

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Riverdale City Council held Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Civic Center, 4600 S Weber River Dr., Riverdale City, Weber County, Utah.

Present:

City Council:	Braden Mitchell, Mayor Alan Arnold, Councilmember Bart Stevens, Councilmember Anne Hansen, Councilmember Michael Richter, Councilmember Stacey Haws, Councilmember
City Employees:	Steve Brooks, City Administrator/Attorney Brandon Cooper, Community Development Director Casey Warren, Police Chief Michelle Marigoni, City Recorder
Excused:	
Visitors:	Elmer Acevedo-Garcia Various fire department staff Various family members of Chief Hennessy

Welcome & Roll Call

The City Council meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance, including all Council Members, City Staff, and members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance – Steve Brooks

Invocation – Alan Arnold

Public Comment

Mayor Mitchell invited members of the public to speak.

Police Chief Casey Warren expressed his support for Matthew Hennessy as the new Riverdale Fire Chief.

Presentations and Reports

1. Mayor's Report

- The Veteran's Day Program was well attended and successful.
- Lunch with the Mayor was held and the students were asked for suggestions to improve Riverdale. Suggestions included planting more trees, more sidewalks, more drinking fountains, fixing the park trails, and air conditioning in the schools.
- Legislative Policy Committee: Property tax increases were brought up as a possible 2025 bill subject.
- Steve Brooks, 20-year anniversary with Riverdale City.

2. City Administration Report

a. Department Reports October

Councilor Richter inquired about the deficit in the sales tax numbers. Mr. Brooks reported there was a state process which decreased the amount of sales tax retained by Riverdale. They are working on getting more information. Councilor Haws explained that the distribution was based on the percentage of the population of the state. Riverdale is not growing, but the state population is, so the percentage is declining.

- b. November Anniversaries Employee Recognition
- c. Staffing Authorization Plans
- d. Community Development Report
- e. Justice Court Reform Update

Councilor Haws noted justice courts often get complaints about only being there so police can issue citations for revenue. Part of the citation revenue is taken by the state, as Riverdale has many state roads, and the citations do not offset the costs of the court.

2. UDOT 5600 South Project Update

Elmer Acevedo-Garcia provided an update on the 5600 South Construction Project.

Consent Items

1. Consideration to approve meeting minutes from:

November 6, 2024 Council Work Session
November 6, 2024 Council Meeting

Mayor Mitchell asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There were none.

MOTION: Councilmember Arnold moved to approve the meeting minutes. Councilmember Richter seconded the motion. There was not any discussion regarding this motion, which passed unanimously in favor.

2. Appointment and swearing in of Matthew Hennessy as new Fire Chief.

Mayor Mitchell shared a positive experience spending time with the local fire station crew, praising the professionalism and dedication of the team. The council expressed unanimous confidence in Captain Hennessy's leadership as he was officially appointed the new fire chief. Following the appointment, a badge ceremony was planned, preceded by the formal swearing-in conducted by Michelle.

Action Items

1. Consideration of Ordinance #989 amending the Riverdale Municipal Ordinance Code, Title 3: Business and License Regulations, Chapters 8 and 11 for state code compliance.

The code was updated to reflect changes in state legislation which redefined the previous food truck act to include all mobile businesses.

Motion: Councilmember Arnold moved to approve Ordinance #989 amending the Riverdale Municipal Ordinance Code, Title 3: Business and License Regulations, Chapters 8 and 11 for state code compliance.

Second: Councilmember Hansen

Councilor Hansen:	Yes
Councilor Arnold:	Yes
Councilor Richter:	Yes
Councilor Stevens:	Yes
Councilor Haws:	Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Motion to un-table and consideration of Resolution #2024-30 amending the Riverdale City Council Rules and Procedures.

Motion: Councilmember Stevens moved to un-table Resolution #2024-30 amending the Riverdale City Council Rules and Procedures.

Second: Councilmember Haws

All in favor – item un-tabled.

Mr. Brooks explained the proposed amendments, pointing out the need to clarify procedures on voting and tie-breaking scenarios. He highlighted discrepancies in state code regarding whether abstentions or absences should be treated as "no" votes, given that statutes require a minimum of three affirmative votes for council actions to pass. He softened the language in the resolution to account for these ambiguities while ensuring that abstentions due to conflict of interest are respected.

The council discussed the effects of state statutes, especially for situations with only three voting members present, and debated the role of the mayor as a tie-breaker under conflicting interpretations. Several members expressed concerns about potential scenarios where city business might stall due to absent or abstaining members. Suggestions included tabling agenda items when quorum issues arise or conducting electronic meetings to mitigate absences.

Additionally, the resolution incorporated provisions for addressing council members who consistently fail to attend meetings, including possible penalties to ensure accountability. The council acknowledged the rare nature of such issues but supported the amendments as a proactive measure.

The council agreed to move forward with the resolution while recognizing potential future challenges.

Motion: Councilmember Stevens moved to approve Resolution #2024-30 amending the Riverdale City Council Rules and Procedures.

Second: Councilmember Hansen

Councilor Stevens	Yes
Councilor Hansen	Yes
Councilor Haws	Yes
Councilor Richter	Yes
Councilor Arnold	Abstained

3. Discussion regarding signs (political, sniper and city event signs), continued from October 1, 2024 City Council meeting.

Mr. Brooks provided an update, noting a productive meeting with UDOT regarding enforcement of state code on political signs in rights-of-way. While UDOT acknowledged the rules, they were reluctant to enforce them. The council discussed concerns about signs obstructing visibility and maintaining the city's policy against using city property for signage, which has kept the city visually clean.

There was a consensus to review and possibly refine the current sign ordinance to address ambiguities, particularly around home business signs and city-affiliated events. Specific issues included businesses placing signs on city property, school advertisements conflicting with city codes, and discrepancies in where signage requirements are documented. Mr. Brooks noted the need to clarify language to avoid confusion and unintended exemptions, particularly for nonprofit and co-sponsored events, while ensuring consistency and fairness in enforcement. Future revisions to the ordinance will focus on clearer definitions, improved alignment of regulations, and addressing new signage trends.

4. Consideration of Ordinance #990 amending the Riverdale Municipal Ordinance Code, Title 1: Administration, Chapter 6: Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Brooks explained that the update ensures compliance with state code by changing language from "yay" and "nay" to "yes" and "no" in council voting, reflecting proper terminology. He acknowledged the oversight as minor but necessary to address.

Motion: Councilmember Arnold moved to approve Ordinance #990 amending the Riverdale Municipal Ordinance Code, Title 1: Administration, Chapter 6: Mayor and City Council.

Second: Councilmember Richter

Councilor Richter	Yes
Councilor Haws	Yes
Councilor Arnold	Yes
Councilor Hansen	Yes
Councilor Stevens	Yes

Comments

Councilor Hansen expressed gratitude to staff for their efforts in organizing the Veterans Day ceremony. She also raised concerns about parking enforcement related to semi-trucks at local stores. Chief Warren explained the process, noting it is typically addressed through a letter of agency or in response to complaints.

Councilor Arnold voiced concerns about the detailed information included in the UMA report shared in the council packet, prompting Chief Warren to commit to revising the report to include less identifiable information moving forward.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Councilmember Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Haws seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Date Approved: 12/17/2024