



# CITY OF CAÑON CITY

**City Council**

City Council Chambers  
128 Main St., Cañon City, CO 81212  
(719) 269-9011 • [www.canoncity.gov](http://www.canoncity.gov)

## **SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 21, 2026**

**5:30 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: Council Chambers**
- 2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS DENNEHY, MELONI, REEVES, TONEY, WORTHINGTON, MAYOR PRO TEM SCHMISSEUR, MAYOR LUND.**
- 3. DISCUSSION:**
  - A. City Council District 3 Open Seat Interviews**
- 4. ADJOURN: The next Regular City Council Meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2026.**

**Posted pursuant to Municipal Code on Monday, April 20, 2026.  
Cindy Foster Owens, City Clerk**

Sarah McCullar  
899 Field Avenue  
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

March 13, 2026

Cañon City Council  
c/o Cindy Foster Owens  
City Clerk  
P.O. Box 1460  
128 Main Street  
Cañon City, Colorado 81215

Dear Ms. Foster Owens and Members of City Council:

My name is Sarah McCullar, and I am officially declaring my availability and willingness to serve on City Council to Represent District 3. I was born in Cañon City at St. Thomas More Hospital, graduated from CCHS, and lived here until I was 19. After finishing my first year of college at Colorado State University – Pueblo, I attended the University of Colorado – Boulder, and I graduated summa cum laude with bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies.

Upon graduation, I started work for a software company called PS Technology, Inc. where I learned how to write, test, and compile code for our railroad industry clients. After gaining an appreciation for the basics of how to program, I moved into a project analyst role where I served as the intermediary between our customers and the development teams. This required attention to detail while conveying outcomes to our leadership team and clients.

In 2019, I was accepted to the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado – Denver to pursue a master's degree in Public Administration. My concentration was in Disasters, Hazards, and Emergency Management. In this program, I acquired valuable skills necessary to understanding how government agencies approach disasters and their aftermath.

In early 2023, it became apparent that it was time for me to return to Cañon. I am the only child to parents whose health challenges require extra support. While being back at home, I have taken up caregiving duties to help my parents in their day-to-day life. I also help maintain our 10-acre property which produces hay for raising livestock.

Currently, I work with Goat Mowers, LLC., a small business based out of Calhan, Colorado. Our team works with local governments, state agencies, homeowners' associations, and private landowners to conduct targeted grazing for wildfire mitigation. I create an environment that meets the animals' needs both at the ranch and when we are out in the field on a job. Additionally, I am responsible for communicating with community members, returning escaped goats to the enclosure, and performing whatever duties are necessary to make the job successful.

My combined experience and love for my hometown is my main motivation for seeking this seat on City Council. My heart is set on seeing our town thrive, and I know that only happens when people are willing to show up and contribute meaningfully. Public service is a commitment to ensuring the people have what they need to be successful.

With my background working in public and private sectors alike, plus my non-profit volunteer experience, I understand how these essential sectors interact to provide the goods and services our people rely on. I want to step up and serve my community like so many others before me because I know that the opportunities I had growing up were due in part to people caring enough to help make the decisions that run our city.

My advocacy experience shaped my belief in servant leadership, where the decision-maker is also working alongside the people in ways that are important to them. For me, this includes using an analytical framework that requires consideration for those who are most disadvantaged and marginalized.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please see the attached resume for details on my work and volunteer experience. If you have any questions about my background or my leadership philosophy, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]. I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Sarah McCullar

Enclosures: 1

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Deedra Ryan

858 North Orchard Avenue Canon City, CO 81212



3.10.2026

Canon City Council  
C/O Cindy Foster Owens, MMC, City Clerk  
PO Box 1460  
128 Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212

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Ms. Owens and Canon City Council,

Initially, I debated running as a 'write-in candidate' during the last election cycle but; my available time was limited for personal reasons. I didn't wish to represent my neighbors, friends and family if I wasn't able to provide my best self, to the task at hand.

Thankfully, a portion of my time has been freed up, and I find the position open, once again. My interest in seeking a seat on the City Council remains, and I am providing this letter in the hopes of meeting with everyone to discuss the goals of the Council and what part I may play, for the good of everyone involved.

In the past, I have served as a Scout Leader for Girl and Boy Scouts, served as a Board Member and Treasurer of a Chapter Club for Doberman Pinschers (I do need an updated copy of RRO), have been employed in industry as a bookkeeper, have been the owner of a small business or two in the Wet Mountain Valley and now in Canon City.

I'm hoping to bring my varied background into service, within my community, once again. It's time to bring multiple mindsets together to work for the whole community, while standing for what and who I am, in this life. I believe that we can usually find common ground even while so many people choose to steadfastly hold onto "the way it's always been done". I have a vested interest in the future as my son and grandson live in Canon City and I want to see all of us share in the positive attributes and growth within the region.

I look forward to meeting with everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Deedra Ryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deedra Ryan

# APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT 3 COUNCIL SEAT

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilors,

I would like to be considered for the open District 3 council seat. I titled this an "Application" because, if appointed, I will treat this position as a job and approach it with that level of commitment and responsibility.

My name is Mike Starika. I am a lifetime resident of Canon City, having lived here for 69 years. I previously served two terms on the Canon City Council from 1985 to 1994. During that time, I served on the Planning Commission for four years and as Mayor Pro Tem for two years. I am proud to say that I only missed half of one meeting, including committee meetings, during my time in office, and that was because my wife had gone into labor during the meeting. That is one of the considerations that I made before I submitted this letter. I am ready to dedicate the time if appointed.

During those years, we dealt with many of the same challenges the city faces today, including growth, street and drainage issues, and a severe budget crisis caused by the double entry of income by the finance officer. Very difficult decisions had to be made to rebalance the budget.

Recently, I was appointed by Mayor Lund to the Budget, Finance, and Public Works Committee.

I owned and operated a successful business in Canon City for over 20 years, which provided me with practical experience in budgeting, planning, and decision-making.

I believe in smart growth. Residential growth is not self-sustaining; it must be balanced with commercial and industrial development.

I do not believe the City of Canon City should be in the swimming pool business. The Canon City Recreation and Parks District was formed in the 1960s to build and operate a municipal swimming pool. I believe a public swimming pool is a vital part of attracting new businesses to the community, but Canon City residents should not subsidize the swimming pool if it means losing other essential services.

I believe the stormwater enterprise zone fees were intended for the construction of stormwater infrastructures, not for the maintenance of current or future systems. Before the stormwater fee was implemented, the Public Works Department handled these items through the general fund.

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I also believe it is possible to over-study an issue to the point of losing sight of the overall goal. Picture 2040 and the Westgate Plan are prime examples. Both look good on paper if you are only looking at pictures and words, but neither has dollar amounts attached. In that sense, I see them as similar to a child's Christmas list, you cannot have everything.

The Westgate Plan includes areas of vegetation that will require water. I have heard both current and past councils express concern about the cost of water for existing parks. The contamination underneath the site that must be capped is also concerning. The depth of any excavation is very limited. As I understand it, digging into that layer is possible but would require special permitting and significantly higher costs. A former power plant worker with extensive experience has also mentioned that, in addition to clinker contamination, the area includes a demolished structure that was buried at the site.

I believe there is a more beneficial use of the clock tower plaza. The long-term maintenance costs alone justify that position. The area could instead be converted into a more convenient parking lot than the old New Method Laundry property. I also did not believe the city should have become involved with that building in the first place. That being said, the property should be sold as soon as possible.

In general, I believe the city should take care of what it already has and ensure those assets are in excellent condition before spending money on new projects.

If appointed, I would bring a business professional's perspective to the discussion of current issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Starika  
676 N 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Canon City, CO 81212

