

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
August 15, 2023

Riverton City Hall
12830 South 1700 West
Riverton, Utah 84065

Attendance:

Mayor Trent Staggs

Councilmembers:

Councilmember Tish Buroker
Councilmember Tawnee McCay
Councilmember Troy McDougal
Councilmember Andy Pierucci
Councilmember Claude Wells

City Staff:

Ryan Carter, City Attorney
Kevin Hicks, Administrative Services Director
Jamie Larsen, City Recorder
Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director
Cary Necaie, Public Works Director
Chief Blair Barfuss, Riverton Police Department
Chief Wade Watkins, Unified Fire Authority
Sheril Garn, Director of Events and Operations
Josh Lee, Communications Director

Mayor and Council Informal Meeting – 5:00 PM

WORK SESSION – 5:45 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Staggs called the Work Session to order at 5:51 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, McCay, McDougal, and Wells were present. Councilmember Pierucci joined the meeting via Zoom.

Presentations/Recognitions

Emergency Management Committee Presentation

Jason Jones, Emergency Manager, explained that the Emergency Management Committee had planned to participate in the public safety night similar to the previous year's, but unfavorable weather conditions caused this event to be cancelled. They are now planning to be involved in the block parties organized by Crimewatch to educate residents about emergency Management.

Mr. Jones said the committee has been meeting monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm in City Hall. Attendance was consistent, and the participants were energetic and enthusiastic.

Mr. Jones said that in the spring he made preparations for potential flooding including collaborating with Public Works and having drone assessments of dry creek beds. Proactive measures, like distributing fliers to flood-prone areas, were taken with the help of the Riverton Youth Council. Mr. Jones praised the communications department's effective dissemination of

information, particularly regarding the distribution of sandbags.

Mr. Jones said that he had procured first aid, CPR, and AED training equipment for Riverton employees and made sure the City adopted an Emergency Operations Plan. He discussed the use of ham radios during the Riverton half marathon, noting their effectiveness without encountering any problems. He said that he and Aubrey Pollino, Risk Manager, had made assessments of the AEDs in various buildings and proposed acquiring more AEDs. Consideration was given to budget allocation for this purpose.

Councilmember McCay expressed appreciation for the emergency management report, the committee, and the proactive response to flooding. She suggested that members of the communication and recreation departments, particularly those attending community events, become CPR certified. In response, Mr. Jones said that they planned to do CPR training for 60 employees in November and another 60 the following year.

Councilmember McCay also asked about CERT training. Mr. Jones said that there was not much response to the in person training. While the goal was to have 30 people sign up, only one individual had registered via the website.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation and asked clarifying questions. Mayor Staggs thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation.

Discussion Items

Town Days Discussion

Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director, presented an overview of the recent Town Days event. She expressed gratitude to her team for successfully executing Town Days despite challenges such as employee absences due to maternity leave and family medical situations.

Ms. Garn said there are 23 different events associated with Town Days, with 14 of them being free of charge. She further highlighted the high attendance levels across various events, showcasing the significant community engagement. Specific events, such as the rodeo, car show, parade, miniature golf, and various games and activities, were discussed, along with estimated attendance figures. Notably, the parade's logistical challenges were mentioned, emphasizing the need for careful planning and coordination.

Ms. Garn also mentioned sponsorships, volunteer contributions, and various aspects of the event's management, such as flag ceremonies, workouts, and breakfast. The impressive number of participants in activities like the country mile run and various games illustrated the community's enthusiasm.

Ms. Garn concluded by acknowledging the City's role in making Town Days an accessible and enjoyable experience for residents regardless of their budget.

Josh Lee, Communications Director, presented a summary of the survey results related to Town Days. He said the survey was a success, with a positive response rate. He discussed adding a third date for the rodeo, with roughly 50% of respondents expressing support, 20% opposing the idea, and approximately 30% remaining indifferent. He said the overall sentiment conveyed by the survey results was that the community had a positive outlook on Town Days.

Mayor Staggs said he thought there was some support for adding a third day to the rodeo. Ms. Garn said she had discussions with Circle J Rodeo, who expressed their willingness to accommodate a third day. Circle J Rodeo believed they could provide the necessary cowboys for the extended event.

Ms. Garn conveyed that the cost increase to the City for this third day would not be a full third of the overall rodeo cost. While there would be an added expense for an extra day of hosting the rodeo stock, the overall payout for the event would remain consistent.

Ms. Garn conveyed the significance of the carnival and its reputation as one of the best in the western United States. She said the carnival is highly sought after and in high demand. She emphasized the challenges of securing the same carnival company in subsequent years if a break is taken from hosting it. She shared her personal trust in the carnival company which was based on positive experiences and interactions with the company.

Councilmember McDougal emphasized the importance of taking into account the well-being and capacity of the City's staff when deciding to add additional events to Town Days. He expressed gratitude for the efforts made thus far and encouraged a balanced approach that takes into consideration the capacity of the City's dedicated employees.

Councilmember Buroker asked if they had considered doing the carnival the same week as the rodeo. In response, Ms. Garn said changing the date of the carnival would be contingent on the carnival company's availability for the event. However, she explained that the carnival typically requires a substantial amount of parking space, which could pose a problem considering the needs of the rodeo attendees.

Councilmember Wells shared his thoughts on potentially relocating the Carnival to a different park or location. He conveyed the sense of excitement that the Carnival brings, even for those who may not participate in the rides themselves. He expressed appreciation for the inclusive and dynamic environment created by having everything in one place.

Mayor Staggs shared his perspective on the Carnival and its role in the Town Days event. He mentioned that there had been a previous experiment with moving the Carnival away from its current location, and he was a strong advocate for bringing it back to its central spot. He mentioned security and safety as areas of concern surrounding the carnival. He conveyed his intention to address security concerns in next year's budget by allocating additional resources for police presence and overtime.

Councilmember McCay proposed the idea of moving the Carnival to either the weekend before or after the main Town Days event. She referred to feedback from the survey, where many respondents expressed their enjoyment of the Carnival and urged the City not to eliminate it. By scheduling the Carnival on a different weekend but still within the same general timeframe, the City could potentially manage crowd sizes more effectively and ease parking challenges.

Ms. Garn responded by saying that the Town Days rodeo is currently aligned with the Browns' schedule for the Fourth of July. It was noted that if the rodeo were to be moved to the weekend before Town Days, it would require using the same grass area for two consecutive weeks, which could impact the grass's recovery time. She expressed willingness to discuss the matter with the Browns and explore the feasibility of such a change. She said that ultimately the decision about the rodeo schedule was deferred to the councilmembers.

Councilmember McCay noted that the carnival draws significant lines for vendors and food, potentially limiting space for local Riverton businesses. She proposed that without the Carnival, there could be more room for Riverton-based vendors and businesses, providing them an opportunity to participate and showcase their offerings.

Councilmember McCay also brought up the topic of the parade route, discussing her observations from attending other nearby parades and driving along Riverton's route. She referred to Bluffdale's consideration of alternating parade locations between different areas within their city. She acknowledged her limited involvement in parade planning but expressed the hope that the Council would explore various factors and possibilities for enhancing the parade experience, including route considerations and options to further engage local businesses.

Councilmember Pierucci expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lee for conducting the survey and obtaining a substantial sample size. He highlighted that having a gap between the rodeo and the Fourth of July celebrations appeared to be beneficial for the staff's well-being. Acknowledging the extensive involvement of staff in organizing and managing these events, he emphasized the importance of considering their time and work-life balance.

In the interest of time, Ms. Garn said she could discuss the parade routes and potential changes to the carnival and rodeo at the next city council meeting. Mayor Staggs said he had a whole new level of appreciation for Ms. Garn and her staff.

Riverton Police Services and Recruitment Discussion

Kevin Hicks, Administrative Services Director, introduced a proposal related to enhancing employee benefits and engagement. He noted that Chief Barfuss's team had taken the lead in formulating the plan. Mr. Hicks explained that the proposal consisted of two main components. The first component focused on employee benefits and retention. Recently, a new trend had emerged among other agencies, where they allowed employees to retain their years of service from various agencies when calculating vacation or leave time. This approach aimed to motivate employees and attract them to the agency. The proposal recommended that the City adopt a similar approach by allowing both police personnel and civilian staff to use their full years of service from all URS governmental entities when calculating leave time. For law enforcement personnel, it was specified that only their law enforcement experience would be considered.

Mr. Hicks emphasized that this proposal did not entail changes in the leave levels or amounts offered by the City, but rather a modification to the way years of service were calculated. If the Council approved, an amendment to the policy manual would be prepared to include this provision.

Councilmembers and Mayor Staggs asked clarifying questions about the proposed policy change.

Ryan Carter, Acting City Manager, expressed his cautious optimism about the proposal and its potential impact on recruitment efforts. He conveyed that while he believed in the intention of the staff to enhance the City's market position, he acknowledged the possibility of external factors, such as economic changes, impacting the situation in the future. He acknowledged the importance of maintaining a competitive edge in terms of attracting talent and pointed out the dynamic nature of the job market.

Councilmember Buroker expressed her support for any measures that would make government employment more appealing and encourage retention, especially when such measures would not have a negative financial impact on the City.

Councilmember McDougal indicated support for the proposed measure to enhance employee benefits as a strategic way to further strengthen Riverton's standing. He believed that this proactive approach to supporting and retaining the City's workforce would solidify Riverton's foundation and position the City favorably moving forward.

Mayor Staggs said he believed there was enough support from the Council to bring this back for adoption at the next City Council meeting.

City Manager Report

Mr. Carter shared several updates during the meeting:

Feeding Wildlife Ordinance: He informed the Council about receiving complaints from the community regarding residents feeding wildlife, particularly birds, in a way that could attract pests and rodents. He mentioned that a zoning code ordinance is being drafted to address this issue by regulating how animals like birds can be fed, with a focus on above-ground feeders in the backyard. A more detailed presentation will be provided once the ordinance has been through the planning commission.

Response to Landslide Incident: He expressed gratitude to the Unified Fire Authority and the Public Works Department, led by Councilmember Buroker, for their swift response to an incident involving a landslide on Tithing Hill. He acknowledged the coordinated efforts to manage the situation and praised the response teams' efficiency.

All Abilities Park Update: He provided an update on the progress of the All Abilities Park project in Riverton City. He mentioned that a purchased park amenity designed to accommodate children with mobility issues might cause a delay due to concerns about its potential impact on individuals with other disabilities. He emphasized the City's commitment to creating an inclusive environment and noted that further study is needed to ensure the park is truly accessible to everyone.

Mr. Carter also introduced Mr. Craig Giles as the next city manager for Riverton City. He highlighted Mr. Giles' extensive experience in public service and expressed excitement about his upcoming role in Riverton City.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember McCay **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session.** Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Staggs called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Buroker-Yes, McCay-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes and Wells-Yes. The motion passed unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 6:55 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Staggs called the Riverton City Council Meeting to order at 7:01 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, McCay, McDougal, and Wells were present. Councilmember Pierucci joined the meeting via Zoom.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Sheril Garn offered the invocation and Chief Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Staggs called for public comments; there being none, he closed the Public Comment period.

Council Reports

Councilmember Wells – No Report.

Councilmember McDougal – No Report.

Councilmember McCay expressed gratitude for the prompt response and efficiency of the Public Works Department in addressing concerns related to damaged fences along the canal and City property. She also mentioned instances involving water meters and fiber installation, highlighting the responsiveness of the department. Additionally, she provided a brief update on the recent Utah League of Cities and Towns meeting. She informed the Council that she had distributed the board packet containing budget information. She discussed the league's resolution aimed at promoting civility among elected officials and communities. She noted that discussions on enhancing respectful disagreements and fostering civility were ongoing at the state level.

Councilmember Buroker shared an update on the recent landslide incident that occurred in the Tithing Hill area on Sunday morning. The HOA board had met with engineers, a restoration company, and a construction company to address the issue. She expressed confidence in the expertise of the professionals involved and mentioned that the situation was being handled effectively. Some residents had been temporarily moved out but were able to return to their homes. She thanked the Fire Department, the acting city manager, and the public works director for their quick response and support during the incident. Additionally, she briefly mentioned other recent events in her district, including a lightning-induced fire and a medical emergency involving a newborn. She highlighted the value of emergency services in such situations and extended her thanks to all involved.

Councilmember Pierucci began by sharing some personal news that his daughter was born earlier than expected and expressed his happiness about the new addition to their family. He brought up the topic of speed bumps in his district and other parts of the City and said that the removal of speed bumps in certain areas, where they had been in place for a long time, had led to conflicting opinions among residents about whether they should be returned or not. He appreciated the efforts of the police department for conducting speed enforcement and studies to assess actual speeds in neighborhoods. However, he expressed a concern about the

process of removing speed bumps without a clear plan for managing increased speeds or communicating changes to the public.

Mayor Staggs started by expressing his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the City staff, particularly during the recent Town Days event. He highlighted that 18 staff members had worked tirelessly for around 24 hours to make the event a success and thanked them for their efforts.

Mayor Staggs proceeded to provide updates on City projects, mentioning discussions about constructing a pedestrian bridge across 13400 South and working with landowners to contribute property. He informed the Council about a \$2 million grant received from Salt Lake County for a trail and a bridge in the west area near the Welby Jacobs canal. He also acknowledged Councilmember McDougal's proactive efforts in addressing traffic issues on 12600 South between Mountain View and Bangerter Highway.

Presentations

Youth Council Oath of Office

Mayor Staggs invited Broc Stowe, the Youth Council Advisor, and Mayor Page, the Youth Council Mayor, to introduce the new executive council members present at the meeting.

Executive Council members were introduced and then took the Oath of Office administered by Jamie Larsen, City Recorder.

Presentation of Waste Management Donation to the Youth Council

Waste Management expressed appreciation for Riverton City's support and for the service of the Youth Council and presented them with a check for \$2,500.

Recognition of Olivia Greer, Skills USA State Competition in Medical Terminology, 6th Place in Nationals

Mayor Staggs recognized Olivia Greer for her dedication to her studies and passion for the medical field. She not only triumphed at the local level in medical terminology but also proceeded to the state competition, where she stood out among students from various schools. At the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, she competed against participants from every state, many of whom had extensive experience spanning over a decade. Despite the intense competition, Olivia secured an impressive sixth-place position.

Mayor Staggs presented her with a certificate and medallion.

Introduction of City Manager Craig Giles

Mayor Staggs introduced Craig Giles as the new City Manager for Riverton City. Mr. Giles said that he was excited to come and represent Riverton and be part of the team.

Consent Items

Mayor Staggs presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: August 1, 2023;
- b. **Resolution No. 23-65** – Declaring City Equipment as Surplus, Authorizing the City Manager to dispose of the items as he deems appropriate;
- c. **Resolution No. 23-66** – Approving Employment Agreement with Dennis Craig Giles to Serve as the City Manager for Riverton City;
- d. **Resolution No. 23-67** – Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Utah, Department of Transportation; and
- e. **Ordinance No. 23-14** – Amending Riverton City Code Title 2 Chapter 55 (Office of Police Chief).

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

Riverton Police Department Presentation – Chief Blair Barfuss

Chief Barfuss explained the comparisons of staffing changes over previous years, with a shift in rank titles to deputy chiefs and organizational restructuring to align with responsibilities. The incorporation of animal services and code enforcement into the police department was highlighted. Graphs depicting a five-year trend in calls for service demonstrated a consistent rise followed by a significant reduction in December 2022. It was noted that proactive calls, including traffic stops and citizen encounters, are also included in the calls for service statistics.

Chief Barfuss said the data indicated a pattern of increased calls for service in the first year, followed by either stabilization or decrease in subsequent years. Similar trends were observed in reported offenses. It was suggested that the initial year of the department's formation saw heightened proactive policing, but concerns arising in 2020 regarding police perception, proactive policing, and government support led to a decline in officers' proactive efforts.

Chief Barfuss highlighted several achievements, including the establishment of core values ("Riverton PD pride"), departmental restructuring for clarity, the release of law enforcement policy manuals, and the reinstatement of the motors unit to address traffic enforcement needs. A peer support group and a chaplain program were introduced, and efforts to enhance the major accident and negotiations teams were undertaken.

Chief Barfuss discussed future departmental goals, with a primary focus on achieving DEP accreditation through the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, potentially within the next few months. Community policing efforts were to be intensified through district assignments of officers to councilmembers, addressing specific community concerns. The evaluation of staffing, improved officer recruitment and development, conducting salary surveys, and transparency in communication were emphasized. Looking ahead, areas of high risk management were identified, including the implementation of professional standards review boards for transparency and addressing complaints. The resumption of animal control services and proactive code enforcement with community resolutions were also highlighted.

Councilmember Wells asked if the police department tracks reportable accidents within the City each year. In response, Chief Barfuss explained that data tracking and analysis are integral to their operations. He said the police department monitors daily activities, including the specific type and duration of each officer's involvement in calls. Additionally, he said they closely heed citizen concerns and complaints, particularly regarding matters like crosswalks near school zones.

Public Hearings – N/A

Discussion/Action Items – N/A

Upcoming Meetings

- a. September 5, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. September 19, 2023 – Constitution Event & Council Meeting
- c. October 3, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. October 17, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Councilmember McCay **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Approved: CCM 9.5.23