

**Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
April 2, 2024**

**Riverton City Hall
12830 South 1700 West
Riverton, Utah 84065**

Attendance:

Mayor Trent Staggs - excused

Councilmembers:

Councilmember Tish Buroker
Councilmember Spencer Haymond
Councilmember Tawnee McCay
Councilmember Troy McDougal
Councilmember Andy Pierucci

City Staff:

Craig Giles, City Manager
Brett Coombs, Assistant City Attorney
Cary Necaie, Public Works Director
Kevin Hicks, Administrative Services Director
Jamie Larsen, City Recorder
Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director
Chief Shane Taylor, Riverton Police Department
Chief Wade Watkins, Unified Fire Authority
Josh Lee, Communications Director

Mayor and Council Informal Meeting – 5:15 PM

WORK SESSION – 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called the Work Session to order at 6:10 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, Haymond, McDougal and Pierucci were present. Councilmember McCay joined via Zoom. Mayor Staggs was excused.

Discussion Items

Duplex Discussion

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, said this discussion item was a revisiting of a previous discussion regarding single-family housing types. He noted that the current city code only permits attached units such as duplexes and triplexes in multifamily zones, with acreage limitations typically applying to areas of five acres or more. Accessory dwelling units are allowed, but the property must be owner-occupied.

Mr. Lethbridge said the previous meeting covered considerations such as lot size requirements, owner occupancy, parking, and utilities, along with examples of such housing units. However, there were concerns raised about whether all issues had been adequately addressed.

Councilmembers discussed this issue further and asked clarifying questions. Councilmember McDougal expressed discomfort with further increasing density, especially considering the

existing traffic issues that have yet to be addressed. He advocated for maintaining the current zoning policies and not introducing additional density measures.

Councilmember Pierucci highlighted issues with parking enforcement that have been brought up by residents in recent months. He emphasized the need for a solid plan to manage challenges associated with zoning changes before moving forward. He acknowledged the value of allowing owner-occupied units in certain zoning scenarios and recognized its success in other communities. However, he stressed the importance of prioritizing enforcement processes and ensuring that the City is adequately prepared to manage any potential impacts on existing zoning and residents.

Councilmember McCay expressed support for considering options such as duplexes or triplexes in certain areas of the City. She highlighted locations near the trailer park and along busy roads like Redwood Road, where such housing options could revitalize less desirable areas. She concluded by expressing a desire to continue discussing the matter and researching potential options further.

Operational Standards for Entry into the Riverton Town Days Parade Discussion

Brett Coombs, Assistant City Attorney, introduced a resolution regarding parade guidelines and procedures, stemming from new guidance received from the Utah Local Governments Trust. This guidance aims to provide municipalities with recommendations for organizing parades to limit liability and ensure the safety of participants and spectators. The resolution presents a parade policy titled "Riverton City Town Days Parade Policy," developed based on the guidelines provided by the Utah Local Governments Trust. The policy is intended to be flexible and adaptable to the specific needs and circumstances of Riverton City.

Councilmember Pierucci acknowledged the importance of weighing risks against rewards when making decisions, and recognized the role of insurance in providing protection. However, he stated his belief that the Council should consider broader policy decisions with the community's interests in mind. He argued that allowing candy and other objects to be thrown enhances the parade experience, based on feedback received from the community. He expressed his willingness to accept the potential risks and liabilities associated with allowing candy throwing, believing that the likelihood of accidents is low when proper safety precautions are in place.

Councilmember McCay said she was open to learning more about how other cities have managed candy distribution, and indicated a preference for deferring a final decision on the matter to a later meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker agreed and noted that as floats and crowds grow larger, so does the associated risk. She mentioned Draper as an example of a City that has limited candy throwing to individuals walking alongside floats, and expressed interest in learning more about how this approach has worked for them. However, she clarified that she was not yet ready to make a decision on the matter and deferred further discussion to a later time.

Councilmember McDougal echoed the sentiment of deferring a decision on the matter and expressed reluctance to jeopardize the unique and fun aspects of the parade.

Councilmember Haymond acknowledged the potential for tragic incidents but expressed a belief in personal responsibility. He believes that citizens should have the right to enjoy events such as parades without excessive regulation.

Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director, highlighted the unique challenges faced by Riverton due to the high attendance and lack of gaps in spectatorship along the parade route. Drawing on experiences from the recreation conference and discussions with counterparts from other cities, she expressed concerns about safety and the loss of community spirit if candy throwing were to be restricted. She emphasized the importance of making a timely decision on the matter, considering that parade applications were already being accepted. She outlined proposed measures to ensure safety, including the requirement for spotters at each parade entry and the possibility of holding a Zoom call to review rules with applicants.

Councilmember Pierucci suggested compiling a comprehensive safety mitigation plan and sharing it with the Utah Local Governments Trust to demonstrate Riverton's commitment to ensuring a safe parade while preserving its community atmosphere. He emphasized the importance of balancing safety measures with the desire to maintain the parade's unique character.

Councilmember McDougal suggested maintaining the current practice of allowing candy throwing from floats, while considering a potential restriction on handouts to prevent congestion. He emphasized the need to communicate any changes to parade participants promptly and to focus on developing a comprehensive safety plan to address concerns effectively.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session**. Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Buroker-Yes, Haymond-Yes, McCay-Yes, McDougal-Yes, and Pierucci-Yes. The motion passed unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 6:48 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called the Riverton City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, Haymond, McDougal and Pierucci were present. Councilmember McCay joined via Zoom. Mayor Staggs was excused.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Josh Lee offered the invocation and Chief Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for public comments;

Dennis Jones, Shad Pulley, Monte Meyer, Jeff Lister and Allen Michaelis expressed frustration with Google Fiber and emphasized the importance of reliable internet access. They asked the Council to intervene and help bring Google Fiber back to complete the installation in their neighborhoods.

Rick Bills addressed the Council regarding the importance of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). He stressed the need for Riverton to prioritize CERT training and organization to ensure preparedness for emergencies, especially in scenarios where professional responders

may be overwhelmed or unable to reach all affected areas.

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for additional public comments; there being none, she closed the Citizen Comment period.

Mayor/Council Reports

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker noted that Unified Fire Authority met to discuss an increase for the upcoming year. Despite challenging discussions, the outcome was a 5.5% increase, which was considered a satisfactory compromise given the initial proposals ranging from 12% to 19%.

Councilmember Pierucci provided updates on various matters, including his participation in meetings with the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. He discussed a policy change regarding water rates for newly annexed properties within the District's boundaries, emphasizing the need to match the cost of growth with the cost of water. He also expressed concerns about the heavy reliance on property taxes to pay for water use, especially in built-out communities, and highlighted his efforts to drive change in this regard.

Additionally, Councilmember Pierucci shared insights from recent transit discussions, noting his optimism about the willingness of transportation agencies to prioritize funding for underserved communities like Riverton. He mentioned ongoing conversations about long-range budgeting for transit and emphasized the importance of clarity and transparency in understanding what transit options their community could receive based on certain actions.

Councilmember Haymond shared his experience attending a water tasting event hosted by Pure South Jordan at the South Valley Sewer District. He expressed appreciation for the quality of the treated water, which he found comparable to or better than tap water. He described the process by which the water is treated, noting its effectiveness in producing clear water that is discharged into the Jordan River.

Councilmember McCay provided an update on the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture and Convention) grant. The TRCC committee has proposed changes to the grant program, pending review by legal counsel. One proposed change is to allow labor expenses directly related to the project to be used as matching funds rather than grant funds. Another proposed change is to use the contract signing date as the start date for the project rather than the date when funds are awarded, providing more flexibility.

Ms. Garn said there were several upcoming community events and initiatives to promote cleanliness and environmental responsibility. On Saturday, April 13 and the following Saturday, April 20, there would be spring cleanup days at Western Springs Park and the Main City Park from 8 am to 3 pm. Additionally, on May 16, there will be a Recycle Right Day at Riverton City Park, where residents can recycle electronics, cardboard, glass, and tires.

Presentations/Recognitions

Unified Fire Authority

Chief Wade Watkins presented a brief overview of the first quarter from January to March of 2024. He highlighted upcoming community events like the pancake breakfast and Fire School 101. His presentation is included in the packet.

Consent Items

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: March 19, 2024;
- b. **Resolution No. 24-37** – Appointing Member to the Historic Preservation Commission;
- c. **Resolution No. 24-38** – Appointing Volunteer Member to the Riverton City Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee; and
- d. **Resolution No. 24-39** – Declaring City Equipment as Surplus, Authorizing the City Manager to dispose of the items as he deems appropriate.

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker explained that Alex Johnson would be appointed to both the Historic Preservation Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee. She asked Mr. Johnson to introduce himself to the Council.

Mr. Johnson expressed gratitude for being appointed to serve on both committees. He shared his background, including his education at local schools and his career in government at local, state, and federal levels.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED that the City Council approve the Consent Agenda.** Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for discussion on the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows: Buroker-yes, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearings – N/A

Discussion Items

Ordinance No. 24-03 – Amending Riverton City Code Title 13, Chapters 5 and 10 (Culinary and Secondary Water)

Brett Coombs, Assistant City Attorney, explained the purpose behind the proposed ordinance changes which is to simplify utility billing procedures, particularly regarding culinary water and secondary water bills. Currently, these bills are sent to both property owners and renters, which has led to difficulties when renters move out abruptly, leaving bills unpaid or causing confusion about who is responsible for payment. The proposed amendments aim to address this issue by requiring all utility bills to be sent to the property owner only. This will enable property owners to manage bill distribution to renters or collect payments from them as necessary. Additionally, the changes seek to update outdated ordinances and align them with existing policies for better clarity and efficiency in billing processes.

Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker raised a concern about the lack of clarity regarding the responsibility for fire hydrants, particularly in homeowner associations (HOAs). She mentioned past issues where it was unclear whether the City or the HOA was responsible for maintaining the fire hydrants. She sought clarification on whether the proposed ordinance was the appropriate venue to address this issue and include language specifying responsibility for fire hydrant maintenance.

Mr. Coombs acknowledged that there are other sections of the City code where language regarding the responsibility for maintenance of fire hydrants could potentially be included. He

suggested that it could be incorporated into the culinary water secondary water ordinance or possibly in another relevant section. He offered to table the discussion to allow time for further consideration and to present the proposal at a future council meeting if desired.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** that the City Council **TABLE** Ordinance No. 24-03 – Amending Riverton City Code Title 13, Chapters 5 and 10 (Culinary and Secondary Water) for a future meeting and address the fire hydrant issue. Councilmember Haymond **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for discussion on the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows: Buroker-yes, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 24-40 – Approving a Change Order to PO Contract 170619 adding five restrooms that are in the Civic Center to the Civic Center Remodel Project

Craig Calvert, Purchasing Manager, explained that they had initially budgeted for restroom renovations in the building and the civic center for the next fiscal year. However, upon further consideration, they decided it would be more practical to include the restroom renovations within the ongoing project to avoid opening the civic center only to close it again for remodeling later. He requested a change order to incorporate the restroom renovations into the current project timeline, allowing for simultaneous completion and avoiding the need for subsequent closure. The contractor, Big Bear, provided a price for the restroom renovations as part of the overall project.

Ms. Garn presented slides showcasing the current state of the restrooms, noting that while they are well maintained and clean, they are outdated, having been last renovated in 2003-2004. She highlighted that the restroom fixtures, including plumbing, are 20 years old and in need of replacement due to wear and tear.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** that the City Council approve Resolution No. 24-40 – Approving a Change Order to PO Contract 170619 adding five restrooms that are in the Civic Center to the Civic Center Remodel Project. Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for discussion on the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows: Buroker-yes, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 24-41 - Operational Standards for Entry into the Riverton Town Days Parade

This item was discussed during the work session. Ms. Garn suggested the creation of a policy for all participants aimed at reinforcing existing rules and regulations.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED** that the City Council **DENY** Resolution No. 24-41 – Operational Standards for Entry into the Riverton Town Days Parade. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for discussion on the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Buroker called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows: Buroker-yes, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. April 16, 2024 - Work Session & City Council Meeting

- b. May 7, 2024 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. May 21, 2024 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. June 4, 2024 – Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Approved: CCM 4.16.24