

**Riverton City**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 16, 2013**

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

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**Attendance:**

Mayor William R. Applegarth

**Council Members:**

Council Member Brent Johnson  
Council Member Al Leavitt  
Council Member Sheldon Stewart  
Council Member Tracy Thaxton  
Council Member Roy Tingey

**City Staff:**

Lance Blackwood, City Manager  
Ryan Carter, City Attorney  
Virginia Loader, Recorder  
Trace Robinson, Public Works Director  
Clint Johnson, UPD Officer

**Citizens:** Michael Johnson, Wyoma Darlington, Randy Smith, Blair, Newman, Peter Christensen, Carl Johnson, Sara Johnson, Scott Reid, Jeremy Kearns, Dennis Page, Heidi Christensen, Derrick Brooks, Jami Christensen, Tamara Bills, Mitch Curtis, Scott Sauer, Byron Warr, Barbara Winberg, Ralph Winger, Isaac Diederich, Paul Wayman

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

[6:28:24 PM](#)

**Call to Order and Roll Call** - Mayor Applegarth called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He then conducted a Roll Call and Council Members Johnson, Leavitt, Stewart, Thaxton and Tingey were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – City Manager Lance Blackwood directed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Applegarth explained the public comment procedure and welcomed public comments.

**Jan Vosberg**, resident, said he is concerned that there are left turn traffic lines are not clearly marked in certain areas of the City.

[6:33:29 PM](#) **Derrick Brooks** said he was opposed to the format of the meeting and felt that the meeting should have been moved to a larger location.

[6:34:14 PM](#) **Blaine Page** presented a proposed Business Interconnectivity Plan to reduce congestion along the 12000 South business district. He said his plan would reduce possible

accidents and improve convenience. Mr. Page said he would meet with the Planning Commission to present a proposal for business interconnectivity. He requested that connectivity be a requirement of development. This item was referred to the City Manager.

**6:38:42 PM Representative Dan McKay** reported on legislative affairs relating to education funding bonds in the amount of 930 million dollars for the Jordan School District.

**6:39:53 PM Steve Brooks** stated that Utah needs to impose a raw materials tax like the states of Wyoming and New Mexico. Both of those states have excess funding for education as a result of charging taxes for exporting minerals and raw materials.

There were no further public comments and Mayor Applegarth closed the Public Comment period.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **1. Public Hearing – Regarding (a) the issuance of the Series 2013 Bonds and (b) any potential economic impact that the Project to be financed with the proceeds of the Series 2013 Bonds may have on the private sector**

**6:41:11 PM** Laura Lewis, Financial Advisor, said that on June 18, 2013 at a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, the Riverton City Council issued a parameters resolution authorizing the initial aggregate principal amount of the 2013 bond issuance not to exceed \$18,000,000. She said the 2013 Bonds would mature in not more than thirty (30) years from their date or dates of issuance and the interest rate applied to repayment of the bond shall not exceed 6% percent. Also, the issuance of the Series 2013 Bonds shall be subject to the final approval of Bond Counsel and to the approval of the City Attorney. Ms. Lewis also explained that the City published a notice of its intent to issue Series 2013 Bonds and to hold a public hearing to receive input from the public with respect to the issuance of the Series 2013 Bonds.

Mayor Applegarth opened a Public Hearing and called for public comments.

**6:46:53 PM Heidi Christensen**, Riverton resident, spoke in favor of renovating the Main Park but wants to have a voice in its design. She felt that ample notice was not given regarding the plans for renovation. She felt that the City Council should step back and hold Open Houses presenting two to three options for the proposed renovations. She spoke of the City's 2003 and the 2010 public surveys, along with the citizen's advisory committee, and said that insufficient feedback was given. She requested that the Council give more consideration to public input.

**6:50:11 PM Jeff Nokes**, Riverton resident, gave tribute to old Riverton ball fields. He said that for 55 years three generations of men and boys and a hand full of girls had enjoyed the baseball fields. Brick clay dust had been brought in for the infields and volunteers worked on the fields for many years. He discussed the lessons learned when a player had to pick themselves up and dust off after a bad call had been made. He saluted the men who made the fields. He felt that the Mayor, Council and Staff have "blown the call" on the situation; however, he said he was willing to pick himself up and make the most of the situation.

[6:53:12 PM](#) **Steve Brooks**, resident, stated that the City has lost the people who donated their time for the ball fields. He said that he was President of the Lyons Club when the ball fields were built. His wife's Grandfather bought the land the fields were on until the City could afford to pay him for them. He said that in Budapest they tear things down and have no regard for heritage. He said no one has walked this town more than he has and he feels that moving to City Council Districts ruined the City.

[6:55:48 PM](#) **Peter Christensen**, Riverton resident, thanked the Council for serving the City and for the difficult job they have to do. He feels the issue over the park has created hard feelings and that citizens feel dis-enfranchised. He said there is no doubt that the park needs to be renovated; however, he would like to keep the traditional feel in the presence of real baseball fields as well as passive amenities in the park. He asked the Council to consider a resolution to consider more input in the park design.

[6:58:22 PM](#) **Derrick Brooks** said he is angry that the Crane house couldn't be saved for \$60,000. He stated that the park does not need to be finished by the City's 150 year anniversary. He said the Council could put the public into a forum if they desire.

[6:59:07 PM](#) **Scott Reid** requested that more power distributions be included in the park renovation plans. Public safety is always an issue when generators for power are brought in. He also stated that the natural process of older trees is to thin and break, which is becoming a serious safety issue in the park. He said the older trees need to be examined and taken care of. Mayor Applegarth requested that he make an appointment with the City Manager regarding his sound expertise.

[7:01:05 PM](#) **Shirley Newman**, resident, spoke in favor of the Riverton City Park and said she served on the committee. She stated that the doors were always open and the City has done their best to make it serviceable for everyone. She said the City should be allowed to move forward with the recommendations for the renovations; the City has worked for over one year trying to make the park something special and make it the best park.

[7:02:49 PM](#) **Alyssa Anderson**, resident, said she is not against the new park but they do want a vote and a say because the needs of the people have changed since 2010. She requested the City to relook at the issue again and stated that baseball is a tradition in Riverton.

[7:04:41 PM](#) **Mitch Curtis**, resident, asked that the City Council consider reconstructing the baseball fields at the Riverton City Park and look at alternative architectural designs that would allow all the desired amenities, including base ball fields.

[7:06:52 PM](#) **Teveka Melanson**, resident, thanked the City Council for allowing the public to speak about the issue. She clarified that, "it is not we against you;" she wants "us". She said she is not opposed to the bond, she feels beautifying the park is good. She would like to have the opportunity right now to build the best park in Utah and let the people vote. She said the only reason they were heading their petition was because they do not feel that they have been given ample opportunity to take part in the renovation of the Main Park. She said she would like the citizens of Riverton to vote if they want a passive park or not; and, if the citizens of Riverton only want a passive park, she would be fine with that.

7:12:05 PM **Brock** said he would like to see an upgrade to the park but would like some baseball diamonds to practice on with his family and team.

7:13:05 PM **Brian Del Beckstead**, resident, said he feels that all are in agreement and that a new park is needed. He said he has been talking to people and business leaders; everyone wants a new park. He said that with or without a park Riverton would still be the gem of this state. He spoke of boys crying on the news programs because they didn't have a ball field to play on. He then said that his concern was with the bond. He stated he had been a business owner and had met payroll obligations and talked about the sales tax and the tax base. He said that he has a business background and knows what he can bring to the City. He stated he is running as a write in candidate against the Mayor and he plans to win because he feels the City needs new direction, leadership and youth; someone with a business sense that can do some good stuff for our city.

**Zachary Boska**, resident, stated that he is 23 and he was representing his age group. He said he has never played baseball, by his choice, and feels the Council does not have the right to make that decision for him or the youth. He said he is the Campaign Manager for Brian Dell Beckstead.

**Cole**, a young South Jordan resident, stated the Riverton baseball fields are his favorite fields. He said they are "awesome I kind of want them back".

7:18:43 PM **Mark Defendahl**, resident said he came to discuss another issue; however, he said he supports the proposed design for the park.

7:19:24 PM **Larry Price**, resident, said he has coached Riverton baseball teams for 25 years and he has a different perspective. He said that as he looks around at all the youth dressed in ball uniforms in attendance, he cannot see one single Riverton baseball uniform. He said he would like to see the C.R. Hamilton Sports Park used for Riverton baseball with football and soccer moved to the newly renovated Main Park. Mr. Price said he would like to see tradition preserved by having the Riverton kids play on the Riverton baseball teams.

7:21:45 PM **Eileen Brooks** asked the citizens why the ball diamonds were more important to them than the rodeo grounds. She said the rodeo grounds are not well used and are dormant during the winter months. She recommended that the 19 million dollar bond be an election item.

7:23:40 PM **Scott Jacobsen**, resident, said that he is a baseball guy and said that if there was further discussion regarding baseball parks, he would like to be a part of it as he has an understanding of what the needs are. Mr. Jacobsen referred to the June 2013 Newsletter and the time table that was proposed regarding demolition. He said that it was a wrong choice to demolish in July and not wait until September. Mr. Jacobsen said that the people who rallied 60 years ago to build the park and the people present at the meeting both have the same vision.

7:26:39 PM **Michael Johnson**, resident, said that he has been attending City Council Meetings since 2006 and in the last seven years that he has attended he has not seen anyone that came to a City Council Meeting to support baseball. He said that most of the meetings he has attended have had only two people in the audience; once the Scouts and Special Awards people leave there is only one other person besides himself who stays to hear the business items of the City discussed. He remarked that if people are so interested they should attend every week and speak up. Mr.

Johnson said the citizens need to get together and support the Council and Mayor and stop being “Cry Babies.”

7:27:49 PM **Cody**, young baseball player, said he wants the baseball fields back because he likes to play with his super league team and other super league teams.

7:28:18 PM **Blair Newman**, resident, said the rodeo arena needs to be relocated and the proposed renovations to the park have too much crammed in. He said it would not do justice to the Park; he would like to see it done the right way. He said that moving or relocating the Rodeo Arena has been talked about for many years; the renovation needs to be thought out not rushed in to. He was upset that the softball fields were removed to expand the parking lot for the rodeo arena. He agreed with Mr. Johnson that the citizens need to be more involved in the community government and take care of all the special interest people in the community. Mr. Newman said feels that this issue has divided the community, and that is not Riverton; Riverton is better when the citizens are united.

7:31:05 PM **Kristen Jaggard**, resident, said she was sick to see fields demolished and she didn't think it would really happen. She agreed that the citizens should be more involved. She said the ball fields were used so much and she didn't understand why they were demolished.

7:33:02 PM **Carol Jensen** said she knew there was an open door policy but didn't know there was a door. She said she reads the newsletters but didn't know the renovation was happening until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July when she saw the plan. She also stated that she didn't understand the big picture; her kids grew up on the fields and she feels it is heartbreaking.

7:33:48 PM **Matt Dixon**, South Jordan resident, stated he is not sure the popular vote has voted in favor of the bond issue. He said that baseball and non baseball people could come together to provide a solution for the park. Mr. Dixon said when the baseball fields came down and the fences came down, then apathy stopped and they now have to get 20% of the residents to sign a petition to put it to the voters to make it an election item. He feels that the City does not have enough parks staff to take care of what it is currently in place.

7:36:12 PM **Chase Everton**, Utah Taxpayers Association, urged the Council to look at a 10-15 year term for the bond rather than 30 years.

7:37:10 PM **Nate Tebbs**, Herriman resident, said he feels the fields needed to come down and he spoke in favor of a renovation with input of the people.

7:38:25 PM **Sarah Johnson**, resident, said she feels blindsided by the park proposal. She did not see the detailed description of the renovation until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She said she loved the ball fields in Riverton and wished the new park design would include ball diamonds for the kids.

7:39:25 PM **Cody Bearden**, resident, stated that the voters in attendance do not want a gateway style park; they want a park with ball fields. He said it was a good thing it is an election year because Council needs to pay attention to what the voters want. He feels the ball fields were a land mark and could have been remodeled. He said that sales tax dollars were being thrown out the window and that citizens don't want water features and artsy stuff in the parks.

7:40:52 PM **Gary Young**, resident said he recalled this issue being brought to the City Council three years ago. He said that baseball is deeply rooted in Riverton and what transpired in the last week in Riverton was shameful. He said that if the opportunity was available for one or more baseball diamonds in the renovation, he would like to be a part of that committee. He stated that baseball is now beyond the average or mediocre.

7:43:07 PM **Merilee Withers**, resident, said she helped build the first park by baking cakes and raising money for it 50 years ago. Her husband helped level the fields and hauled gravel with his own truck. She said at least 22 kids are on the field every time a ball game is played as opposed to four on a tennis court. She recalled that when the County Swimming Pool was built it was so crowded and it was hard to get the kids out. She also spoke of the Riverton Rough Riders and the rodeo grounds and said she is opposed to removing the rodeo grounds and she is disappointed that the softball fields were demolished. She also stated that the plans for the new park are useless and not workable for the little town of Riverton.

7:46:55 PM **Tamara Bills**, resident, stated that she had been on a bicycle ride when she noticed the ball fields had been demolished and said, “what the blank?” She also said that she had not attended City Council Meetings because she had been taking care of aging parents for the past 10 years. She said she would like the Council to reconsider having some baseball fields in the park for kids and grandkids to play on.

7:48:23 PM **Troy Slaymaker**, resident, said, as he looked around the room, that he could see former team mates and players and that he had been involved in baseball at the south end of the valley for 35 years. He had seen boys that he once coached that now have their children playing. He said “when you say we can’t compete on a national level” that last week the Salt Lake Side Winders won the Cooperstown Tournament; it was amazing, with more than 100 plus teams participating. He said the citizens may not have been active in the past, but at least for a while, they will be.

7:50:16 PM **Bill Jorgensen**, resident, said the east side of Riverton had supported the recent west side growth and development. He thanked Al Leavitt for being his Council District Representative and said Al was the best member on the Council. He said that the park design should include both baseball or softball fields and asked Mr. Leavitt to reconsider that option.

7:51:54 PM **Jan Vosberg**, resident who has recently returned to Riverton, said she was looking forward to watching the kids play ball in the park when she moved back into town. She moved back from Florida, where she has served on a town council, and stated that citizens there do not get involved either.

7:52:54 PM **Karen Huntsman**, Taylorsville resident, said that baseball is important in all the cities in the Salt Lake area, in Utah and throughout our country. She said she feels that Babe Ruth would that baseball is America’s national pastime; the children need baseball to teach them sportsmanship. She said that all the people in attendance would be happy to volunteer time and resources to help with the park. She would like to see a gorgeous ball field included in the new park.

7:56:15 PM **Mike Rentmeister**, resident, said it’s not all about the baseball fields; he participated in 4-H in the Rodeo Arenas as well as in the ball fields. He said Riverton has



changed and grown over the years and is no longer the small town “Mayberry” it used to be. The baseball fields were one of the very few things that were left in the City of original landmarks. Mr. Rentmeister said he was coached as a kid in those ball fields; he has coached his sons on those ball fields and feels that it was the last piece standing of “Old Riverton.”

[7:58:50 PM](#) **Darlene Alldredge**, resident, said there are other fields for the kids to play on but they are not Riverton fields. People who were born and raised in Riverton have been raised on baseball their whole life. She said she would like the people to have a say of what may or may not go in that park.

[7:59:36 PM](#) **Brett Casson**, resident, said he has coached his sons and grandsons on the Riverton fields, the CR Hamilton fields are busy every night and there is a need for more fields. He said rained out ball games are scheduled for 7 am. He then asked the Council to consider reviewing the plans to include ball fields in the new park renovation.

[8:01:08 PM](#) **Chris Anderson**, resident, said that his sons played on the Riverton teams before they were offered opportunities on the accelerated teams, which he felt offered more opportunities for improvement as baseball players. Mr. Anderson said Riverton is a baseball town and cities such as Spanish Fork and Salem encourage and support baseball; he would like to see Riverton have that same type of feel.

[8:02:55 PM](#) Mayor Applegarth stated that before he closed the Public Hearing he stated that he knows this has been a very emotional issue. He said very good dialogue occurred in the meeting and people allowed one another to speak and state how they felt. He complimented the audience on their courtesy in allowing residents and visitors alike to speak. Mayor Applegarth thanked the audience for attending and closed the Public Hearing.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Applegarth presented the following Consent Agenda:

1. **Minutes:** RCCM 06-18-13
2. **Bond Releases:**
  1. Utah Sports Lodge, LLC – 100% Warranty Release
  2. Young Family Dental – 90% Performance Release
3. **Resolution No. 13-35** – Authorizing the execution of an Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Salt Lake County and Riverton City for Animal Services
4. **Resolution No. 13-36** – Authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Riverton City and Salt Lake County regarding the Salt Lake Valley Council of Governments Homeless Services Fund Program

Council Member Sheldon Stewart **MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** Council Member Tracy Thaxton **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Applegarth called for discussion on the motion; there being none, he called for a Roll Call Vote. The vote was as follows: Johnson-Yes, Leavitt-Yes, Stewart-Yes, Thaxton-Yes and Tingey-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

### Mayor Bill Applegarth –

**Council Member Roy Tingey** – [8:13:45 PM](#) commented on the recently approved budget for trees and/or issues related to parks. He reported on a problem with rodents in the parks chewing on roots of trees and spreading into neighboring resident's yards. It was suggested that the rodent issue be included in the Parks Maintenance Agreement.

**Council Member Sheldon Stewart** – [8:09:16 PM](#) reported that the Mountain View Park was looking very good and the residents in the area are getting excited for an opening date. He also expressed appreciation for the way residents conducted themselves during the Public Hearing. He then reported on an accident that recently occurred on 13400 South and Bangerter Highway.

UPD Officer Clint Johnson briefly reported on the accident, which was currently under investigation.

Trace Robinson, Public Works Director, said he would follow up on the accident with UDOT.

Council Member Stewart thanked the City for replanting some trees at Western Spring Park and for the volunteer efforts from residents to water the new trees. He also mentioned some of the trees on the County's portion of Western Springs that need to be fixed or replanted trees.

**Council Member Tracy Thaxton** – [8:12:47 PM](#) reported dead trees on the street near Southhills Elementary that needed to be removed. He reminded residents about the "Night Out Against Crime" activities planned for Roi Hardy Park on August 6 and Centennial Park on August 7.

**Council Member Brent Johnson** – [8:05:17 PM](#) thanked the public for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the meeting. He thanked those who contacted him personally and those who took time to call or visit with him, which is the type of input Council needs.

**Council Member Al Leavitt** – [8:07:49 PM](#) said he was also very pleased with the controlled manner of the meeting. Mr. Leavitt asked City Manager Blackwood to keep him updated regarding Reeves Lane. He asked about the improvements on 1300 West and the possible August 1, start date for that project.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

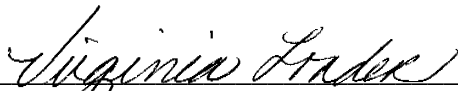
Mayor Applegarth reviewed the following tentative upcoming meetings:

1. August 6, 2013 – Regular City Council Meeting & Work Session – 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
August 6, 2013 - Night Out Against Crime – 7:00 p.m.
2. August 20, 2013 – Regular City Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
3. September 3, 2013 – Regular City Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.



## ADJOURN

8:16:04 PM Council Member Roy Tingey **MOVED to adjourn**. Council Member Tracy Thaxton **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Applegarth called for discussion on the motion; there being none, he called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Council Member Johnson-Yes, Leavitt-Yes, Stewart-Yes, Thaxton-Yes and Tingey-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously.** The City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

  
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Virginia Loader, MMC  
Recorder

Approved: CC 08-20-13