

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on August 26th, 2025, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Grantham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Present
Justin Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Present
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Administrator	Present
Dan Victoria	Planning & Zoning Director	Present

INVOCATION

Mike Wooldridge from Living Word Foursquare Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Bell moved to remove item number one under new business and renumber the following, with those changes Commissioner Bell moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2025 & August 12, 2025
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,256,611.32
3. Schedule Public Hearings:
 - a. Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 9:30 AM
ZC #1 25-001 Kewish
The purpose of this rezone is to change the zone district from Residential Three to Residential Two.
Representative: Allan Doran

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

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1. Staff / Elected Officials:

- a. Sales & Use Tax Report, Shawn Sutton, Budget & Finance Officer

Shawn Sutton gave the Sales & Use Tax Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

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- b. County Clerk's Monthly Report and FY26 Audit Report, Justin Grantham, County Clerk

Clerk Grantham gave the County Clerk's Monthly Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Commissioner Bell moved to accept the County Clerk's report for the month of July 2025. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Clerk Grantham began the FY26 audit report saying the audit is necessary considering all inventory needs to be accounted for so nothing fraudulent is happening. He said the county received a score of 27/27 that is calculated by environment, accuracy, organization, record keeping, and security.

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- c. County Administrator Report, Tony Carochi, County Administrator

County Administrator Carochi gave the County Administrator Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Commissioner McFall wanted to thank Southeast Colorado Watery Conservancy District for increasing the river flow to keep it at a useable level as far as tourism and entertainment of locals.

Commissioner Bell said she went to a beautiful memorial for Gene McKinnon; the Florence Fire District Station 1 was dedicated to him for his 30 years of service.

2. Citizens who wish to address the Commissioners on a matter not scheduled on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- ~~1. Recognition of Fremont County Department of Motor Vehicles audit results
Representatives: Clerk Chief Deputy Dotty Gardunio, Motor Vehicle Director Berta Newell, and
Motor Vehicle Clerk III Jeanette Mulay~~

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1. Kinship Care Proclamation
Representatives: Molly Willard, Jordan Gunter, Amy Maroni

Ms. Willard thanked the commissioners for giving these families the recognition they deserve, she then recited the Kinship Care Proclamation which can be found in its entirety at the bottom of these minutes.

Commissioner Bell reiterated the importance of kinship care considering the foster system is scarce in the area and how much more beneficial when family takes care of these children because there is genuine care.

Ms. Willard said that the credit is due from the first call to the department with intake to the ongoing case workers. She said their department has a passion for nurturing these sacred relationships between these children and their families.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the proclamation to make September 2025 in Fremont County Kinship Care month. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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2. National Suicide Prevention Month, Proclaiming September 2025 as Suicide
Prevention Month in Fremont County
Representative: Carie Canterbury

Commissioner Bell recited the proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Month for September 2025 which can be found in its entirety at the bottom of these minutes.

Ms. Canterbury said they began the Fremont County Out of the Darkness Community Walk after Dalton Cobbler died by suicide in June 2015. He was the Florence High School valedictorian that year and set to go to the Colorado School of Mines in a couple months. His mother called Ms. Canterbury in 2016 and asked why they don't do anything for suicide awareness month because she wanted to honor

her son and bring awareness since they didn't have any inkling that their son was suicidal. She said the walk is welcome to anyone and they have a silent auction to raise funds for the organization.

Commissioner McFall thanked Carrie for being present and reminded everyone that they promised Jessica to continue this proclamation as long as this board is present.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the proclamation naming September of 2025 as National Suicide Prevention Month in Fremont County. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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3. MS 24-005 Helmick

Requesting approval for a minor subdivision that will create a total of two (2) lots.
Located at 1226 S 12th Street, Canon City, CO 81212 Applicant: Nate Helmick

Mr. Helmick said the property is about six acres in the Lincoln Park area. There is an already existing residence on the front side of the property, and he would like to build another structure for his personal residence that would be accessible off Reed Lane at the back of the property.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria said the purpose is to request approval of a minor subdivision that will create a total of two lots located at 1226 South 12th Street and address to be determined Reed Lane in Canon City. Lot one would be two acres and is proposed to be serviced by City of Canon City water, Fremont Sanitation, Black Hills Energy, Atmos Energy, and Spectrum which is the new proposed lot. Lot two already has a dwelling and outbuildings and is 3.035 acres in size. The applicant requested a waiver for a deferment of the drainage plan which the engineer supported. Department of Transportation requested that at the end of Reed Lane be improved to the property line with a road base material. The Canon Fire District stated that a fire hydrant must be added to meet international fire code, in lieu of adding a fire hydrant the fire district would also accept a fire suppression system installed on the proposed lot one. The Fremont Sanitation District is requesting that an easement be added to access necessary pipelines and to add a lock onto the existing gate on Reed Lane. Director Victoria said the department recommends approval with the approval of the waiver request for the topographic and soil test. Contingencies include providing a water service contract and allowing Fremont Sanitation District to place a lock on the gate. A couple of conditions include adding a note to the plat about the fire suppression system being added or a fire hydrant and to let Fremont Sanitation District coordinate with Fremont County Department of Transportation concerning improvements made to Reed Lane. The staff does not support the request to waive number three about not making improvements to Reed Lane.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve MS 24-005 Helmick with a waiver for the topographic and soil information request. Contingencies include a water contract and to allow Fremont Sanitation District to put a lock on the gate. Conditions to meet a note on the plat at the time of development a fire suppression system must be added to the residential structure or fire hydrant to lot one must be installed. The applicant must allow the sanitation district to coordinate with Fremont DOT when improvements to Reed Lane are in progress. Another note must be added to the plat stating that at the time of development a drainage plan and report will be completed. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/26/2025 1:01:30

4. TUP 25-005 Royal Gorge Rumble

Requesting approval of a Temporary Use Permit, for a cross-country mountain bike race on October 3rd-5th, 2025. The event is scheduled to take place at the Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort at 4218 CR 3A, Canon City, CO.

Applicant: John Hutchinson

Vicki Meier said she sits on the board for Fremont Adventure Recreation and coaches the high school mountain bike team. The organization has had its sights on Royal Gorge Ranch and Resort for a couple of years by designing the course and in four months they have managed to build and get the course approved. The organization is requesting approval for a TUP to have 800-900 high school students from October 3rd to the 5th to participate in this six-mile race. She believes it would provide an economic boost to the area with all the visitors and fill every campsite on 8 Mile. This league went from 100 kids in one day to 2,000 kids in four race days making them complete self-sufficient organization. The league provides their own security to assist in traffic control and six medical staff members.

Commissioner McFall asked if the organization is aware of another event happening that weekend out on County Road 3A and what their forecasted use is of this road.

Ms. Meier answered that they only plan to use the road for getting in and out of the ranch where the actual event is going to be held. They also have been in contact with Mary Yang their race director to coordinate traffic control, she also spoke to FCDOT and the Fremont County Sheriff's department to explain and make them aware. The race should only impede traffic on County Road 3A for approximately two hours.

Commissioner McFall expressed concern about the mountain bikers cycling back to the campgrounds.

Ms. Meier responded that no racers are allowed to be on any public roads.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria said this event is expected to have 25 teams which is 300-400 student athletes per day with 1,125 spectators over the two-day period. October 3rd is going to be for setting up the event and race days will be October 4th and 5th with hours from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Refuse will be handled by Twin Enviro, Ace Security oversees crowd control, portable water by GEM Trucking, and there will be 16 chemical toilets. They will have a food truck that is properly licensed, there are no expected road closures and parking will be completely within the property. Canon City Fire Protection requests that there is one individual who has the duty to receive, interpret, deliver, and/or take appropriate action for local emergency notifications via Fremont County Everbridge. FCDOT would like to ensure that no roadways are blocked and a line of sight for vehicles and pedestrians must be maintained. The department received two waiver requests, one for the surety bond and the roadway impact analysis, which FCDOT supported. The planning and zoning department recommends approval of waiver one for roadway impact and waiver two the surety bond. Conditions would be to appoint one

individual for local emergency notification, ensure no roadways are blocked, line of sight for vehicles as well as pedestrians are not impeded, and the roadways remain clean during and after the races.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve TUP 25-005 Royal Gorge Rumble, this is a temporary use permit for a cross-country mountain bike race on October 3rd through October 5th at Royal Gorge Ranch and Resort located at 4218 County Road 3A in Canon City. This approval does include waivers of the roadway impact analysis report as well as a surety bond. It does include the approval of chemical toilets. There are four conditions, one being to appoint a person of contact for all emergencies, two is no blockage of the roadway at any time. Number three is to maintain a line of sight for pedestrians and vehicles, and the fourth is that all trash must be cleaned up and removed after the event. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/26/2025 1:12:58

5. Secure Transportation Service License and Permit for Gold Ride LLC

Attorney Bellas said these are licenses and permits for behavioral health transportation services. The licenses are good for a period of three years; the permits are for each individual vehicle and last a year. This vehicle is a Type B which means no physical restraint is allowed and there is no barrier between the driver and passenger.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve a license and permit for Gold Ride LLC with the license being good for three years beginning August 26, 2025, and ending August 26th, 2028, and the vehicle permit is for a 2023 Honda CRV from August 26, 2025, till August 26th, 2026. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/26/205 1:15:28

6. Reappointment of Brian Rupp to the Fremont County Board of Appeals with a term expiring August 1, 2028

Commissioner Bell moved to reappoint Brian Rupp to the Fremont County Board of Appeals with a term expiring August 1, 2028. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner Grantham adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.

To view the YouTube Video for Commissioner Meeting, go to the following website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOBGAraDOBs>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County

Board of County Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Fremont County is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety, well-being, and stability of all children, including providing supportive homes where children and youth can feel secure, nurtured, and empowered to succeed; and

Whereas, in 2024, the State of Colorado placed 50% of children and youth entering out-of-home care with kinship caregivers, with 47.9% placed with a relative at the outset and 51% spending time with a relative at some point during their time in state custody. In Fremont County that same year, 78.4% of children entering out-of-home care were initially placed with kinship caregivers. Statewide, children in kinship care were 57% more likely to achieve reunification with their families and 51% less likely to transition into higher levels of care. Fremont County continues to prioritize relatives and kin for placement whenever possible; and

Whereas, kinship families reside in urban, rural, and suburban neighborhoods across Fremont County, and they often face a multitude of challenges. Therefore, local partnerships among the educational, legal, judicial, law enforcement, social services, mental health, substance recovery, behavioral health, public health agencies, and other systems are important for ensuring access to services that can assist foster children and youth as well as the relatives and kinship providers with which these children are placed. Local agencies within the aforementioned sectors provide opportunities for families to flourish in all facets of their lives and are crucial to helping these families succeed. Furthermore, Fremont County residents are asked to join in honoring relatives, friends, community members, and all those who step forward out of love and loyalty to care for at-risk children and youth during times in which their biological parents are unable to do so, and

Whereas, Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of countless children and youth throughout Fremont County who, with the unconditional love and support of relatives and kin, have successfully navigated the emotional difficulties that beset the separation from their parents; all Fremont County citizens are encouraged to raise their awareness and understanding of the importance of family connections and the positively familiar environments that kinship families offer for many Fremont County children;

Now, Therefore, we, the Fremont County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September, 2025 to be KINSHIP CARE MONTH IN FREMONT COUNTY.

Kevin Grantham, District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell, District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall, District 3 Commissioner



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2025

WHEREAS, Fremont County is home to more than 46,000 people, a place of destination for thousands of visitors annually, and the site of about a dozen state and federal correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Fremont County Coroner reported 26 suicides were investigated in 2023, three of which were offenders in the state or federal prison; and

WHEREAS, 90% of those who died by suicide had a diagnosable mental health condition at the time of their death, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, suicide was Colorado's seventh leading cause of death and the second leading cause of death for ages 15-44; and

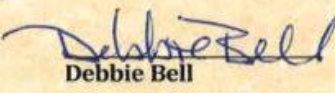
WHEREAS, 54% of Americans have been affected by suicide in some way;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that September 2025 is hereby designated as National Suicide Prevention Month in Fremont County. The County Commissioners do urge all people of Fremont County to become educated on suicide prevention awareness and support those affected by suicide during this month and throughout the year.

Signed this 26th Day of August, 2025.



Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner



Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner



Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner