



Ryan Hess
Council Member
Term Expires: 2021

About Ryan Hess

My family has been a part of the western slope of Colorado since the founding of Colorado. My mom's family homesteaded near Milner while my dad's family rooted in southwest Colorado. My Great Grandfather, Joseph Hess, was a deputy Sheriff for Montrose County. My grandmother, Lorene Hess, served on the Ridgway School Board from 1967 to 1977. She spent 25 years as the bookkeeper for Ridgway Schools. Most of my family worked in construction, working on several sizeable western slope projects such as Eisenhower Tunnel, Glenwood Canyon, and the Ridgeway Dam. My dad worked at Trapper Mine, finishing his career as the western slope business agent for IUOE. My mom was the store manager at Anthony's and Stage until they closed. She currently works at City Market.

I never traveled to far from home. I graduated from Moffat County Highschool in 2002. After high school, I worked for the City of Craig Police Department as a Community Service Officer and attended CNCC. In 2003, I left Craig and enrolled at Mesa State College.

In the fall of 2004, I took a semester off from Mesa State and completed my first police academy at twenty-years-old. While still enrolled at Mesa, I became a part of the Moffat County Sheriff's Office in January of 2005, when I joined as a reserve deputy. While in college, I worked as Colorado State Park Ranger during the summer and as a firefighter with Palisade fire during the college terms.

In 2006, I accepted a job, briefly, with the Town of Rangely Police Department. In the same year, I left the Rangely Police Department to work fulltime as a patrol deputy with the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. In 2007, I became the DARE instructor for MCSO. I was also a member of the Special Response Team, the local equivalent of a SWAT team.

In 2008 I completed my B.A. in sociology with a concentration in Criminology at Mesa State College. In 2009 I enrolled in graduate school at the University of the Rockies and in 2011 completed my M.A. in Psychology with a specialization in Justice Studies and Criminology.

In 2014, I was promoted to lieutenant and became the administrator for the Moffat County Jail. I oversaw the jail until 2017 when I took a position with the Colorado State Patrol. After two years at CSP, I returned to the MCSO as a patrol deputy. In between all that change, I was also a firefighter with Craig Fire and Rescue and started law school at Concord Law School at Purdue Global University.

The best part of my life started in 2011 when I met my wife, Toni and her two children Maelyn and Mackinzi. We have grown to love Craig more and more each year. Toni has a passion for helping those with special needs; she has spent the last several years helping young adults and children with disabilities. Toni and I enjoy Craig's downtown life and the great outdoors that Moffat County provides. In our downtime, you most likely find us either downtown or outside snowshoeing, biking, or on long walks with our dogs.