted unanimously** to approve the temple, **8-0**.



Artist rendition of the anticipated Colorado Springs Temple in the Flying Horse Neighborhood

CHIPS Zone Establishment

In November 2025, City Council approved a Resolution to establish boundaries for Colorado CHIPS Zone Act. The CHIPS Zone Program helps eligible semiconductor companies operating in Colorado Springs access state tax incentives that support job creation, capital investment, and research and development.

Unified Development Code (UDC) Updates

Public Art

In August 2025, City Council approved amendments related to public art in City Code. This was an administrative clean up related to dissolving the Public Art Commission.

Minimum Parking Requirements

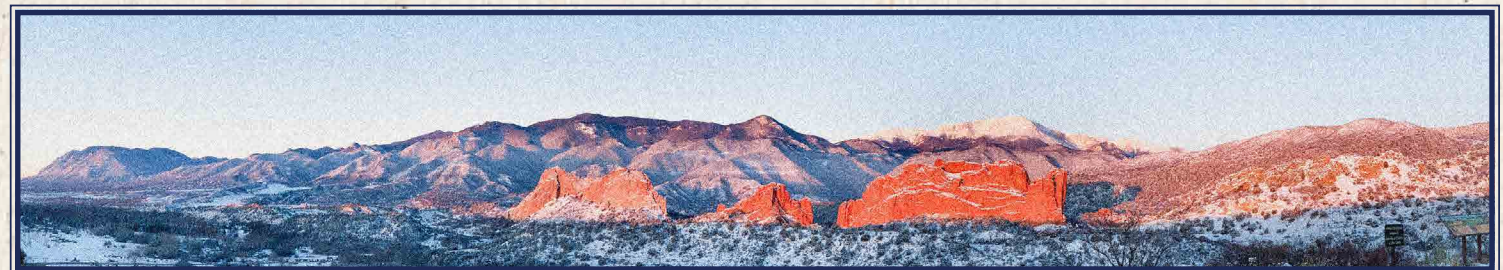
In June 2025, City Council considered an ordinance related to minimum parking requirements in applicable transit service areas. The ordinance was brought forth due to changes in State legislation as approved by Colorado House Bill 24-1304. After thoughtful deliberation, the ordinance was unanimously denied.

Kennels

In November 2025, City Council approved an ordinance to permit kennel uses where they were previously allowed under City Code. Prior to June 2023, kennels were permitted conditionally and by-right in commercial zones under the previous land use code.

Signs

In February 2026, City Council approved amendments to the City's sign Ordinance. The amendments were part of the City's efforts to update and modernize the local sign standards to reflect current technology, industry practices and federal requirements regarding content neutral sign regulations.



LEGISLATION

Retail Marijuana Sales Tax Appropriation Ordinance and Veto Overturn

In July 2025, the Colorado Springs City Council passed Ordinance No. 25-59, designed to establish a formal grant application process for distributing revenue generated from the City's 5% Retail Marijuana Sales Tax. This ordinance gave City Council the ability to allocate an anticipated \$1.4 million in funds toward specific areas defined by the 2022 voter-approved Ballot Measure 301, including public safety, mental health services, and PTSD treatment for veterans. Mayor Yemi Mobolade vetoed the ordinance, his first in two years, arguing it created an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, lacked transparency, and conflicted with the City Charter by diverting funds that could be used for immediate public safety needs during the budget shortfall. City Council subsequently overrode the veto with a **6-3 vote**, upholding their authority to direct the allocation of the tax revenue as defined in the original ballot language.

Vehicle Camping Ordinance

From fall of 2025 to early 2026, City Council considered amendments consolidating multiple camping-related Ordinances into a single City Code section.

THE ORDINANCE:

- ✓ Consolidates multiple camping related ordinances into a single, unified section of the City Code for clarity and consistency.
- ✓ Clarifies and expands the definition of "camping," including detailed criteria such as sleeping materials, shelters, personal property, waste, and other indicators of human habitation.
- ✓ Creates a specific provision for camping in motor vehicles on public property, allowing citations only after a prior warning and a 24 hour grace period.

This Ordinance updates and consolidates the City's camping regulations to create a clearer, more consistent framework for enforcement while prioritizing public health and safety. City Council has made it clear that their priority is a balanced approach, one that protects public health and safety while ensuring individuals experiencing homelessness are connected to meaningful support. **Approved on a 7-2 vote.**

Sexually Violent Predators Ordinance Update

In February 2026, City Council introduced an Ordinance creating new residency restrictions for individuals designated under state law as Sexually Violent Predators convicted of Sexual Assault on a Child. The Ordinance prohibits these offenders from establishing a permanent or temporary residence within 1,000 feet of a school or licensed childcare facility. The measure was designed to protect children while recognizing existing state placement requirements.

This action reflects City Council's commitment to strengthening protections for children, supporting neighborhood safety, and exercising local authority to enhance public safety standards in Colorado Springs. **Passed on a unanimous vote.**

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Law Abiding and Non-Sanctuary City Resolution

In May 2025, City Council passed a Resolution on a **vote of 7-2**, stating that Colorado Springs will continue to follow all laws and maintain its status as a nonsanctuary city. It emphasized prioritizing taxpayer resources for local residents, supporting law enforcement at all levels, and welcoming legal immigrants. The City Council reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the rule of law and cooperating with agencies responding to immigration-related impacts.

Resolution Against Governor's Housing Laws

Also in May 2025, City Council passed another Resolution on a **7-2 vote** that stated Colorado Springs opposes the Governor's Executive Order D 2025-005 and several recent state housing laws, arguing they improperly override the City's homerule authority over land use, zoning, building codes, and public safety. The Resolution asserted that the laws impose one size fits all mandates that could strain local infrastructure, reduce community input, and conflict with locally adopted standards. The City Council reaffirmed its constitutional right to manage these matters at the local level.

Charlie Kirk Remembrance Resolution

In October 2025, City Council had a timely discussion and heard from many constituents regarding a resolution acknowledging the U.S. Senate's designation of October 14, 2025, as the National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk following his death in an act of political violence. The Resolution emphasized the importance of protecting free speech, promoting civil dialogue, and condemning any violence intended to silence viewpoints. The City Council encouraged local institutions and residents to observe the day in reflection and reaffirmed that open expression and peaceful debate are essential to a free society. This resolution passed on a **5-4 vote**.

Home Rule Authority Resolution

At the end of October 2025, on a **8-1 vote**, City Council passed a Resolution stating that Colorado Springs supports several home rule municipalities that are engaged in litigation against the State of Colorado over recently passed housing laws and related Executive Orders. The Resolution argued that these State actions improperly override local authority over zoning, land use, and community planning, which the City views as powers protected under the Colorado Constitution. The City Council reaffirmed its commitment to home rule authority and expressed solidarity with the municipalities challenging the laws in court.

A Resolution Opposing Colorado Attorney General's Lawsuit Regarding Space Command

The City Council passed a Resolution in a **7-2 vote** in November 2026, stating Colorado Springs City Council opposes the Colorado Attorney General's lawsuit against the President over the relocation of U.S. Space Command, arguing that such litigation is counterproductive and risks harming the City's relationship with federal defense partners. The Resolution reaffirmed the City's commitment to collaboration with U.S. Space Command and the Department of War, emphasizing unity and constructive engagement. The City Council urges State officials to abandon the lawsuit and encourages the Mayor to publicly support this position. In January 2026, City Council Leadership supported the Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC in filing an amicus brief regarding the lawsuit.



PARKS



Cumbre Vista Expansion Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO)

The Cumbre Vista Park Expansion utilized \$791,740 in fees accrued through the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) to purchase approximately 5.75 acres of property from El Paso County School District 20 in preparation for a future neighborhood park. PLDO fees are taken when developments choose not to provide land to meet their land obligations. The fees are used in the future to purchase property for parks. The development around the Cumbre Vista Park has transformed over time from commercial to primarily residential, thereby creating a need for additional park land. The newly purchased park land assists in meeting the needs for park space for the residents of the community.

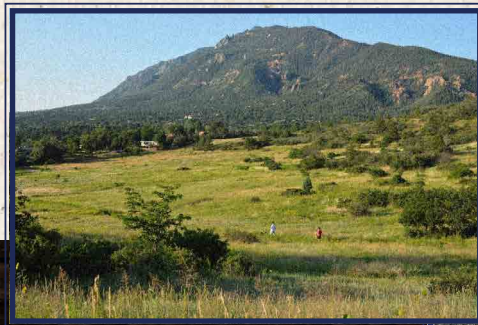
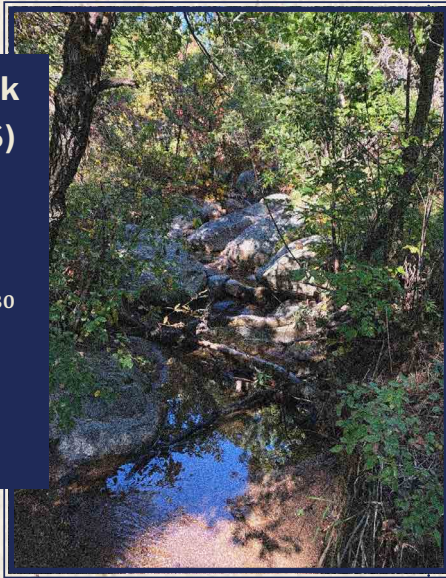
Parks Traffic Ordinance

City Council approved an amendment to 10.27.101 of the City Code regarding Park Traffic Offenses. The revision broadens the definition enforceable violations to include a wider range of unauthorized motorized activities within park boundaries. This expanded definition will enhance coordination between Park Rangers and the Colorado Springs Police Department in enforcing restrictions on unauthorized motorized vehicle use on park property.



Cheyenne Mountain State Park Trails, Space and Parks (TOPS) Expansion

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Expansion utilized \$4.1 million of Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) funds to purchase approximately 130 acres of property. The property, in combination with an approximately 350 acre purchase by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, creates a 480 acre expansion to Cheyenne Mountain State Park.



Fishers Canyon Appeal

In June 2025, the City Council held a quasijudicial public hearing following an appeal of the Fishers Canyon Open Space Master Plan. Fishers Canyon is land acquired by the City with support from the Trails and Open Space Tax (TOPS). After residents appealed the Parks Department's proposed master plan, City Council conducted a lengthy hearing to consider the testimony and evidence presented by all parties. The hearing concluded with City Council approving the master plan on a **5-4 vote**.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ITEMS



City Auditorium Lease

In July 2025, City Council approved a Resolution leasing the historic City Auditorium to private entertainment company. The five-year lease allows for the company to rent the space at below fair market value in exchange for the company investing in capital improvements to the Auditorium.



Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) Board Appointments

In 2025, City Council appointed two new members to the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees. These appointments generated a significant amount of public interest. These appointment processes better established the role of the Pikes Peak Library District Joint Appointment Committee comprised of two Councilmembers and two El Paso County Commissioners.



Net Metering Public Engagement

During an October 2025 City Council Regular Meeting, Colorado Springs Utilities introduced proposed updates to its net metering and rate structures as part of an upcoming rate case. The proposal sought to better align customer charges with system costs and evolving energy use patterns, prompting significant public interest and feedback from solar customers and community stakeholders during the public hearing. After reviewing the proposal and considering community concerns, on a **5-4 vote** the City Council removed the net metering components from the rate case and requested Utilities to continue to work with rate payers for an equitable compromise. This decision reflects City Council's commitment to transparent engagement and ensuring that rate designs support both system reliability and community priorities.

New Airport Director

In September of 2025, City Council approved the Mayoral nomination of Alexandru Kovacs as the Director of Aviation for the Colorado Springs Airport.

in the COMMUNITY

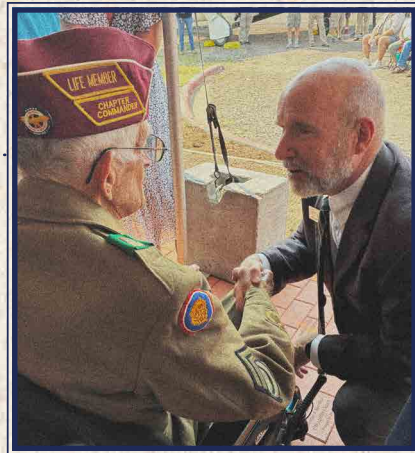
Councilmember Nancy Henjum speaking to the large and excited crowd during the ribbon cutting for the Grand Opening of the new Colorado Springs Senior Center.



Councilmember Kimberly Gold speaking to the crowd during the ribbon cutting of the newly reconstructed Circle Drive Bridges in November of 2025.



Councilmember Dave Donelson thanks a World War II Veteran during the Groundbreaking Celebration for the National Aviation Museum in August of 2025.



Councilmembers Brandy Williams and Roland Rainey pause for a break while attending the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Conference in Breckenridge in June of 2025.

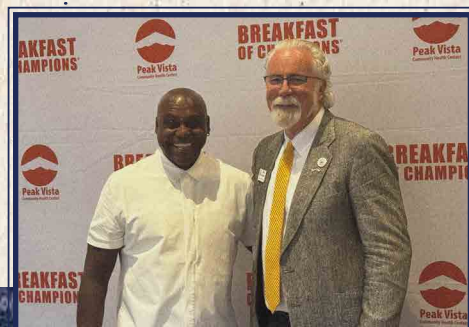


Councilmember Dave Donelson and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director Britt Haley at the ribbon cutting for the brand new Woodland Hills Park Playground in October 2025.



Councilmember Nancy Henjum and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director Britt Haley at the Kickoff event of the Park System Master Plan. Once complete, the Park System Master Plan will guide the development and sustainability of PRCS assets including City parks, trail systems, open space and natural areas, community centers, recreation and cultural services programming.

Councilmember David Leinweber and Olympic Gold Medalist Carl Lewis at the Peak Vista Community Health Center's Breakfast of Champions Fundraiser in October 2025.



Councilmembers Roland Rainey, Nancy Henjum, Dave Donelson, and Kimberly Gold attending the Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial in September 2025.

Councilmembers Brandy Williams, Nancy Henjum, Roland Rainey, Kimberly Gold, Dave Donelson, and Lynette Crow-Iverson attending the annual Medal of Valor Dinner which honors Colorado Springs First Responders in September 2025.



Councilmembers Brian Risley, Tom Bailey, Lynette Crow-Iverson, Roland Rainey, and Kimberly Gold during the Token Presentation for the kickoff of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo in June 2025.



Councilmember David Leinweber and his dog Hatch are about to take a plunge in the dunk tank during the fun events in Memorial Park for the 2025 Get Outdoors Day in June.

Councilmember Nancy Henjum proving that City Council can be fun during the first annual Pet Parade with the Patty Jewett Neighborhood in August 2025.



Councilmembers Kimberly Gold and Nancy Henjum having fun and teaching civics to a group of local Girl Scouts in November of 2025.

Councilmembers Brian Risley and Lynette Crow-Iverson host a delegation from Romania as part of Colorado Springs Sister Cities Program in September 2025.



Councilmember Roland Rainey with the Colorado Springs Public Works Director and Staff and Colorado Springs Police Department Representatives during a Community Townhall in December 2025.



in the COMMUNITY

Councilmember Roland Rainey volunteering for Habitat for Humanity at a home build in October 2025.



Councilmember Tom Bailey with Mayor Yemi, former Councilmember Randy Helms and Parks Director Britt Haley, during a chilly ribbon cutting for Grey Hawk Park in December 2025.

Councilmember Nancy Henjum addresses the packed gymnasium of Edison Elementary School for a Community Meeting regarding the Portal, Flanagan, and Danville Parks in the Cragmor and Papeton Neighborhoods in September 2025.



Councilmembers Kimberly Gold and Roland Rainey with Mayor Yemi Mobolade host a student delegation from Colorado Springs sister city, Fujiyoshida, Japan, on the steps of City Hall in August 2025.



Councilmember Tom Bailey and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director Britt Haley cutting the ribbon newly reconstructed Rampart Park Playground in November 2025.



Councilmember Roland Rainey with El Paso County Sheriff Joesph Royball who was the guest of honor during the Hispanic Heritage Luncheon in July 2025.

Council President Lynette Crow-Iverson and David Leinweber are given a tour of the brand new Aurora Regional Navigation Campus which helps people experiencing homelessness in Aurora, Colorado in January 2026.



Councilmembers Nancy Henjum and Kimberly Gold enjoying a bike ride through Downtown on a warm spring morning in 2026.



Councilmember Nancy Henjum speaks to residents of the Cragmor and Papeton Neighborhoods about the Colorado Springs Fire Department Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) and Historical Information from the Pioneers Museum in January 2026.



Councilmembers Kimberly Gold, Dave Donelson, and Roland Rainey joined Mayor Yemi Mobolade and others in the Celebratory Groundbreaking of Forge at Peak Innovation Park in January 2026.



Councilmember Roland Rainey reads to third graders at Wilson Elementary School for Read Across America Week in February 2026.



Councilmember Kimberly Gold helped celebrate Mountain Metro for the Free Fare Kickoff in the summer of 2025.

In January 2026, **Councilmember Nancy Henjum** speaks to neighbors in Rosewell Community Church regarding Keep It Clean COS and people experiencing homelessness.



Council President Lynette Crow-Iverson was joined by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum Service Dog, Champ, for the honorary Torch Touch to help kick off the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in February.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS *and* COMMITTEES

City Council Boards, Commissions, and Committees play a vital role in shaping local policies and initiatives that impact our community. These volunteer-led groups provide valuable expertise and recommendations to City Council, helping to guide important decisions for our city.

We encourage you to stay engaged by attending meetings, providing public input, and considering a leadership role within one of our Boards, Commissions, or Committees. If you are passionate about making a difference in our community, we invite you to apply for an open position and contribute your skills and perspectives.

To stay informed about opportunities to serve and important updates, subscribe to our email list through the Stay Engaged button on [ColoradoSprings.gov/boards](https://coloradosprings.gov/boards).

Get involved and help shape the future of Colorado Springs!

CURRENT LIST:

Airport Advisory Commission

Audit Committee

City/County Drainage Board

Civil Service Commission

Council District Process Advisory Committee

Downtown Review Board

Fire Board of Appeals

Historic Preservation Board

Independent Ethics Commission

Initiative Review Committee

Law Enforcement Transparency and Advisory Commission

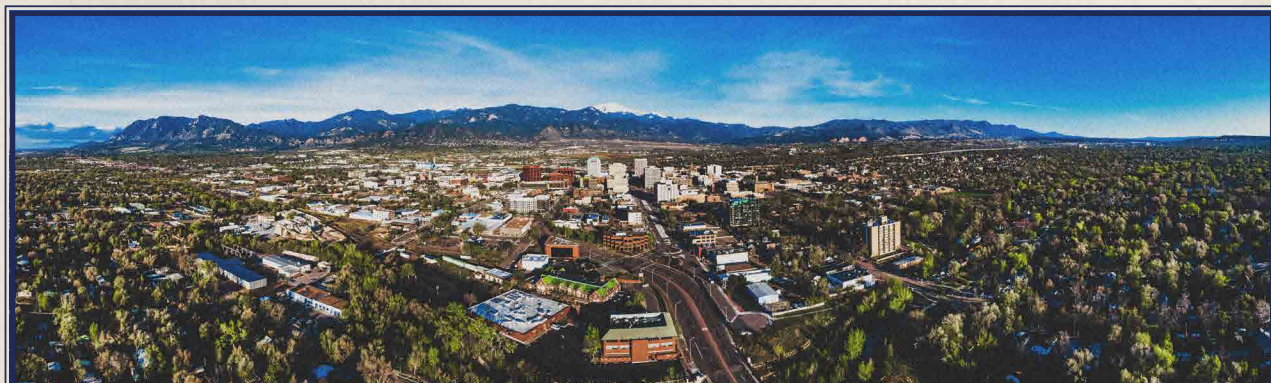
Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax Citizen's Advisory Committee

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board

Planning Commission

Stormwater Advisory Committee

TOPS Working Committee



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



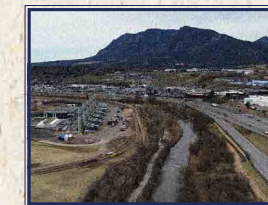
Airport Advisory Committee

The Airport Advisory Commission addresses matters pertaining to land use, construction, planning or operation of the Colorado Springs Airport. During 2025 the Commission received frequent updates and provided feedback on airport traffic trends, financial reports, and airport business development. The Commission also reviewed and made recommendations concerning several land use applications.



Historic Preservation Board

The Historic Preservation Board acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in implementing the Historic Preservation program for the City. Last year, the Board developed the Historic Resource Survey Plan. A Historic Resource Survey Plan guides the community in assessing their historic resources, evaluating previous survey work, identifying historic contexts, and prioritizing future survey projects. The Board also reviewed many applications for homes within the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.



Stormwater Advisory Committee

The Stormwater Advisory Committee provides City Council with citizen input on the stormwater system and operation of the Enterprise, along with advice and recommendations on the projects to be undertaken. The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the financial operations and projects of the Enterprise. They also reviewed and provided recommendations on updates to the City's Drainage Criteria Manual and Illicit Discharge Program.

Public Art Commission

In April 2025, City Council dissolved the Public Art Commission of the Pikes Peak Region as a City Council Appointed Board. The decision was made because the oversight and management of the City's public art collection is an executive and administrative function of the City rather than a legislative function of City Council. The Public Art Commission of the Pikes Peak Region was instrumental in the review and approval of Public Art Master Plan.

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Dissolution

In March 2026, City Council dissolved the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board as a City Council Appointed Board. The determination was made that changes in governance and expanded resident transportation engagement channels have created overlaps in responsibilities initially held solely by the Board. The Board has many accomplishments including review and prioritization of Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority projects in 2004, 2012, and 2022, work related to truck routes, and review of ConnectCOS.

COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES BOARD

Introduction

City Council also has the responsibility to act as Utilities Board, the governing body for Colorado Springs Utilities (Springs Utilities), which provides electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services to its customers. The Utilities Board, along with the CEO, is responsible for ensuring the benefits of local ownership and control to Colorado Springs residents. It also has a responsibility to current and future customers by balancing reliability, rates and relationships. The Utilities Board typically meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Blue River Board Room on the fifth floor of the South Tower in the Plaza of the Rockies located at 121 S. Tejon Street.

Since February 2025, the Utilities Board streamlined its operations and dissolved the Personnel, Finance, Program Management Review and Strategic Planning committees in favor of one Working Committee that meets on the Monday or Tuesday immediately preceding the Utilities Board meeting.



UTILITIES BOARD
CHAIR

Dave Donelson

UTILITIES BOARD
VICE CHAIR

Brandy Williams

Onboarded Four New Utilities Board Members

Following the April 2025 election, four new Utilities Board Members completed two orientation sessions covering their fiduciary, statutory and regulatory responsibilities. They also received a high-level overview of Springs Utilities and the 2025 Strategic Plan, highlighting the Board's focus on reliability, rates and relationships.

To further support their onboarding, staff led five facility tours in 2025, including the Conservation and Environmental Center, Leon Young Pole Training Yard, Ruxton Hydro Plant, and the Las Vegas and Clear Springs Ranch campuses.

Top Credit Ratings

Top credit ratings mean big wins for Springs Utilities' customers. In July, S&P Global Ratings (Standard & Poor's) and Moody's reaffirmed the utility's strong credit ratings (AA+ and Aa2 respectively).

Many of the capital projects in Springs Utilities' Five-Year Financial Plan will be funded through bonds, making this a positive development because a favorable credit rating allows them to keep borrowing costs low, which supports competitive rates.

Approval of Strategic Plan

Springs Utilities' 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, approved by the Utilities Board in January 2026, outlines a four-year, enterprise-level roadmap to reflect the organization's priorities and to provide a clear vision for serving Colorado Springs with excellence, integrity and purpose. Employee engagement is central, as every role contributes to shared objectives and meaningful outcomes.

The plan is grounded in three enduring pillars – Reliability, Rates and Relationships – reinforcing accountability to customers in all services and decisions. It retains five organization-wide strategic objectives to guide innovation and alignment: operational excellence, focus on the customer, financial accountability, support our community and enable employee empowerment. As a living framework, the Strategic Plan evolves to meet changing needs while helping leaders prioritize resources, talent and time to achieve sustainable success and shape the future together.

Connected to the Community

In 2025, Springs Utilities strengthened its commitment to the community through volunteerism, education and assistance. Employees contributed 15,850 volunteer hours, supporting 114 nonprofits and generating an estimated \$551,422 in community value.

Educational programs reached 25,637 students and adults through tours, public meetings, classroom presentations, booths and programs focused on water, energy, safety, rates and capital projects.



Energy Wise Rates

In October 2025, Energy Wise time-of-day rates became the standard electric rate for Springs Utilities. Energy Wise rates give customers the option to pay lower electric rates if they shift their use at certain times of day.

This new standard rate offers lower prices when electricity demand is lower. The off-peak rate (88% of the time) is lower than the previous flat rate. Energy Wise rates can help reduce high demand and the need to build additional sources for electric generation, such as power plants.

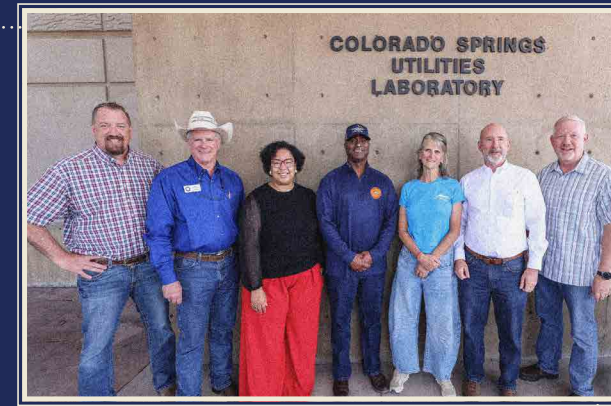
Expanded Recreation at Rosemount Reservoir

A collaboration between Springs Utilities and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to expand recreational amenities at Rosemont Reservoir began to take shape in early January 2026.

In addition to the seasonal fishing already allowed, reservation camping and non-motorized boating are two recreational offerings that are being considered at Rosemont Reservoir, located approximately 12 miles southwest of Colorado Springs on Gold Camp Road. A Resolution to expand recreation at Rosemont was approved by City Council in February 2026.

Currently the area surrounding the reservoir, which stores water for the City, is managed by CPW as a State wildlife area. Expanded recreation under daily CPW management would provide more active oversight of public recreation and safety in balance with watershed protection and Springs Utilities operational needs in this remote area. The project details are still in development.

Utility assistance remained a critical priority, with the Colorado Springs Utilities Foundation receiving more than \$658,000 in contributions, matched by \$500,000 from Springs Utilities. More than \$1.5 million in assistance helped nearly 2,400 customers maintain essential services.



COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES BOARD *continued*



Utilities Policy Advisory Committee Studies Geothermal Energy

Springs Utilities has supported Fort Carson since its earliest days, providing electricity, natural gas and water to the installation. In January 2023, the Utility began operating and maintaining the Post's electric and natural gas infrastructure, improving reliability, reducing costs and modernizing equipment. The partnership expanded in January 2025 to include operation and maintenance of Fort Carson's extensive water distribution system, which features thousands of valves and hydrants and more than a million feet of pipeline.

A year later in January 2026, Springs Utilities began operating and maintaining all the wastewater pipelines and pumping stations at Fort Carson.

A dedicated 19-person team oversees the Post's electric, natural gas, water and wastewater systems, ensuring safe and efficient service. Springs Utilities also delivers water that meets rigorous drinking standards and supports the Post's mission readiness.



Serving Big Power Users, Protecting Customer Costs

Springs Utilities' Industrial Service – LargeLoad Rate was approved by City Council in October 2025, creating a clear process for serving customers that require 10 megawatts or more of electricity. This rate ensures highenergy users cover the full cost of the infrastructure and power they require, protecting affordability and reliability for all electric customers.

Expanding Services at Fort Carson

Springs Utilities has supported Fort Carson since its earliest days, providing electricity, natural gas and water to the installation. In January 2023, the Utility began operating and maintaining the Post's electric and natural gas infrastructure, improving reliability, reducing costs and modernizing equipment. The partnership expanded in January 2025 to include operation and maintenance of Fort Carson's extensive water distribution system, which features thousands of valves and hydrants and more than a million feet of pipeline.

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2025 Gallagher Best-in-Class Award

Springs Utilities was honored as a 2025 Best-in-Class Employer, based on participation in Gallagher's Benefits Strategy & Benchmarking Survey which highlights organizations demonstrating exceptional commitment to employee and organizational wellbeing. Gallagher's annual analysis identifies employers that excel in building sustainable people strategies, those that strengthen health, financial confidence and career development while maintaining responsible cost structures.

With a focus on employee satisfaction and engagement, Springs Utilities stood out for strategic planning for benefits and compensation, comprehensive well-being initiatives, workforce engagement and retention, retirement planning support and competitive healthcare cost management.

Gallagher's Best-in-Class Employer designation helps current and prospective employees understand and appreciate an organization's workplace culture and people strategy, which are crucial differentiators in today's competitive labor market.



Wildfire Mitigation Plan

In 2025, Springs Utilities finalized a comprehensive Wildfire Mitigation Plan to address escalating threats to their reservoirs, watersheds and overhead electric infrastructure. The plan builds on long-standing efforts, including the in-house Catamount Wildland Fire Team and vegetation management program, and focuses on risk assessment, risk mitigation and situational awareness. Key actions include identifying at-risk electric equipment, targeted system-hardening and expanded vegetation management. Strong partnerships with regional first responders further strengthen Springs Utilities' ability to protect life and property, maintain system reliability and safeguard critical water resources.

Economic Development Overview

In 2025, Springs Utilities' Economic Development team executed contracts to leverage commercial customer savings and accelerate business growth in the community.

Throughout the year, Springs Utilities was involved with 128 business retention and expansion meetings. The Utility partnered with numerous local entities including Exponential Impact, Apartment Association of Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center, Downtown Partnership and many other entities.

Springs Utilities worked closely with the Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC, El Paso County and the City to provide utility assessments and solutions for 57 potential new businesses interested in locating to Colorado Springs.

Serving Big Power Users, Protecting Customer Costs

Springs Utilities' Industrial Service Large Load Rate was approved by City Council in October 2025, creating a clear process for serving customers that require 10 megawatts or more of electricity. This rate ensures high energy users cover the full cost of the infrastructure and power they require, protecting affordability and reliability for all electric customers. new businesses interested in locating to Colorado Springs.

office of the CITY AUDITOR



Mission Statement

To encourage responsible stewardship and accountability for public resources through independent and unbiased audits.

Vision Statement

To be trusted advisors who drive positive organizational change through independent insight, integrity, and solutions that strengthen public confidence and address emerging risks for the benefit of our community.

Natalie Lovell, CIA, MBA, CCIFP, PMP *City Auditor*

Shawn Alessio, CPA, CFE *Audit Manager*

Linda Helsley, MS FINANCE, MS PROJECT MANAGEMENT, CIA, CFE *Acting Audit Supervisor*

Rachana KC, CIA, CFE *Acting Audit Supervisor*

Rhea Hendrixson, *Auditor II*

Carl Schueler, *Auditor II*

Chuck Camus, *Auditor II*

Brian Van Dam, *Information Systems Auditor II*

Ebby Byes, *Auditor I*

Sydney Spindler, *Auditor I*

Linette Crouch, *Business Support Specialist Senior*

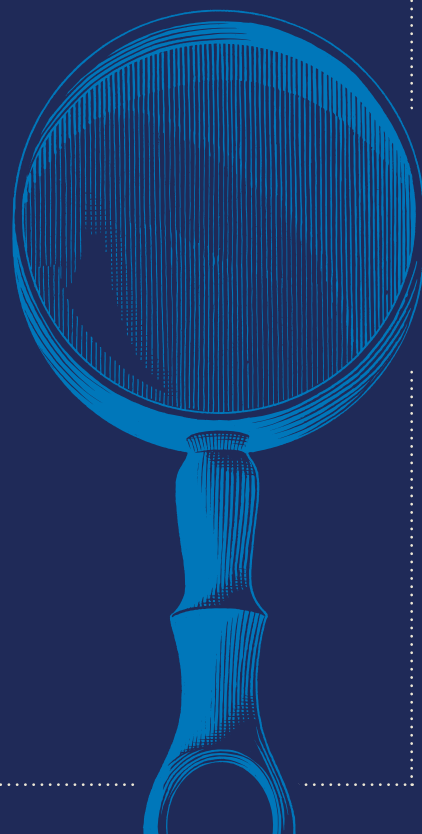
Office of the City Auditor 2025-2026 Initiatives

Auditor Appointment Ordinance Update

In mid-2025, the City Council amended the hiring qualifications for the City Auditor, replacing the previous Certified Public Accountant (CPA) requirement with a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) certification to be obtained within two years. There was significant public input which led to discussion over whether the internal auditor credential better suited the position's focus on performance audits, risk oversight, and operational leadership. Human Resources supported the position that a CPA was unnecessary given that financial audits are conducted by external firms and that internal auditing aligns more closely with the standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors. The change was approved on a **5-4 vote** and aligns the City Auditor role with industry norms, emphasizing independent oversight rather than traditional financial accounting.

Strengthening Internal Audit Processes

In 2025, the Auditor's Office invested significant time in strengthening internal processes and modernizing audit practices. This work included implementing new audit software, improving audit planning methods, and developing structured onboarding and training resources. The team also began aligning methodologies and documentation with the 2024 Global Internal Audit Standards, ensuring the Auditor's Office continues to meet leading professional practices while improving consistency, efficiency, and audit quality. The Auditor's Office also launched improved timekeeping practices to better understand how audit resources are deployed. These efforts will support more informed data-driven decision making and establish the foundation for developing a balanced scorecard in 2026 to measure performance and track progress toward strategic goals.



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

City Council is supported by Legislative Services

City Council is supported by a staff who are tasked with doing a wide range of responsibilities including legislative research, constituent response, media coordination, scheduling, event planning, and more.



Emily Evans City Council Administrator

Michael Montgomery Deputy City Council Administrator

Carly Hoff Senior Legislative Analyst

Sam Friedman Constituent and Outreach Program Coordinator

Alex Ryden Senior Public Communications Specialist and Public Information Officer

Ayana Garcia Boards and Commissions Program Administrator

Ashley Hughes Staff Assistant to Council

Ludmer Aker Staff Assistant to Council



Mission Statement

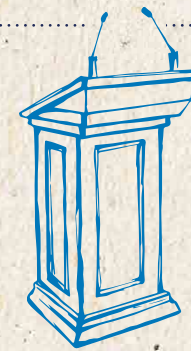
The Colorado Springs Legislative Services Staff provides non-partisan expertise and support to the City Council to inform impactful policy-making, engage constituents and stakeholders, and promote responsive local governance.

Vision Statement

Advancing the legislative priorities of the City of Colorado Springs through collaboration with Councilmembers, Executive Leadership, and members of the public.

Legislative Services 2025-2026 Initiatives

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 City Council Swearing-In Ceremony | 6 Boards and Commissions Solutions Team |
| 2 New Councilmember Orientation | 7 Audit Committee Review |
| 3 Councilmember Farewell | 8 Public Art Commission Legislation Review |
| 4 City Charter Review | 9 Citizens Transportation Advisory Board Legislation Review |
| 5 Rules and Procures of City Council Update | 10 Boards and Commissions Rules and Procedures Template |



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

become more involved

Attend a Meeting

City Hall is open to the public during City Council Meetings. In addition to City Council Meetings and Utilities Board Meetings, City Council holds many other public forums. These included City Council District Town Halls and Community Meetings. In addition to serving on City Council, Councilmembers also serve as liaisons and voting members to numerous Boards, Commissions, and Committees which are open to the public.

Tour City Hall

Want to know more about one of the City's most historic buildings? Reach out to Legislative Services Staff and we will be happy to take groups or individuals on a tour of the historic Colorado Springs City Hall.

Apply for a Board

We encourage you to become more involved in the decisions impacting life around Colorado Springs. Applying for a Board, Commission, or Committee is a great way to help shape how our city operates.

For more information, please visit [ColoradoSprings.gov/boards](https://coloradosprings.gov/boards).

Speak at a Meeting

All City Council Meetings are open to the public, and the Citizen Discussion portion of Regular Meetings allows the public to speak about any topic not on that agenda. Members of the public can also comment on specific agenda items during Regular Meetings, City Hall also serves as a gathering space for demonstrations and other events where people congregate to recognize various public interests or concerns.

Request a Councilmember

Councilmembers and Legislative Services Staff are accessible to constituents by appointment and are eager to speak about issues related to City Council. Councilmembers enjoy visiting schools and other organizations throughout Colorado Springs to educate about local government.

If you would like a Councilmember to speak at a school or community event, please reach out to Legislative Services Staff at [719-385-5986](tel:719-385-5986) or AllCouncil@ColoradoSprings.gov.

City Hall is open to the public during City Council Meetings or Board and Commission Meetings. Councilmembers and Legislative Services Staff are accessible to constituents by appointment and are eager to speak about anything happening across the city.

Subscribe to the "At the Dais" Newsletter

Stay informed of what is coming up on City Council Meeting Agendas or how City Council voted during a meeting by subscribing to the "At the Dais" Newsletter at [ColoradoSprings.gov/city-council-meetings](https://coloradosprings.gov/city-council-meetings)





COLORADO SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL

107 N. Nevada Avenue, Suite 300

Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1575

PHONE: (719) 385-5986

To find out what City Council district you live in:

[ColoradoSprings.gov/city-council-districts](https://coloradosprings.gov/city-council-districts)

Copies of this report are free to the public and can be downloaded at:

[ColoradoSprings.gov/CityCouncil](https://coloradosprings.gov/CityCouncil)

