

# A Minute with the Manager

March 2026



March marks the beginning of budget season for the City of Rawlins. During this time, department directors submit their funding requests to the Finance Department. Working together, the Finance Director and City Manager review those requests, evaluate projected revenues, and prepare a balanced budget for City Council's consideration and approval through May and June.

While departments rely on historical spending trends and operational needs to build their budgets, city leadership must also look ahead to estimate what the city can reasonably expect to receive from its tax base. To do this, we review economic forecasts from the State of Wyoming's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, along with national and regional indicators. These projections guide how much funding can be responsibly allocated within the General Fund.



The General Fund supports the core services residents rely on every day. This includes Administration, Cemetery, Community Development, Facilities, Finance, Fire, IT, Parks, Recreation, Police, and Streets. These departments are funded primarily through sales and use taxes, property taxes, and state-shared revenues.

In Wyoming, municipalities depend heavily on sales and use tax collections. In Rawlins, these taxes represent the largest portion of our General Fund revenue, around 75%. However, the state has nearly 50 exemptions where sales tax is not collected, and sales tax itself is highly sensitive to economic conditions. Changes in consumer spending, construction activity, mineral development, or regional employment can all significantly affect collections. This volatility makes municipal revenue forecasting challenging from year to year.

After sales tax, property tax is the next most significant revenue source for municipalities. Although it generates less revenue overall, it has

historically provided stability. Recent legislative changes reducing property taxes and expanding exemptions have introduced new variability into what was once a more predictable funding source. These changes affect local governments across Wyoming and may carry long-term implications for cities, counties, special districts, and school districts.

Enterprise Funds—in Rawlins Water, Wastewater, Landfill, and Recycling—operate differently. These services are supported through user fees and grants, rather than general taxes. Rate structures are designed to sustain operations, maintain infrastructure, and plan for long-term capital needs. While more stable than sales tax revenue, these funds still require careful oversight to ensure long-term sustainability.

The greatest impact of revenue fluctuations is often not on essential public safety or infrastructure, but on a city's ability to support broader community priorities. When economic conditions soften, local governments are frequently called upon to provide foundational support—whether through partnerships, infrastructure investment, or limited grant assistance—to help sustain community services and quality-of-life initiatives.

To mitigate the risk these revenue fluctuations present, responsible financial management requires maintaining prudent reserves. These savings provide flexibility to match grant opportunities for large projects in our General and Enterprise Funds, respond to emergencies, and maintain service levels during economic downturns.

Budgeting is a detailed and time-intensive process but is one of the most important responsibilities we undertake. Careful planning ensures Rawlins remains financially stable while continuing to provide the essential services our residents depend on every day.

Sincerely, Matt Hall  
Rawlins City Manager  
[mhall@rawlinswy.gov](mailto:mhall@rawlinswy.gov) or 307-328-4500

Learn more about our budgeting process at [www.rawlinswy.gov](http://www.rawlinswy.gov) or call Community Relations at 307-328-4500 ext. 1022.

**Want to make a difference in our downtown?**

OUR **PUBLIC SPACES** GROUP

FOCUSES ON ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL IN OUR DOWNTOWN.

DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE EYE?

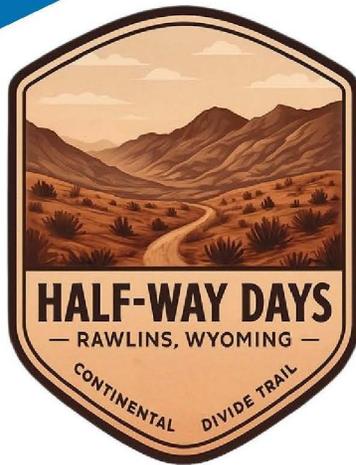
COME SHARE WITH US AT OUR UPCOMING MEETING,

**MARCH 30TH AT NOON! (NEW DATE)**

CAN'T MAKE IT? SEND US AN EMAIL! [DOWNTOWN@RAWLINSWY.GOV](mailto:downtown@rawlinswy.gov)



**BIG WEEKEND IN  
DOWNTOWN RAWLINS**  
**July 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



**DECLARATION OF  
IMAGINATION**

**Downtown Development Authority  
is celebrating 35 years!**

We are looking for old photos & stories of Downtown Rawlins for our upcoming celebration. If you have one you'd like to share with us, please stop by our office at 116 4<sup>th</sup> St. upstairs, M-Th 9am-3:30pm or email it to us at [downtown@rawlinswy.gov](mailto:downtown@rawlinswy.gov)



[www.DowntownRawlins.org](http://www.DowntownRawlins.org)

# Now Available

## Punch Cards



Punch Cards available again for purchase \$25.00 each for 5 visits first visit is free.

\*\*We will no longer hold onto punch cards for patrons at the front desk

A colorful graphic for roller skating. The title "ROLLER SKATE" is in large, bold letters, with "\$5" in starburst shapes on either side. Below the title, a speech bubble contains the schedule: "Fridays 6pm-8pm and Sundays 3pm-5pm pm". Another speech bubble contains contact information: "rflamig@rawlinswy.gov dbaca@rawlinswy.gov 307-324-7529". The background features a large roller skate and a "REC" logo. At the bottom, it says "NO PERSONAL SKATES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL".

A graphic for women's volleyball. The title "4x4 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL" is in large, bold, stylized letters. Below the title, four women are shown in action, jumping to hit a volleyball. A large volleyball in the center has "REC" and "\$100 PER TEAM" written on it. At the bottom, a red banner contains the date "MARCH 30TH, 2026" and the text "GAMES WILL BE MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 5:15PM PLEASE HAVE TEAMS REGISTERED BY MARCH 23RD RAWLINS REC CENTER".

307-324-7529

rflamig@rawlinswy.gov dbaca@rawlinswy.gov

TIMES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

A graphic for 5x5 adult basketball. The title "5x5 ADULT BASKETBALL SHOWDOWN" is in large, bold, stylized letters. Below the title, silhouettes of basketball players are shown in action, with one player jumping to shoot a ball. A large basketball in the center has "REC" and "\$150 PER TEAM" written on it. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "PLEASE HAVE TEAMS REGISTERED BY MARCH 23RD".

307-324-7529

rflamig@rawlinswy.gov dbaca@rawlinswy.gov

**DATE**  
MARCH  
31<sup>ST</sup> 2026

**TIME**  
GAMES WILL BE  
TUESDAYS AND  
THURSDAYS  
STARTING AT 5:15PM

**LOCATION**  
LOCATION  
RAWLINS REC  
CENTER

TIMES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!

# Utility Assistance & More



Salvation Army, managed locally by St. Christopher's Highway, provides up to \$200 annually for housing and utilities with no income requirements. 307-321-6688 or [stchristophershwycc.com](http://stchristophershwycc.com)



WyoHelp provides a variety of assistance, including utility payments, for income-qualifying individuals. Applications must be submitted online at [www.wyohelp.com](http://www.wyohelp.com)



Wyoming Low-Income Energy Assistance Program helps income-qualified families pay their heating bills and provides weatherization assistance. Visit [www.lieapwyo.org](http://www.lieapwyo.org) or call 1-800-246-4221.



Jason's Friends Foundation

If your child suffers from cancer, brain tumors, or spinal cord tumors, Jason's Friends may assist you with your utility bills. [www.jasonsfriends.org](http://www.jasonsfriends.org) or call 307-235-3421.



Volunteers of America Northern Rockies provides support for income-qualifying veterans including utilities, housing, employment, and more. Visit [www.voanr.org/veterans](http://www.voanr.org/veterans) or call 1-307-632-9362

Wyoming

2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

Need other assistance? Contact Wyoming 211. Their mission is to connect Wyomingites to resources for food, job training, rent & utility assistance, and more. You can dial 211 or visit [wyoming211.org/](http://wyoming211.org/).

**¿Habla español? Visite [www.rawlinswy.gov/billhelp](http://www.rawlinswy.gov/billhelp) para obtener esto en español e inglés.**



# Rawlins Recycling Center



Glass



Newspapers, Inserts,  
Office Paper & Magazines



Clean Steel Cans



Milk Jugs, Clear #1,  
and Colored #2 Plastics  
(often plastics with  
screw-top lids)



Aluminum Cans



Cardboard & Paperboard

## Know Your **NO!**

\*below are not  
recyclable in Rawlins\*

Food Containers & Lids



Styrofoam



Plastic "Films"



Recycling #3 - #7



The CITY of  
**RAWLINS**

1524 Daley Street

307-328-4569

[rawlinswy.org/recycling](http://rawlinswy.org/recycling)

Always Free  
at the Landfill

- Metal
- Green Waste
- Limbs & Branches
- Grass
- Clean Dirt

# Would you like to serve on City Council?

There are four City Council seats up  
for election in November 2026,  
with terms from January 2027-2031.

**The candidate filing period runs  
from May 14-29, 2026.**

For more information on the qualifications for holding  
office and to file, please visit Lynn Shearer, City Clerk at  
City Hall: 521 W. Cedar or call 307-328-4500 ext. 1001.

Don't forget to vote in the Primary  
on Tuesday, August 18th  
at the Jeffrey Center.



**Call us at  
307-320-5267**



The City of Rawlins Bus runs  
Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

**\$2 per ride**

**Senior Rate (65+):  
\$1.50 per ride**

Bus will take you to your  
destination in Rawlins.

Please call in advance to arrange for  
pickup. Phone will not be answered while  
driving, so please leave a message.

Wheelchair accessible/4-point  
restraints and toddler seats available.



**Power Company  
of Wyoming**

New Bus Purchased with  
Impact Assistance Funds from  
Power Company of Wyoming's Wind Energy Project



## DEATH BY FEEDING

What feels like kindness actually hurts.

Deer are built to digest mostly woody  
plants like twigs, buds, and bark – not  
high-carbohydrate foods like corn, bird  
seed, pellets, hay, apples, or livestock  
feed. Human-provided foods can make  
deer seriously sick or cause death, even  
when they appear healthy.

Feeding also causes deer to gather  
unnaturally, which spreads disease and  
increases vehicle collisions and  
aggression.



Want more info? Visit  
[www.rawlinswy.gov/wgfd-deer](http://www.rawlinswy.gov/wgfd-deer)

