

**CITY OF GREELEY, COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 29, 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF APPRECIATION TO ROBERT A. RUYLE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE  
AND APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER EMERITUS OF THE WATER AND SEWER BOARD**

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert A. Ruyle has served on the Water and Sewer Board since January 1975; during the course of his service, the city's population has grown from 39,000 residents in 1975 to approximately 111,000 residents today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruyle regularly provided guidance and expertise at monthly Board meetings contributing to numerous strategic water and sewer decisions in the areas of water rights and supplies, water storage, water treatment, and transmission, master planning efforts, non-potable water systems and water conservation, sewer collection and wastewater treatment, natural disasters, and system performance awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruyle has demonstrated an unwavering passion for promoting and protecting the city's water utility assets and the role and responsibilities of the Water and Sewer Board under the City's charter; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Ruyle's tenure the Greeley Water System has grown to encompass four river basins, two water treatment plants, six mountain water storage reservoirs, 155 miles of transmission pipelines, 470 miles of distribution mains, and 75 million gallons of treated water storage. It is a modern, robust, and redundant system that is looked up to by the Colorado water community. The Water Pollution Control Facility is a state of the art plant that meets or exceeds all discharge requirements; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure Greeley's water rights portfolio has continued to expand and to be protected from outside challenges; significant additions have included the Windy Gap Project, the 1990 GLIC and CBT water purchase, a 1/6<sup>th</sup> interest in the Laramie Poudre Tunnel, acquisition of shares in the Water Supply and Storage Company, the New Cache Irrigation Company, and the Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company, the Leprino Produced Water Decree and the Terry Ranch Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project. Protection of Greeley's water rights included the Federal Reserved Water Rights case, the resolution of the U.S. Forest Service By-Pass Flow claim and the establishment of the Joint Operations Plan on the Poudre River, the Wild and Scenic Designation on the Poudre River, and the creation on the Cache la Poudre Natural Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, in the Policy Area the establishment of the Industrial Water Bank and the transition from raw water dedication to cash-in-lieu to meet water dedication requirements are notable. During the term of Mr. Ruyle's service, a number of data driven policy refinements have occurred that refine the yield per share of dedicated water; and development code policy updates to raw water dedication requirements for single family residential development, for commercial and multifamily development, and to the policy that allows development to buy water from the city in lieu of dedication, known as the cash-in-lieu of raw water dedication policy; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure Greeley's raw water storage capacity was upgraded and added to by, the Seaman Reservoir Spillway Replacement, the rehabilitation of the High Mountain Reservoirs, the multi-year permitting effort to enlarge Seaman Reservoir, the construction of the Poudre Ponds for non-portable storage, the development of the Taft Hill Gravel Pits, the aquifer storage associated with the Terry Ranch project, and the final approval for the Construction of the Chimney Hollow Reservoir as part of the Windy Gap Firming Project; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure there were major additions to the Water Treatment, Transmission, Distribution, and Treated Water Storage capital infrastructure, these additions included, the 15 million gallon Gold Hill Reservoir and a second 5 million gallon tank, the Pleasant Valley Pipeline, expansion of the Bellvue plant in the 1990's, thereafter inverting in more than \$75 million from 2017-2021, expansions and updates to the Boyd Lake Plant, the Zone 4 Pressure Zone to serve the Promontory development, a new 60 inch transmission main from Bellvue to Gold Hill, a new 20 MGD Treatment Train at Bellvue; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure there was significant long range planning happening including the 2003 Water Master Plan, 2004 Non-Potable Master Plan, the 2019 Wastewater Master Plan, the 2021 Wastewater Collection Plan, Water Distribution Plan and the Updated Non-Potable Plan, initiating an integrated water resource plan; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure the Water Department and the City invested in the utilization of Non-Potable irrigation systems for the Parks, Golf Courses, Schools, and other large turf areas, along with the adoption of increased use of Non-Potable water was a major effort in water conservation including the adoption of a State of Colorado approved Water Conservation Plan for the City, the creation and implementation of a City wide Residential Water Budget program, the start of the conversion of all water meters to Smart Water Meters, and a turf replacement program called Life After Lawn; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure the Wastewater Treatment Plant performance issue were addressed and corrected, the Sheep's Draw Trunk Sewer was constructed to serve West Greeley, the 1984 -1985 expansion of the Wastewater Plant, the 1994 expansion of the Wastewater Plant, the 2021 Nutrient Removal Project, and a multiyear effort to rehabilitate and epoxy line the sewer collection system in the eastern part of Greeley; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure there were also several Natural Disasters that the Board and Department responded to, these being the Big Thompson Flood of 1976, the 2002-2003 Drought, the High Park and Hewlett Gulch wildfires in the Poudre watershed, the Flood of 2013, and the record size Cameron Peak Fire and the East Troublesome Fires of 2020 which impact all four of Greeley's watersheds; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Ruyle's tenure Greeley's Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility received numerous awards from the Environmental Protection Agency for Excellence in Waste Water Treatment. In 2017 Greeley's water operations won American Water Works award for Best Tasting Water in the United States by the American Water Works Association at their annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruyle generous contributions of time, judgement, wisdom, and insight, over the last 46 years, have been of incalculable value to the City, to the Board and the Water and Sewer Department. His service and generosity has also extended into many other areas in community and have been equally valuable. Mr. Ruyle is one of those rare individuals who truly have made difference in the life of their community. He will be missed.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREELEY, COLORADO:**

Section 1. The City Council hereby acknowledges, and wishes to express its sincere gratitude for, the dedication and contributions of Robert A. Ruyle to the Water and Sewer Department, Water and Sewer Board, and the citizens of the City of Greeley.

Section 2. The City Council, in recognition of his years of invaluable experience and service, hereby appoints Robert A. Ruyle to a lifetime term as a non-voting member emeritus of the City of Greeley Water and Sewer Board.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) day following its final publication, as set forth in Section 3-16 of the Greeley City Charter.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED ON THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.**



**ATTEST:**

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City Clerk

**THE CITY OF GREELEY, COLORADO**

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Mayor