

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
September 19, 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 – 4:00 PM

CONSTITUTION READING EVENT – 5:00 PM

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Staggs called the Riverton City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, McCay, McDougal, and Wells were present. Councilmember Pierucci joined via Zoom.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember McCay offered the invocation and Chief Barfuss 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 Buroker reported on two recent events. The first event was the Day of Service, which took place at Roi Hardy Park a week ago Saturday. Approximately 200 people participated in cleaning up the park and spreading bark around trees. The second event was the Get to the River Festival, which happened the previous night. Around 225 people attended this

family-oriented event. Representatives from Tracy Aviary, the mosquito abatement district, Hogle Zoo, and the Riverton Water Department were present. Residents showed particular interest in the water department's pump houses. Councilmember Buroker thanked Riverton City for organizing the event and expressed gratitude to the Mayor.

Councilmember Pierucci addressed two main points. First, he shared information about the Jordan River Commission and the State Department of Natural Resources offering a native tree planting fund. This fund is open to landowners, including cities and private landowners, to apply for native trees to plant along the Jordan River. Secondly, he mentioned attending a UDOT open house regarding the Bangerter Highway project. He appreciated the engagement from Utah residents during the event and noted that it led to productive discussions and the answering of many questions.

Councilmember McCay commended the Constitution Day reading event, describing it as fantastic. She expressed hope that the event would continue and grow in the future. She mentioned several recent ribbon-cutting ceremonies and noted that the area is becoming increasingly active, especially as the holiday season approaches.

Councilmember McCay commented on the water share purchase agreement on the consent agenda, and said she believes this purchase will benefit the City and is glad that the City has the resources to make the purchase.

Councilmember McDougal expressed gratitude for the support of city staff during the Day of Service event, highlighting the importance of community involvement and pride in maintaining parks. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the negotiation process of the water shares and acknowledged that securing water shares is a challenging task.

Councilmember Wells expressed gratitude for being part of the Constitution reading event and highlighted the presence of scout troops and the Riverton Youth Council. He commended everyone involved for their efforts and emphasized the event's significance in honoring the Constitution.

Mayor Staggs discussed the 9/11 flag display and its significance, mentioning that the flags would be taken down soon. He also raised the issue of development applications complying with city code but conflicting with neighborhood CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions). He requested that staff prepare a memo outlining the pros and cons of addressing this issue in the development application process and suggested discussing it in an upcoming work session.

Presentations

Riverton City Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Foothills Elementary

Mayor Staggs presented the Choice Awards to students Tori Roberts and Joel Wanlass and teacher Marie Erickson.

South Valley Sewer District Presentation

Joel Thompson, General Manager of the South Valley Sewer District, provided an overview of the district's slip lining project, which involves rehabilitating sewer pipes using a trenchless technology called CIPP (Cured-In-Place Pipe) lining. He explained that the district covers the

south end of Salt Lake County, providing wastewater collection and treatment services to several cities.

Mr. Thompson discussed the importance of addressing defects and damage in sewer pipes, which can lead to infiltration and reduce system capacity. He highlighted the benefits of using CIPP lining, such as cost-effectiveness and reduced disruption to property owners.

The presentation included images of damaged sewer pipes and the CIPP lining process, where resin-soaked liners are inserted into pipes and cured in place. Mr. Thompson also shared a map showing completed and planned lining projects within the district.

Councilmember Buroker asked why the work would continue until late into the evening. In response, Mr. Thompson explained that late-night work during the curing process is primarily due to the inability to stop once it has started. Once the curing process begins, it must continue until the liner is fully cured and hardened. Additionally, the contractors aim to time the work to complete it efficiently, but there may be challenges related to bypassing or diverting flows, which can make it necessary to work late into the evening. The contractors understand the importance of completing the job and restoring sewer services to residents, so they work diligently until the project is finished and the quality meets the required standards.

Councilmember McDougal asked about Riverton City's inspections and whether certain lines are at the end of their life. Mr. Thompson responded by saying that the most critical and urgent repairs to Riverton's sewer lines have been addressed as a top priority. These critical repairs took place between 2021 and 2022, and the current phase of the project focuses on less severe and less urgent repairs, as well as the slip lining process to extend the operational life of the sewer lines. The sewer lines in Riverton have received necessary attention to ensure their functionality and minimize potential issues.

Recognition of Derek Rutledge

Mayor Staggs recognized Derek Rutledge, also known as Mr. VW, and said that he has been hosting the VW Car Show at Riverton City Park for the past 10 years, making it the largest VW Car Show west of the Mississippi. Derek's contributions go beyond the car show, as he raises funds through raffles to support scholarships for students pursuing automotive degrees at local colleges and contributes to Sub for Santa to provide Christmas gifts to those in need.

Riverton Police Department Presentation

Chief Barfuss shared several important updates and statistics regarding the recent transfer of Animal Services and Code Enforcement to the police department's supervision. This transition occurred on July 1, and the data presented covered the two months following this change.

Chief Barfuss noted that there has been a significant increase in call volume for Animal Services since the transfer, with calls going from seven in July to thirty-three in August. This surge in calls has put pressure on Officer Watson, impacting her ability to proactively address issues. Regarding licensing, it was mentioned that there has been a decline in pet licensing, raising concerns about public safety and disease control.

Chief Barfuss said there was a notable increase in calls for service in Code Enforcement, from 61 in July to over 100 in August. Officer Juarez is struggling to keep up with the rising demand, and cases typically take over 30 days to address.

Chief Barfuss explained that the records division experienced a complete turnover in personnel. The division is responsible for daily transcriptions, and the statistics showed a significant workload increase, with over 1,700 daily transcriptions from May to August. The division also faces the challenge of fulfilling governmental records requests within the mandated 10-day timeframe.

Lastly, Chief Barfuss discussed broader police department statistics. Traffic citations were noted to have increased by 34% compared to the previous year, likely due to increased traffic in the area. Arrests, while on the rise, have not increased as much as expected, which was attributed to proactive efforts and community-oriented policing.

Councilmember McCay asked why there was such an increase in Animal Control calls. In response, Chief Barfuss explained that both Animal Services and Code Enforcement have always been active but may not have been as comprehensively documented in the past. He noted that due to the high volume of incoming calls, there hasn't been much time for proactive work, which is an issue that is being addressed.

Councilmember McCay questioned whether the City should continue requiring dog permits, given the limited number of residents who obtain them. She suggested that those who do obtain permits might be responsible pet owners who are already ensuring their dogs are properly vaccinated and cared for.

Mayor Staggs acknowledged Councilmember McCay's suggestion as a topic worth discussing with the City Council. He noted that revenue from dog permits could help fund additional code enforcement officers. He expressed surprise at the drop in the number of dog licenses issued after the City transitioned to the Stone Ridge Animal Center partnership. He emphasized the importance of this revenue for supporting code enforcement officers and acknowledged that the way calls are tracked shows an increase in demand for code enforcement services.

Councilmember Wells expressed concern about reducing or eliminating dog permits, citing several serious dog bite incidents in his district over the past four years. He emphasized the importance of dog permits in ensuring that dogs are immunized, preventing the spread of diseases, and addressing potentially dangerous situations. He mentioned that the goal of bringing animal control and code enforcement under the police department was to have more active enforcement rather than relying solely on complaints. However, he recognized that it's only been a couple of months since the change, and there have been efforts to address record-keeping and other issues.

Councilmember Wells suggested that in the future, they could discuss the level of active enforcement in the City, not just related to animals but also concerning other issues such as problem properties. He expressed interest in receiving a report on the City's progress in this regard.

Councilmember Buroker expressed appreciation for the data presented during the meeting and mentioned that it would aid in making informed decisions in the future and extended her gratitude to these officers for their work.

Councilmember McDougal expressed gratitude towards Riverton City for addressing the issue of Code Enforcement in an organized and data-driven manner. He highlighted residents' appreciation for the City's proactive approach in addressing long-standing code issues that had

previously gone unnoticed.

Councilmember Pierucci expressed appreciation and then raised two questions. He asked for clarification on whether the City provides weekend service and, if so, what that service entails. He also asked about mitigation efforts related to property crime around Mountain View Village and requested information on the actions taken by the City to address and mitigate these crime issues.

Chief Barfuss confirmed that both Officer Watson and Officer Juarez are available on call during weekends to respond to animal control and code enforcement issues. However, he also noted that this is a substantial ask of the employees and acknowledged the sacrifice made by these officers. He mentioned that they are working on a five-year strategic plan for growth that will consider these additional duties and the need for compensation.

Chief Barfuss said they have taken a collaborative approach with Mountain View Village, particularly in dealing with issues related to retail theft and organized criminal activity. They are exploring technology-based solutions, including license plate readers, while also respecting individuals' constitutional rights to travel. The police department is actively working with Mountain View Village to address the challenges in the area and is open to using various resources to improve public safety.

**Oscar Juarez, Trish Watson, Ashlee Shallenberger, and Jason Jones
Commendation**

Chief Barfuss presented certificates of appreciation to Oscar Juarez, Trish Watson, Ashlee Shallenberger and Jason Jones.

Consent Items

Mayor Staggs presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: September 5, 2023;
- b. **Resolution No. 23-74** – Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Property Reserve, Inc. for the Purchase of Water Shares issued by the Welby Jacob Water Users Company; and
- c. **Resolution No. 23-75** – Performance Bond release for Myers Park (12771).

Councilmember McCay **MOVED that the City Council approve the Consent Agenda.** Councilmember McDougal **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, McDougal-yes, Pierucci-yes and Wells-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearings – N/A

Discussion/Action Items

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Board Vacancy

Mayor Staggs discussed the appointment of Councilmember Ohrn to represent them on the Conservancy District board. He expressed concerns about the board's composition, given the population represented by each board seat. He mentioned that there are ongoing discussions

about this issue. The Council decided to postpone this item until October to allow for further discussions and answers to their questions. Mayor Staggs said they would need to make a decision on the nomination and present it to the governor by the end of October.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. October 3, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. October 17, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. November 7, 2023 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. December 6, 2023 – Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Meeting at the conclusion of the Closed Session. Councilmember McCay **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Approved: CCM 10.3.23