



**CITY OF ROYAL CITY
COUNCIL MINUTES
October 07, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Royal City, Grant County, Washington, met in regular session on October 07, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Christensen.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Christensen, Councilmembers Fanning, Garcia and Rodriguez. **A motion was made to excuse Councilmembers Piercy and Kannelly, (m/s Fanning/Garcia), the motion carried.**

STAFF PRESENT: Finance Director Janice Flynn, Public Works Director Mauricio Romero, Chief Rodriguez and Officer Bronn

PRESENTATIONS

- **None**
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PUBLIC COMMENT – Comments were received throughout the meeting and summarized below

- Members of the Guadarrama family were in attendance to discuss the status of the Old Red Rock School Building and site. Santos Guadarrama stated they currently have a purchase & sale agreement in place, but it is contingent upon the purchaser receiving an Early Learning Facility (ELF) grant. Said grant will take approximately 300 days to verify. The grant process began about thirty days ago. The Mayor asked how the City should proceed in case the P&S agreement does not come to fruition. Alex Kovach suggested a maintenance plan be put in place with regular follow-ups to ensure compliance. Guadarrama stated that there have been some break-ins in the past as well as people trying to live on the property. Now there is more of an issue with juveniles causing problems. They have installed cameras and are trying to install more. There was discussion. Council is pleased there is a plan to move forward. Guadarrama would like a letter of support for the grant from the City. Mayor requested Kovach provide quarterly reports during the grant process.
- Cecilia Mayo and Beatrice Jimenez inquired about possible use of the new soccer field for kid's leagues and possible adult leagues. There was discussion. Janice Flynn reminded Council that the grant received to build the soccer field was specifically for a Youth Athletic Facility and it will need to stay a YAF for twenty

years. She also said it can be used for other things, such as adult league use and Summerfest activities, but the priority must remain youth soccer. The Mayor indicated that specifics for the use of the field have not yet been determined and that Council will be discussing and making a decision at a later date.

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CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented. (m/s Garcia/Fanning), the motion carried.

Items on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- Council Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2025
- Payroll 09/30/2025 in the amount of \$65,789.67
- Claims for 10/07/2025 #32223 – 32265 in the amount of \$406,746.96

REGULAR MEETING PAUSED AT 7:36

PUBLIC HEARING

- Mayor opened the hearing for public comment regarding revenue sources for the City 2026 budget as well as the 2026 property tax levy. Janice Flynn presented both. It is recommended the property tax levy be increased the maximum amount allowed of one percent (1%). Sales tax has continually come down in recent years. We will continue to see reimbursements from Royal School District and the Gorge for police services and the Cemetery District for Public Works' services. Some grants are in place for various projects, the City has received approval for a loan for Well No. 5 and the City has applied for a loan regarding planning for wastewater facility improvements. It was also suggested that the Police Dept look into current state funding and a possible tax specifically available for police expenses only. We also have revenue from City enterprise funds, which are water/sewer/refuse. There was Council discussion.
There was no public comment.
Public Hearing closed at 7:48

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 7:48

ORDINANCES

- None

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RESOLUTIONS

- None

STAFF REPORTS

Finance: The following was presented by Janice Flynn

Kovach Architects Contract – The contract to provide services through the end of 2025 was presented. **A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign the contract for planning and building services through the end of 2025, including work for the Climate Planning and Periodic Update Grants, with Kovach Architects.** (m/s Garcia/Fanning), the motion carried.

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Police Department: The following was presented by Chief Rodriguez

- General business, which included general parking and handicap parking around town. There was discussion.
- Officer Bronn previously requested permission to join the area Tactical Response Team. There was discussion regarding initial/on-going costs and the effect on the department and other officers when Officer Bronn is at TRT training or called into service. Chief Rodriguez stated he would be covering for Bronn during these circumstances. To be further discussed by Council at next meeting when additional Council members are present. Bronn will proceed with testing for the team next week as previously planned.
- Flock Safety Cameras – Chief recapped his previous requested for six Flock cameras to be installed around town. There was discussion regarding technology security and cost. Chief Rodriguez stated all information gathered electronically is encrypted, retained by Flock and public records requests would go through them. This request will be reevaluated when considering the 2026 budget.

Public Works: The following was presented by PW Director Romero

- General business which included a soccer field update and the need for a pick-up for the use by the PW director, which has the capability of hauling City equipment.
- The City Hall HVAC system needs repairs of approximately \$3,000 or \$12,500 for complete replacement. Council asked that quotes for system replacement be gathered and presented for consideration.
- Permanent fencing around the new irrigation system at Lion's park needs to be installed. There was discussion regarding the use of barbed wire at the top of the fence. Katherine Kenison will review our ordinance regarding barbed wire.

Planning & Building: The following was presented by Alex Kovach

- General business –
- CAD Homes is proceeding with the Pratt Development and a hearing regarding multifamily housing is scheduled for next week.
- Periodic Update Grant – This is to assist with Growth Management Act requirements. **A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign contract #26-63114-028 for the Periodic Update Grant with WA State Dept of Commerce.** (m/s Garcia/Fanning), the motion carried.

- Comp Plan Amendment Recommendation – Hearing was held on September 4, 2025. Recommendations include a future land use map, updated Capital Facilities Plan and adjusting policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Climate Planning Grant – Contract with Sage Step LLC – Sage Step will perform services needed for climate planning. **A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign the contract with Sage Step LLC. (m/s Garcia/Fanning), the motion carried.**

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Legal: Katherine Kenison was present via phone

- Request that a Councilmember attend the next AGCCT meeting as they are discussing the topic of forming a Council of Governments.

COUNCIL REPORT & COMMENTS –

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MAYOR's REPORT & COMMENTS –

- There was discussion regarding the future of the old library. One proposal from Fannings, owners of the local Harvest Foods, and two letters from the public were received regarding the matter. The Mayor will review and asked Council to ponder whether or not to keep the library property. discussions will continue. Josh Fanning said they would like to add 7,000-9,000 square feet to the existing store, but are unable to do so without additional property for parking. He also stated that the city has supported the store for many years and that they support the city. The city has grown over the years and the store now needs to grow also.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 pm. (Garcia), Motion carried unanimously.

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Michael Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Flynn, Finance Director