

Riverton City
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
July 22, 2016

Riverton City Hall
12830 South 1700 West
Riverton, Utah 84065

Attendance:

Mayor William R. Applegarth

Council Members:

Council Member Brent Johnson
Council Member Trent Staggs
Council Member Sheldon Stewart – *Telephone*
Council Member Tricia Tingey
Council Member Paul Wayman

City Staff:

Jeff Hawker, Asst. City Manager
Virginia Loader, Recorder
Ryan Carter, City Attorney
Jason Lethbridge, Planning Manager
Trace Robinson, Public Works Director
Lisa Dudley, Administrative Services Director
Angela Trammell, Communications Manager
Dan Woodbury, Water Engineer
Scott Hill, Water Director

A. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Applegarth called the Riverton Emergency City Council Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and conducted a roll call. Council Members Johnson, Staggs, Stewart, Tingey, and Wayman were present.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 16-38 - Ratifying Proclamation of the Mayor to shut off the City's Secondary Water Supply due to emergency

Mayor Applegarth explained that on July 16, 2016, in consultation with officials from the State of Utah, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), issued a proclamation to shut off the City's secondary water supply to protect the public from an algal bloom and associated cyanobacteria contamination in Utah Lake. He said he felt the contamination posed a threat to the health, safety, and welfare to the Riverton City residents. However, on July 19, 2016, the City Council made adopted Resolution No. 16-38 - Ratifying Proclamation of the Mayor to shut off the City's Secondary Water Supply due to emergency until Friday, July 22, 2016. He said his authority ended at that time and the City Council now had the authority to take action.

Dan Woodbury, Riverton City Water Engineer, reported on the following information that had been requested by and provided to the City Council.

“In keeping with the request from the City Council Meeting of July 19, 2016, this memo has been prepared to provide recent information and updated material for the Council’s edification and benefit. A quick summary of events is also provided to help capsulize what is known and what is being done to further gather reliable information and data.

It should be noted that there are some incidences of misleading or misguided information (some intentional, and some not) that are “out there” purporting a claim of this-or-that and we should all be cautioned to evaluate the data and/or information with as much rationale and common sense as possible. We don’t want to spin the community off into a frenzied panic concerning the inconvenience that we are currently facing. The inconvenience of having our secondary water system shut off has not yet escalated to an emergency status, and if we continue to keep cool and calm in our decisions about impending and future actions we will be able to manage the current situation from escalating into an emergency.

An example of mis-information, or incorrect information, as it were, can be seen as recently as a phone call this morning to the mayor from a “panicked” resident wondering why the South Jordan Canal had been shut down. Riverton City staff immediately visited the South Jordan Canal and found that it is not shut down, but is indeed flowing at full capacity.

Also, there are a lot of data points being quoted and references being cited claiming that numbers of algal bloom counts are either way low, or way high, and are being used to support any of a number of particular view-points. A caution with this should be that if we are going to use a data set, we should note the location as well as the time that the data was collected, and understand that it is only a “snapshot” of an overall picture. We don’t know yet if the number is increasing, or on the decline at that particular location. We have not yet received sufficient results back from laboratory analysis to determine the exact type, or levels, of toxicity. Currently, we have collected samples, as well as looking to the State DEQ and the SL County Health Department to collect samples, and we have preliminary cell counts of algae at various locations throughout both Salt Lake and Utah Counties. Since Tuesday’s City Council meeting we have been told that both agencies (the DEQ and the Salt Lake County Health Department) have sampled extensively throughout the county. Each of the four canals passing through Riverton (those from which we receive secondary water) were sampled as they cross under 13400 South at their respective crossings.

Additionally, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a statement, just yesterday, stating that they, along with the Division of Water Quality (DWQ), Salt Lake County Health Department, and Utah County Health Department collected numerous samples on Utah Lake, from the Jordan River, and in several canals in both counties. You may have already seen the posting by DEQ, but a copy of their news release is included below. Within their news release is a daily history of their activities regarding this issue since July 14th through today. The results of this extensive testing won’t be available until next week.

I have included in the attached information links to several websites, publications, news releases, and media links to news channels that have been covering this issue. You are likely to have seen some of this material already, but we are attempting to disseminate as much reliable and timely information as possible for you to evaluate and help you with your decisions to safeguard and protect the citizens of Riverton City.

Staff recommendation:

In light of the findings discussed above, and the conference phone call with multiple agencies (including DEQ) that just occurred at 4:00 pm today, Thursday, July 21, 2016, and coupled with the somewhat limited data results that have been reported to date, the Riverton City staff recommendation is to wait to turn the secondary irrigation system back on. We would recommend to wait at least until we can see test results from the more definitive sampling that has been collected earlier this week as reported by DEQ and Salt Lake County Health Department. They indicate that the lab results from this sampling should be available early next week. Waiting at least until then will give us a better feel for the status of the algal bloom and whether the counts are increasing or decreasing, especially within the boundaries of Riverton City.”

Mr. Woodbury said that any of the necessary test results had not yet been received.

Dr. Royal Del egge, Director Environmental Health Division of the Salt Lake County Health Department presented their findings and recommendations, which included some of the following:

- factors: Heat - low water level - substances in the lake
- culinary water is safe - it is not impacted by the algae bloom
- certain crops can take the toxins up into the plant's tissues
- inhalation, ingestion, and contact (dermatitis)
- toxins are not readily removed by normal filtration systems
- boiling will not help - it concentrates the toxins
- UT Lake is an extremely stressed body of water

Council Member Brent Johnson arrived at the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Dr. Del egge, said that local agencies had coordinated conference calls almost daily. In regards to irrigation and crops, he said their recommendation was, for residents using secondary water from the 15th on, that they not use that produce until they know for sure what the status is, and that they not use secondary water to irrigate crops.

Discussion was held regarding daytime vs. night time watering and the Health Department recommended night time watering when there would be minimum exposure to humans or animals.

Dr. Del egge said the issue was a very new phenomenon with Utah Lake being an extremely stressed body of water, and he identified symptoms that may occur if contact was made with the toxins. He said their main concerns were neurological and liver damage.

Teresa Gray, Bureau Director of Water Quality, Salt Lake County Health Department, spoke about canal samples and where they were taken, as well as the following:

- levels were 7x the algae action level
- using tables for assessing data
- data has been received but has not yet been analyzed
- algae count and toxin counts - last week's testing was focused on Utah Lake
- the past week's testing was focused on the Jordan River
- Yes, we are chasing data - test results today will be for data collected last week

Dale Keller, SNS Division Director, Salt Lake County Health Department clarified the breakdown of the high grade toxins and said they were working in uncharted territory.

Lengthy discussions were held and Council Member Tricia Tingey said they knew nothing more than they knew Tuesday night and she was not willing to make a decision until more information was provided regarding the toxin levels. Council Member Wayman said it would be difficult to know the toxin level because it would change by the time the test results would be received.

Dr. Del egge said the Salt Lake County Health Department would fall back to joint agency discussions and they supported the decision to not use secondary water for irrigation and crops.

Dan Woodbury said that the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens were of foremost importance and staff's recommendation was to follow the prudence of caution.

Following discussions, Mayor Applegarth said that water that was going in front of resident's homes in the ditches was not the responsibility of the City, only the secondary water system.

Following comments and recommendations from Council Member Staggs to use the secondary water with caution and contact the State to enact regulations to clean up Utah Lake and mitigate algae blooms. Council Member Stewart also offered comments. Council Member Trent Staggs then **MOVED the City turn the secondary water system back on immediately and issue a strong advisory that is indicated that I mentioned.** Council Member Paul Wayman **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Member Tricia Tingey made a **SUBSTITUTE MOTION to wait until 5:00 p.m. and reconvene the meeting. The motion died for lack of a Second.**

Mayor Applegarth said he was totally opposed to the motion for health reasons, cross connections reasons and flooding that may occur when the water enters the system.

Public Works Director Trace Robinson said a lot of people were in the process of installing back flow preventers and recommended that residents be notified that the secondary water system was being turned on so their systems are working properly.

Council Member Brent Johnson made a **SUBSTITUTE MOTION** and **MOVED that we do entertain the information that is here in the State concerning the 4th test, which we should have the information by 5:00. Council Member Tingey SECONDED the motion.** Mayor Applegarth called for discussion on the motion. Council Member Wayman said the test would be an eight day old test, the results would always be a week late; he spoke in favor of opening up

the secondary water and sending out notices: don't drink the water, so hopefully there is no problem.

Teresa Gray, Salt Lake County Health Department, said she had received the test results by email and she read the results, which was non detect on toxicology.

Council Member Brent Johnson withdrew his motion.

Mayor Applegarth called for a roll call vote and the motion made by Council Member Trent Staggs. The vote was as follows: Johnson-Yes, Staggs-Yes, Stewart-Yes, Tingey-Yes, and Wayman-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The following item was not discussed; however, it will be on the August 2, 2016, City Council Agenda.

2. Resolution No. 16-39 – Suspending Collection of Secondary Water Rates while the Secondary Water System is shut off during the 2016 Irrigation Season

H. ADJOURN

Council Member Brent Johnson **MOVED to adjourn.** Council Member Tricia Tingey **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Applegarth called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Johnson-Yes, Staggs-Yes, Stewart-Yes, Tingey-Yes, and Wayman-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Approved: CC 08-12-16