



Town of Dinosaur Minutes

Dinosaur Town Council
Dinosaur Council Chambers
June 9, 2026

Mayor, Darcie Rocque

Jeff Harrington
Nicole Ratcliff
Marshelle Gray

Mike Snyder
Devonna Wilczek
Leroy Trujillo

Regular meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

**All Council members were present. Rob Essex, Michael Taylor, Paul Jachim
Via Zoom, Kevin Yancy, Jill Fritz**

Mayor Rocque led the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business

1. **Discussion and action on accounts payable for May 2026.** Discussion included:
 - Ferguson Water Works charges related to water/sewer infrastructure and new tap connections.
 - Motel expenses paid through Nancy Radcliffe's office for housing stranded individuals in emergency situations.
 - Costs related to the town's water system and operator licensing.
 - Clarification of utility billing issues that were eventually corrected.
 - Various routine operational expenses.

Mike Snyder motion to approve the accounts payable for May 2026

Second: Devonna Wilczek

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

2. New Park Restroom Trailer Project

Discussion focused on a newly acquired restroom trailer:

Planned Features

- Approximately:
 - **8 women's stalls**
 - **3–4 men's stalls**

- Intended to be placed near the existing park restrooms.
- Connected to:
 - Water
 - Sewer
 - Electrical service

Council Direction

- The trailer will be set on jacks rather than remain mobile.
 - It will supplement restroom capacity during large community events and festivals.
 - The council supported the project due to increasing numbers of visitors.
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3. Water System Licensing Requirements

The council discussed the town's need for certified water operators.

Key Points

- The town currently pays approximately **\$800** for access to a licensed operator's certification.
 - Colorado now requires a **Class C Water License** due to orthophosphate treatment requirements.
 - Employee **Ken** is actively attending training and conferences to obtain the certification.
 - Management emphasized that obtaining the Class C license is valuable and necessary for future compliance.
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4. Marijuana Business License Renewal Approved

Jill Fritz zoomed into the meeting.

Discussion included:

- Questions about whether the property is legally residential or commercial.
- Review of prior council approvals that effectively established the property as a commercial location.
- Confirmation that the business had been approved in 2019 for operation at that location.

Jeff Harrington moved to approve the renewal of Dino Treats' marijuana license.

Second, Nicole Ratcliff

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

5. Low-Cost Veterinary Clinic Returns

The town plans to host another low-cost veterinary clinic.

Tentative Date

- **July 25, 2026**

Services

- Vaccinations
- Nail trims
- Exams
- Grooming
- Spay/neuter scheduling assistance

Outreach Plan

- Flyers
- Facebook announcements
- Sign-up list through town hall

Last year's clinic served approximately **35 residents and pets**.

6. Mosquito and Cricket Control

The council discussed seasonal pest management.

Mosquitoes

- Few complaints have been received so far.
- County spraying remains available if needed.

Crickets

- Crickets have begun appearing.
 - The town still has control products available.
 - Staff will monitor the situation and determine whether additional treatment is necessary.
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7. Council Compensation Clarification

A significant portion of the meeting involved council pay increases and legal compliance.

Current Compensation

- Council Members: **\$100/month**
- Mayor: **\$150/month**

Legal Issue

The town attorney determined:

- Current elected officials cannot legally vote themselves a raise.
- Due to timing, the recently approved compensation ordinance cannot immediately benefit current members.
- The increase applies to future elected terms.

Effect

- Some members will not receive the new compensation until:
 - 2026 election cycle
 - 2030 election cycle, depending on their seat

Finance staff explained adjustments that were made to correct prior payroll errors.

8. Troxel Property Purchase Discussion

The council discussed purchasing the dilapidated property across from town facilities.

Proposed Purchase Price

\$25,000

Arguments For Purchase

- Eliminate blighted property.
- Create future parking.
- Potential site for:
 - Park expansion

- Splash pad
- Community amenities

Concerns

- Cleanup and demolition could add:
 - \$15,000–\$30,000+
- Total project cost could approach:
 - \$45,000–\$50,000

Outcome

No final decision.

Council requested:

- More cost estimates
- Cleanup projections
- Demolition estimates.

9. Blighted Properties and Code Enforcement

The council discussed long-term problems with abandoned homes and trailers.

Topics included:

- Condemnation procedures
- Cleanup authority
- Tax liens
- Cost recovery options
- Limited enforcement tools under current Colorado law

Town staff noted:

- Many owners live out of state.
- Municipal courts have fewer enforcement options than in the past.
- Cleanup costs often exceed property value.

The council debated whether purchasing problem properties may be more practical than extended enforcement actions.

10. Visitor Center Funding Crisis

One of the most important discussions concerned the future of the Dinosaur Visitor Center.

Current Situation

Colorado is reducing funding for state visitor centers.

Potential Consequences

- Staff funding could disappear.
- The Visitor Center could lose official state status.

Proposed Solution

Create a partnership between:

- Town of Dinosaur
- Town of Rangely
- Moffat County

Potential benefits:

- Keep bathrooms available.
- Continue visitor services.
- Preserve tourism information.

- Maintain Wi-Fi and charging stations.

The council was interested in exploring this partnership. Finance will talk with the other entities and come back to the council with the outcome.

11. Dino Treats Sewer Connection Problem

A sewer issue was investigated at **Dino Treats**.

Findings

- Dino Treats and neighboring property share a sewer connection.
- The shared connection predates current code requirements.

Town Action

The town agreed to:

- Waive the sewer tap fee.
- Provide the sewer tap.

The business owner must:

- Install a separate sewer line.
- Pay for trenching and plumbing work.

The town will not fund the entire sewer installation.

12. Highway 40 Sidewalk Project Major Setback

This was the longest discussion of the evening.

Current Status

The project has stalled because CDOT identified major design issues.

Problems Identified

- Missing traffic engineering review.
- Sidewalk placement concerns.
- ADA compliance issues.
- Curb and gutter design concerns.
- Crosswalk design concerns.
- Need for updated traffic studies.

Funding Situation

- DOLA grant: **\$50,000**
- Additional grant funding: approximately **\$250,000**
- Engineering costs are already spent approximately **\$66,000**

Council Concerns

Some members questioned:

- Whether sidewalks are worth the cost.
- Whether crosswalks are necessary.
- Whether lowering the speed limit is desirable.

Others argued:

- The project improves safety.
- It improves community appearance.
- It encourages economic activity.

Proposed Next Steps

- Seek a one-year extension of existing grants.
- Pursuing a federal TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant.
- Hire a traffic engineer.

No final decision was made.

13. Highway 40 Speed Reduction Discussion

Related to the sidewalk project:

CDOT Requirements

To support pedestrian crossings, CDOT wants:

- Slower traffic speeds.
- Updated traffic studies.

Ideas Discussed

- Speed feedback signs.
- Additional traffic monitoring.
- Enforcement adjustments.
- Traffic-calming measures.

Concerns Raised

- Increased truck noise.
- Engine brake use.
- Potential impact on traffic flow.
- Possible effects on local businesses.

Council members were divided on how aggressively traffic should be slowed.

14. Tiny Home Ordinance Discussion

A developer, Kevin Yancy, joined by Zoom, regarding tiny homes.

Topic

Reducing minimum dwelling size requirements.

Current Proposal

Potential reduction to approximately:

- **600 square feet**
- Discussion included structures around **20' x 20'**

Next Steps

The council plans:

- Public surveys
- Workshops
- Community meetings

Staff will research what other communities are doing.

15. Cemetery Marker Concerns

A citizen raised concerns about older graves in the cemetery.

Issue

Many older graves have:

- Small metal markers
- Missing or deteriorated identification

Request

Explore whether:

- New markers can be installed.
- Existing graves can be better identified.

Response

Town officials agreed to investigate cemetery regulations and options.

Adjourn: Nicole Ratcliff moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57; seconded by Jeff Harrington, Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Dinosaur

ATTEST:

Darcie Rocque, Mayor

Christine Brasfield, Town Clerk

Key Decisions Made

- ✓ Approved May 2026 Accounts Payable
 - ✓ Renewed marijuana business license
 - ✓ Moved forward with planning for the July veterinary clinic
 - ✓ Agreed to continue pursuing information on the Visitor Center partnership
 - ✓ Agreed to provide Dino Treats a sewer tap while requiring the owner to complete installation
 - ✓ Directed staff to gather more information on the Troxel property purchase
 - ✓ Directed staff to seek grant extension and additional funding options for the Highway 40 sidewalk project
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Major Issues Still Pending

1. Purchase of the Troxel property.
2. Future of the Visitor Center funding.
3. Highway 40 sidewalk and pedestrian crossing project.
4. Traffic speed reduction efforts.
5. Tiny home ordinance revisions.
6. Cemetery marker improvements.
7. Long-term blighted property enforcement strategy.