

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
August 5, 2025

Riverton City Hall
12830 South 1700 West
Riverton, Utah 84065

Attendance:

Mayor Trent Staggs

Councilmembers:

Councilmember Tish Buroker
Councilmember Spencer Haymond
Councilmember Tawnee McCay
Councilmember Troy McDougal
Councilmember Andy Pierucci

City Staff:

Kevin Hicks, City Manager
Ryan Carter, City Attorney
Cary Necaie, Public Works Director
Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director
Jamie Larsen, City Recorder
Chief Shane Taylor, Riverton Police Department
Josh Lee, Communications Director
Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director
Stacie Olson, Assistant Public Works Director
Fire Marshal Wade Watkins, Unified Fire Authority

Mayor and Council Informal Meeting – 6:00 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, Haymond, McCay, and McDougal were present. Councilmember Pierucci joined via Zoom.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Josh Lee offered the invocation and Fire Marshal Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

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

Mayor and Council Reports

Councilmember McDougal notified the Council about an invitation from TransJordan for their opening dinner.

Councilmember Pierucci – No Report.

Councilmember McCay thanked Unified Fire Authority for participating in the 24th of July neighborhood parade and also commended the events department for organizing the Friday Fun Night and the recent Public Safety Night.

Councilmember Buroker followed up on a resident's previous concern about mosquitoes near the golf course, reporting that Mosquito Abatement has been sending weekly reports to residents and monitoring the area. She thanked the abatement team for their consistent follow-up and effective work.

Councilmember Haymond reported that the 11800 South sewer extension project, coordinated with Herriman, Riverton, and South Jordan, is ahead of schedule, finishing in 16 months instead of two years. Once complete, the road will be newly paved and the sewer infrastructure will last for many years.

Mayor Staggs reported that the City had a few applicants for the Youth Council advisor position and an appointment will likely be made soon. Work continues with the County regarding the RFI for the golf course area.

Presentations

Emergency Preparedness Committee Presentation

Jason Jones, Emergency Manager, reported on the past year's collaborative efforts with regional agencies, participation in preparedness exercises, updates to emergency plans and equipment, and community outreach initiatives to enhance the City's readiness for emergencies. His presentation is included in the packet.

Unified Fire Authority

Fire Marshal Watkins thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and presented data for quarters 1 and 2 of 2025, noting increases in call volumes compared to prior years, with most incidents being EMS-related; unit response times met performance goals, and while quarter-to-quarter variations occur, no unusual trends were identified. His presentation is included in the packet.

Consent Items

Mayor Staggs presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: July 15, 2025; and
- b. **Resolution No. 25-42** – Approving the Execution of an Amendment to Water Purchase Agreement and Petition with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District.

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

Public Hearing(s)/Action Items

Resolution No. 25-41 – Approving the Water Conservation and Management Plan

Cary Necaie, Public Works Director, explained that every five years, the Water Conservation Plan is updated through a public hearing and adoption process. He noted that new measures include displaying secondary water usage on bills compared to state recommendations, setting conservation goals, and actively addressing water loss to improve overall conservation efforts.

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

Councilmember Buroker **MOVED** that the City Council approve Resolution No. 25-41 – Approving the Water Conservation and Management Plan. Councilmember Pierucci **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, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

Code Requiring Cast Walls Along Canals Discussion

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, explained that the fencing ordinance, amended in 2015, requires six-foot-high decorative solid-core precast concrete fences along ditches, canals, or irrigation lines throughout the City, excluding alternatives like hollow foam core or fiberglass mixes. This standard aims to ensure safety and durability, and unlike other fencing requirements, there is no size-based waiver for these waterway fences. While some confusion exists about when this applies, especially between residential and commercial zones or smaller projects, the current ordinance stands firm on this for waterways.

Mayor Staggs recalled supporting alternative fence types along irrigation canals and similar areas, citing concerns about flexibility and cost differences between traditional precast fencing and alternatives. He noted that while some Councilmembers strongly favored solid fencing in certain zones, he preferred more options for developers in other areas.

Councilmember McCay expressed support for increasing flexibility in the fencing ordinance. She clarified that the ordinance language covers ditches, canals, and irrigation lines, which the City has also applied to creek channels. She acknowledged the original ordinance's safety motivation but suggested that responsibility also lies with homeowners. She requested staff to develop more lenient fencing options for future Council consideration, emphasizing potential cost savings and aesthetic benefits.

Ryan Carter, City Attorney, explained that historically, canal companies have not had input or control over fencing adjacent to their canals. He noted that Utah law protects canal companies from liability related to drownings in canals as long as easements are not disturbed. The companies do not regulate what occurs immediately outside their canal boundaries and often do not maintain fences or gates along canal roads. He emphasized that canal companies generally show little interest in managing or enforcing restrictions on surrounding properties.

Councilmember McDougal asked for clarification on how changes to fencing requirements would impact developments already approved. Staff explained that ordinance changes do not

apply retroactively; previously approved projects remain under the standards in place at the time of approval. Amendments could be requested but would require a new review and hearing process by the Planning Commission, making such changes unlikely due to time and cost.

Councilmember McDougal expressed opposition to changing the fencing ordinance, citing fairness to residents who approved existing developments and concerns about potential "bait and switch" scenarios. He noted the practical benefits of masonry fences for weed control and fire safety compared to vinyl, especially as canal trails are paved to create a unified appearance. He was open to considering variations of masonry-style fences but opposed allowing vinyl fencing due to safety and aesthetic concerns.

Councilmember McDougal emphasized the importance of including clear language in any ordinance change to confirm that previously approved developments would remain subject to the fencing standards in place at the time of their approval, with changes applying only to future developments. Councilmember Haymond requested information on the structural strength differences between solid core and foam core fences, noting concerns about foam core durability based on local examples. Lastly, Councilmember Pierucci expressed interest in understanding how other cities regulate canal fencing and requested approximate cost comparisons per linear foot to assess potential impacts on consumers.

Day of Service Discussion

Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director, requested guidance from the Council regarding the City's role in organizing events for the annual Day of Service. She suggested possibly directing volunteers to existing projects on the JustServe website and encouraged residents to focus on helping within their own neighborhoods, such as assisting elderly residents with yard work. Additionally, the idea of providing extra dump passes to church groups or organizations for neighborhood clean-up efforts was proposed.

Councilmembers and staff reflected on past experiences, emphasizing the value of community involvement and volunteer projects that foster a sense of ownership. It was noted that large, City-organized events can be labor-intensive and sometimes inefficient, especially when volunteer turnout is insufficient, requiring staff to complete unfinished work. Instead, several expressed support for more localized, organic service efforts driven by neighborhoods, churches, or community groups with staff providing support and oversight as needed. Suggestions included improving communication through the JustServe website, encouraging residents to identify local needs, providing resources such as dumpster passes, and tracking volunteer participation to recognize community contributions. The overall consensus favored empowering residents to take initiative in their neighborhoods, supported by City coordination and improved publicity, rather than focusing solely on one large annual event.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. August 26, 2025 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. September 2, 2025 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. September 16, 2025 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. October 7, 2025 – Work Session & City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION

- **Discussion of pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and**
- **Discussion of the sale, purchase, exchange or lease of real property including any form of a water rights or water shares**

At 8:07 PM, Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to convene in a Closed Session to discuss the sale, purchase, exchange or lease of real property including any form of a water rights or water shares and to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Councilmember McDougal also moved to close the City Council meeting at the end of the Closed Session. Councilmember McCay **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Staggs called for discussion on the motion. There being none, he called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows: Buroker-yes, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting resumed in a Closed Session at 8:11 PM. Minutes for the Closed Session were taken and recorded and are now on file as a Protected Record.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED** to adjourn the Closed Session at 8:56 PM. 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, Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes and Pierucci-yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

As previously noted, 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 8:56 PM.

Approved: CCM 8.27.25