

**City of Rock Creek
City Council Meeting
Approved Minutes
April 16, 2026**

Mayor Dick Johnson, called the City Council meeting to order at 4:58 PM.

Members present:

Mayor Dick Johnson, Council Members: Dan Saumer, Nancy Rys, Don Ramberg, Sam Christenson

Members Absent:

Others present:

Interim City Administrator Ashley Rauschnot, Don Burger, Chelsy Lindman

Pledge of Allegiance

Hiring of Administrative Assistant

Dan Saumer recommended moving forward with the appointment of Ashley Rauschnot as Interim City Administrator and proceeding with posting for an Administrative Assistant position. Councilmembers reached consensus on a schedule of 20–24 hours per week for the position, with an hourly wage range of \$20–\$24 depending on qualifications. Ashley Rauschnot provided a draft job posting, which Councilmembers reviewed and approved with minor revisions to reflect the agreed-upon hours, wage range, and an application deadline of May 15, 2026.

Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Sam Christenson, to post an advertisement for an Administrative Assistant position for a period of two weeks, in accordance with the above stipulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim City Administrator Employment Terms

Dan Saumer recommended setting the Interim City Administrator wage at \$30.00 per hour, retroactive to February 23, 2026, the Monday following Sandra Pangerl's retirement. He also recommended implementing a 90-day probationary period with a review.

Councilmembers discussed whether the probationary period should begin retroactively from Sandra Pangerl's departure or from the date of Ashley Rauschnot's appointment as Interim City Administrator. Consensus was reached to begin the probationary period at the time of appointment, with a review scheduled for the July 2026 City Council meeting.

Councilmembers further discussed expected hours for the position and agreed that Ashley Rauschnot would work approximately 30 hours per week with flexibility. It was understood that weekly hours may vary as needed, provided that all required work is completed.

Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Nancy Rys, to set the compensation for Interim City Administrator Ashley Rauschnot at \$30.00 per hour, retroactive to February 23, 2026, with a 90-day probationary period and a review to be conducted at the July 2026 City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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Gravel Hauling Quotes

Gravel hauling quotes were received from Bjorklund Companies at \$5.54 per cubic yard and Rydberg & Sons at \$5.47 per cubic yard. Nancy Rys stated that customer service is a significant factor and noted that the daily scale tickets provided by Bjorklund Companies demonstrate strong service. Dan Saumer responded that Rydberg & Sons had previously provided gravel crushing services to the City and allowed extended payment terms at that time. Councilmembers agreed that both companies have demonstrated acceptable customer service.

Council discussion reflected a split in preference. Some Councilmembers expressed concern over rescinding the original award to Bjorklund Companies, while others stated that, under the original sealed bidding statutes, the award should have gone to Rydberg & Sons. Don Ramberg stated that, with the understanding that Rydberg & Sons can provide daily scale tickets, he is willing to move forward with them, but noted that future decisions may be impacted if expectations are not met.

Dan Saumer motioned, seconded by Don Ramberg, to award the gravel hauling quote to Rydberg & Sons at \$5.47 per cubic yard. Motion carried unanimously, with Sam Christenson abstaining due to absence from previous related meetings.

Councilmembers stated that both companies are owed an apology and thank-you letter. Interim City Administrator Ashley Rauschnot was directed to draft the letters for Council review and signature prior to distribution.

Lastly, a resident in attendance suggested implementing contractor scorecards for future use, allowing the City to provide consistent feedback to contractors on performance, including areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

Office Update

Part-Time Public Works Position

Don Ramberg and Curt Kubesh reported that they interviewed four candidates of varying experience levels. The candidate identified as most qualified currently does not meet the availability requirements requested by the City but indicated a willingness to adjust his schedule with his current employer to accommodate the City's needs. If the candidate is able to do so, the Public Works Department would like to move forward with hiring him.

Don Ramberg noted that all candidates interviewed were strong, and the decision ultimately focused on selecting the individual who would best support the needs of the department.

Office Help

Interim City Administrator Ashley Rauschnot stated that she has been attempting to

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schedule a dental appointment for several months and, after previously declining multiple Wednesday appointments due to work conflicts, accepted an appointment on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. She indicated the office would need coverage for approximately one and a half hours.

Councilmembers briefly discussed the matter and directed that notice be posted on the City's website, Facebook page, and office door indicating that the office will be closed for approximately one and a half hours on that date.

Gambling Ordinance

A question was raised to a Councilmember regarding Time Out Bar and Grill hosting a fundraiser/benefit for a local resident. Loren from the Grandy Lions advised caution, noting the event may potentially violate gambling regulations. As this matter has not previously been addressed by the City, Councilmembers directed Interim City Administrator Ashley Rauschnot to contact the City Attorney for guidance on the legality of such an event and, if necessary, what actions the City Council could take to allow it.

Dan Saumer motioned, seconded by Sam Christenson to adjourn at 6:18PM. Motion carried with all ayes.

Ashley Rauschnot
Deputy Clerk