Riverton City, Utah CITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes November 18, 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 Necaise, 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 - 5:15 PM

WORK SESSION - 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Staggs called the Work Session to order at 6:02 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, Haymond, McCay, McDougal and Pierucci were present.

Discussion Items

Group Homes

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, explained that the residential facilities section of the code applied to all residential zones and was driven by federal requirements intended to ensure disabled individuals had access to affordable housing. He reviewed how the code defined a dwelling and a family, noting that more than four unrelated individuals living together required additional approval. He outlined that the City used the business licensing process primarily as a tracking tool for these facilities and that standard residential requirements, such as vehicle parking on public streets, applied the same as they would for any family. He also noted that any operation functioning as a day or outpatient treatment center would require a conditional use permit. He described the reasonable accommodation process for facilities seeking to house more than four unrelated persons, including an application reviewed by the Development Services Director and a final decision made by a hearing officer with expertise in ADA and federal housing law.

Councilmember Pierucci asked how "dangerous" was defined and who determined it, noting that

the term carried significant weight. In response, Ryan Carter, City Attorney, said the definition was written in the City code, which prohibited facilities from housing anyone who posed a direct threat to others' health or safety or who was likely to cause substantial property damage. He explained that determining danger could involve reviewing a person's history, medical information, or behaviors such as severe outbursts or wandering.

Mr. Carter explained that, when determining what constituted a direct threat, a hearing officer could consider whether an applicant had a documented history of violence, especially in the context of group living where residents often shared rooms. He stated that the combination of a shared, intimate living environment and a person's violent background could reasonably be viewed as a direct threat, allowing the City to prohibit that individual from residing in the facility as a condition of approval. He also noted that individuals considered dangerous under federal law were not treated the same as individuals with disabilities and did not receive the same protections. A facility that repeatedly accepted or housed dangerous individuals could ultimately lose its status.

Councilmember Pierucci asked whether the City could further define "direct threat" or "dangerous" in the code to make the standard more explicit when approving these facilities. Mr. Carter explained that narrowing the definition could actually be counterproductive, because a rigid list might exclude concerning situations that didn't fit the exact criteria. He said it was more effective to keep the standard broad and rely on an experienced hearing officer to evaluate each case.

Mr. Hicks explained that the City currently had 11 licensed residential facilities, with three more in the approval process. He outlined two proposed changes in the fee schedule. First, because these facilities require additional staff time compared to typical businesses, staff recommended creating an annual licensing fee specific to this type of use. Second, staff proposed establishing a fee structure for reasonable accommodation requests. Since hiring a hearing officer is costly, the proposal included requiring an initial deposit that would be applied to the final invoice for the hearing officer's services. Any remaining balance would be either refunded or billed before the license was issued.

Councilmember Pierucci expressed concern about the definitions in the code and indicated a desire to discuss them further. He also raised a concern that the City had not historically enforced the four-unrelated-person limit. He emphasized the need for public accountability so residents could understand past missteps, while acknowledging the City's need to maintain enforcement authority. In response, Mr. Hicks explained that the code contains two definitions of "family": one limiting unrelated persons to four, and another defining a family as a group of people who have consented to live together. He noted that prior interpretations had not been consistently applied in all cases, such as with certain student housing, and recognized the need to clarify enforcement going forward.

Mayor Staggs said that the issue was not a misinterpretation of the code, but rather that enforcement had been lax. He explained that staff's current efforts aim to formalize and clarify the administrative process going forward. Historically, existing facilities only obtained a business license without specifying the number of occupants. Moving forward, outpatient facilities will be processed through a conditional use permit, while inpatient facilities will continue under federal law. The standard four-unrelated-person limit will be enforced, with any requests for additional occupants handled through a reasonable accommodation request reviewed by a qualified hearing officer. The \$4,000 deposit in the fee schedule is intended to cover administrative costs without burdening Riverton taxpayers.

Councilmember Buroker asked how Riverton City fees compared with other cities. In response, Mr. Hicks explained that the proposed business license fee for residential facilities was slightly above the average compared with other cities. The reasonable accommodation fee was less common among other municipalities, but the proposed approach, charging only the actual cost of the hearing officer's time, was considered reasonable and transparent.

Councilmember McDougal noted that some residential facilities had generated more calls for service than typical homes, citing one facility on 4000 West that had been particularly problematic. He emphasized the need for strict enforcement of the four-unrelated-persons limit, including regular inspections to ensure compliance. He stressed that if facilities violated their approved accommodations, licenses should be revoked immediately, and he encouraged the City to take a proactive approach to maintain neighborhood standards.

Mayor Staggs noted that the proposed budget amendment for the new fees would accompany stricter enforcement of the four-unrelated-persons limit. He observed that much of the proliferation of residential facilities stemmed from the federal fair housing laws and the definition of "disabled," which he believed has been exploited. He suggested that Congress should review and amend the federal definition, arguing that these types of homes may be more appropriate on major arterials rather than embedded within residential neighborhoods, especially when operated as profitable businesses.

250th Celebration Fireworks Discussion

Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director, explained that the pyrotechnics provider had inquired about whether more fireworks would be ordered for the 250th Celebration, as the provider needs to place orders in early January to secure better pricing. Currently, the City budgeted \$42,000 for the fireworks. Ms. Garn sought direction from the elected officials on whether to increase that amount for the celebration.

Councilmember Perucci suggested adding a second show on the west side of the City to accommodate growing populations and noted prior logistical challenges with locations and traffic. Councilmember Buroker supported maintaining the main show as is, arguing that the public appreciates the display but doesn't necessarily associate it with the celebration, and suggested considering a separate or smaller west-side show on a different date. Councilmember McCay agreed with a potential west-side show, emphasizing younger families in that area, but did not support increasing the main park display. Councilmembers McDougal and Haymond preferred maintaining the current show, citing its success, cost considerations, and the influx of visitors from outside the City. Overall, the consensus was to keep the main city park fireworks show unchanged while potentially exploring a smaller or separate west-side event.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session**. Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Staggs called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Buroker-Yes, Haymond-Yes, McCay-Yes, McDougal-Yes, and Pierucci-Yes. The motion passed unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 6:44 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, Haymond, McCay, McDougal and Pierucci were present.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Citizen Comment

Mayor Staggs called for public comments;

Greg Stone, a retired police officer with 23 years of experience, expressed strong concerns about the proposed residential facility on Bamberger. He emphasized that he moved to Riverton for a safe neighborhood and felt the facility, housing 16 mixed-gender residents without 24/7 staff or security cameras, posed significant risks. He cited potential issues including increased traffic, drug activity, theft, fights, and general crime of opportunity. He stressed his personal concern about encountering individuals he had previously arrested and urged the City to locate such facilities elsewhere to protect the neighborhood.

Bryce Craig expressed frustration about a new outpatient rehab facility in his neighborhood. He noted that residents were not notified about the business's move and only learned of it after observing construction that added bedrooms. The facility houses 16 residents, is mixed-gender, and has limited security. He highlighted safety concerns for children due to increased traffic, with as many as 15 cars parked near the corner. He acknowledged that many residents of the facility may be well-intentioned but raised concerns about potential risks from some individuals rotating every 90 days. He urged the Council to examine why so many such facilities are appearing in residential neighborhoods and suggested that these businesses might be better located in commercial zones or designated areas.

Joe Griffin expressed concern about the outpatient rehab facility in his neighborhood. He asked whether such a business could be located in a commercial zone and suggested that allowing facilities in commercial areas could accommodate more residents while keeping residential neighborhoods less impacted. He voiced frustration that the current home already houses 13–15 adults, far exceeding what he considers reasonable for the size of the residence, and criticized the lack of City oversight in allowing this. He also noted that commitments made by the facility, limiting residents' activity on the streets and restricting vehicles, were not upheld, resulting in significant traffic and street congestion.

Reed Thomas publicly thanked Councilmember Spencer Haymond for his integrity and responsiveness. He described a situation in which the City initially planned to remove his 25-year-old trees. He contacted Haymond, who personally visited with an arborist, reviewed the trees, and ensured they would not be cut. He emphasized that this experience demonstrated honesty and accountability, contrasting it with his perception that many elected officials do not follow through on promises.

Judy Torres addressed concerns about cemetery decoration policies. She noted that decorations, including wreaths and flowers, are removed too soon, especially around the

holidays. She described placing decorations on her husband's grave on Christmas Eve, only to find them removed within two weeks. She requested that decorations, particularly holiday wreaths honoring veterans, remain in the cemetery until the end of January to allow for proper observance and celebration.

John Spence spoke on behalf of Scouting America, highlighting challenges for local scout troops in Riverton. He noted that the troops lack affordable meeting spaces, with available venues costing \$400–\$600 per night, making it difficult for the scouts to meet regularly. He contrasted this with the City's recent spending of \$1–1.5 million on a skate park, questioning why such funding was available for recreational infrastructure but not for organizations like scouting, which provide community service and character-building programs. He asked the Council to consider providing support or space for these community-focused groups.

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

Presentations

Riverton Police Department Titan Retirement Presentation

Chief Shane Taylor recognized Officer Spencer Hiatt and his K9 partner, Titan, who was retiring. Officer Hiatt and Titan joined the Riverton Police Department in 2019 and made a significant impact by removing illicit drugs from the streets and saving lives. Although Titan was later reassigned to Sergeant Estrada, the team continued to contribute meaningfully to public safety. In recognition of his dedication and service, Titan was awarded the Medal of Meritorious Service.

Mayor and Council Reports

Councilmember McDougal – No Report

Councilmember Pierucci provided updates on recent community and professional engagements, including participating in a National League of Cities panel on economic mobility with Chick-fil-A, attending the South Valley Chambers Gala to recognize local businesses' contributions, and experiencing the Attorney General's virtual law enforcement training, which highlighted officers' challenges. He also reminded residents of UDOT's Mountain View Corridor hearing at Midas Creek Elementary and shared his involvement in the Wasatch Choice Vision Workshop, providing input on regional transportation projects and funding priorities for the community.

Councilmember McCay expressed appreciation for the ribbon cutting at the new park behind the City building, noting the high turnout of children and resident involvement in the design and equipment selection. She also highlighted the value of the scouting program for character building and skills development, and suggested exploring discounted or free facility rentals for nonprofit organizations, noting past challenges with being priced out of city facilities.

Councilmember Buroker – No Report.

Councilmember Haymond shared his experience attending a training at the Attorney General's Office, describing it as an incredible opportunity to understand the challenges police officers face. He highlighted the 360-degree simulator, which places participants in split-second

decision-making scenarios with hostiles and non-hostiles, emphasizing the difficulty of determining appropriate use of force. The experience gave him a deeper appreciation for the emotional and professional demands on officers and reinforced his respect for the work police do daily.

Mayor Staggs reported on recent UDOT progress, noting the completion of several interchanges along Bangerter Highway, including 2700 West and 13400 South, which will alleviate traffic congestion in the City. He expressed gratitude to UDOT, the legislature, and others who helped expedite the work.

Presentations

Small Business Saturday Proclamation

Mayor Staggs introduced a proclamation for Small Business Saturday, highlighting the importance of small businesses. The City has supported small businesses by eliminating retail business license fees, contributing to growth in sales tax revenue from roughly \$4 million to over \$13 million, enabling property tax relief and low utility fees.

Riverton Baseball Presentation

Randy Smith, Riverton Baseball President, expressed deep gratitude to the Mayor, Council, and City staff for their ongoing support, emphasizing the impact of their programs on the community. He outlined safety measures, diversity and inclusion efforts, and partnerships with City staff to streamline programs. He extended an invitation to the Council for the 2026 Opening Day on April 11, praising the City's facilities and emphasizing Riverton Baseball's commitment to providing a safe, fun, and inclusive environment.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee Presentation

Kim Yore, Member of Parks, Recreations, and Trails Committee, reported on the committee's work supporting Riverton's parks and trails. The committee, a small group of volunteers meeting quarterly, helped design the new park in the EDGE Development and named it River's Edge. To address the growing need for trail etiquette awareness, they launched the "Ring, Ride, Right, Respect" campaign, distributing flyers, 100 bike bells at the September Get to River event, and safety coloring books at the Halloween Bash. The campaign also received recognition in the City Journal.

Consent Items

Mayor Staggs presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: October 21, 2025; and
- b. **Resolution No. 25-53** Authorizing the Retirement of Police Service Dog "Titan" from Active Duty with the Riverton Police Department; and
- c. **Resolution No**. **25-54** Authorizing a purchase order contract be issued to Core Industrial or the completion for the 4800 Pump House Manifold Replacement Project.

Councilmember Buroker **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,

Haymond-yes, McCay-yes, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing(s)/Action Items

Resolution No. 25-51 – Amending the Municipal Fee Schedule for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

Mayor Staggs opened the public hearing and asked for public comment. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Pierucci MOVED that the City Council approve Resolution No. 25-51 – Amending the Municipal Fee Schedule for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. 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.

Resolution No. 25-52 – Approving Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

Councilmember Pierucci asked for clarification on the TRCC funding, including when an official response would be received and whether there was any unofficial feedback on the project's likelihood of funding. Staff responded that an official response is expected within the next few weeks, with unofficial feedback indicating challenges due to a lower match percentage than other projects and the skate park's relatively newer age compared to other replacement projects.

Councilmember McCay expressed concern that the location for the skate park has not yet been determined. She noted that residents generally do not support moving the skate park to Centennial Park and would prefer exploring other options, such as a dog park or expanding softball fields. She stated that funding for conceptual design should not be approved until a location decision is made, as costs would differ depending on the site, and indicated she would not support the \$50,000 at this time.

Councilmember Haymond asked about the bid process for the skate park. Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, clarified that the amount presented was part of a bid process with a selected vendor and represented the cost to create conceptual designs and conduct engagement, not an invoice for completed work. Councilmember Haymond shifted the discussion to the idea of an "all wheels" park, incorporating skateboarding, scooters, Strider bikes, and mountain biking, similar to facilities in Bluffdale, West Valley, and Vernal.

In response, Mr. Geer noted that the current RFP was specific to a skate park, so pursuing an all wheels design would require a new RFP.

Mayor Staggs opened the public hearing and asked for public comment.

Nikki Bown expressed support for spending \$50,000 on conceptual designs for the skate park, acknowledging the community's evolving needs. She cautioned that there is strong public concern about the possibility of selling part of the park parcel to a private investor and

emphasized that a survey on relocating the skate park is a separate issue from selling the land. She encouraged the Council to hear more from the community on this matter in the future and reiterated support for the idea of an all-wheels park.

Brenner Adams, member of the Parks and Trails Committee, spoke in support of funding for skate park research and redesign. He emphasized the importance of providing spaces for kids who don't fit into traditional sports or scouting, highlighting how action sports like skateboarding positively impacted his life and career. He noted the current skate park is unsafe and poorly designed, and stressed it should be completely rebuilt. He supports exploring all-wheels parks with separate areas for bikes, scooters, and skateboarding for safety. He also highlighted the mental health benefits of adrenaline sports, describing them as a positive outlet for youth. He offered his expertise and connections with local skateboarding retailers to help ensure the new design meets the community's needs.

John Spence expressed concern about the proposed City-sponsored skate park. He questioned whether the skate park needed to be funded by Riverton City rather than private enterprise. He noted safety concerns with a multi-wheel facility, explaining that kids and adults could collide due to lack of supervision. He stated that the skate park currently has no oversight, creating potential liability for the City. He suggested that if the community desires such a facility, funding should come from state organizations or other sources, with supervision provided during use.

Mayor Staggs asked for additional public comment. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember McDougal addressed concerns regarding the proposed skate park, noting that misinformation had circulated recently. He stated that the current skate park is not safe and emphasized that the surrounding area has changed significantly since the park was built 20 years ago, with road conditions and future density creating additional hazards. He recommended not approving the project at this time, suggesting a more holistic approach that considers new parks and potential alternatives, such as smaller parks or an all-wheels facility. He expressed discomfort with spending money at the preliminary stage and noted that the current location is hazardous, recommending that financial decisions be deferred until a long-term plan is developed.

Councilmember Pierucci stated that he is still grappling with what the right approach is for this issue. He expressed agreement with exploring all options, noting upcoming parks and other City-owned properties that could potentially be developed. He highlighted interest in the micro skate park concept presented by a resident and emphasized the importance of evaluating its viability with the skateboarding community. He concluded by stating he was not prepared to spend \$50,000 at this time but remains open to funding a larger, more comprehensive plan in the future.

Councilmember Buroker stated agreement that it is too early to make a decision or spend funds when the long-term direction for the project has not yet been determined.

Mayor Staggs shared his perspective on the skate park discussion, noting the frustration staff may experience when attempting to facilitate Council requests, issue RFPs, and then receive feedback that more time or different directions are desired. He highlighted the City's significant park inventory, noting that Riverton has over 500 acres of park space and a five-acre-per-1,000-people standard. He expressed concerns regarding safety at the current skate park location and its suitability as park space, emphasizing that it is a small parcel on a busy road and not ideal

for high-quality recreational use. While acknowledging nearby skate and all-wheel parks within two to three miles, he indicated he would not support spending City funds to rebuild or redesign the existing facility. He concluded by stating that the Council has enough information to make a clear decision: either to rebuild and invest in public engagement and design or to forgo rebuilding entirely.

Councilmember Pierucci expressed appreciation for the Mayor's leadership and acknowledged the Mayor's reputation as a man of action who gets things done for the community. He noted concern regarding the \$50,000 cost for the skate park project, clarifying that this amount was for concepts and public engagement, not final construction-ready designs, and indicated that the figure felt high compared to the anticipated benefit. In response, staff confirmed that the \$50,000 represented Phase One of the project, which included concept development and public engagement. Phase Two, approximately \$50,000, would cover construction drawings, and Phase Three, approximately \$40,000, would cover construction management, for a total project cost of roughly \$140,000.

Discussion/Action Items

New Park Survey Results

Josh Lee, Communications Director, reported on the results of a recent survey regarding the potential park. The survey, conducted solely via social media, received 863 responses, with over 24,000 impressions, indicating strong engagement from Riverton residents. He noted that the responses confirmed previous trends, with residents overwhelmingly favoring a non-programmed park rather than a park dedicated to sports leagues. Respondents prioritized features that accommodate families, including playground equipment, splash pads, multi-use fields, and open space. Specific items mentioned included street hockey, bike pump tracks, skate parks, and mountain bike jump tracks. Open-ended responses suggested additional features such as a dog park, softball complex, shade structures, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. Overall, he indicated that the survey results aligned with prior community feedback and provided clear direction for conceptual planning, without revealing any unexpected or new requests.

Mayor Staggs inquired whether the current demand for soccer and other programmed sports fields exceeds the available supply, noting that while survey results favored a non-programmed park, field space may still be limited.

In response, Ms. Garn responded that while it is unlikely the City could ever build enough park space to meet all demand, trends show younger families desire both organized sports opportunities and passive recreational space, such as trails, playgrounds, and unprogrammed areas. She also noted that Riverton has historically allowed surrounding cities' residents to participate in programs such as girls softball, boys baseball, and soccer, with football being the only sport strictly limited by high school boundaries. Overall, she indicated that although demand for organized fields remains, there is a growing preference for passive and flexible park space.

Councilmember McCay suggested that when using City fields, priority should be given to Riverton residents, particularly during the initial registration period, and that any overflow should be limited to participants from neighboring cities. She also highlighted the high demand for a dog park and noted that softball ranked highly in survey responses. Additionally, she observed significant interest in mountain bike and pump tracks, as well as frisbee golf, and

expressed support for including such features in upcoming unprogrammed park spaces. She further noted the growing use of electric scooters and motorcycles among youth, citing recent accidents, and encouraged consideration of dedicated areas for safe riding within City park facilities.

Councilmember Buroker emphasized the importance of informing residents about recreational opportunities even if they are outside City limits. Additionally, she highlighted the land directly south of 12600 South owned by the federal government, suggesting it could be an ideal location for a cycling track or similar facility, acknowledging it as a long-term goal.

Councilmember Pierucci shared a personal perspective as a parent of young children, expressing a preference for unprogrammed parks, playgrounds, and splash pads. He also requested that staff review a recent Utah State University study from the Janet Quinney Lawson Land, Air, and Water Institute on park design, including neighborhood versus regional parks and how park shape can impact usage and movement, and provide input to the Council as they consider future park planning.

Councilmember McDougal noted that Riverton is a small city and emphasized the importance of considering the long-term costs and sustainability of park and recreation facilities. He highlighted that while residents often request more parks, trails, and recreational opportunities, there are ongoing maintenance costs that must be funded through taxes. He expressed concern that some facilities are heavily programmed, limiting access for other residents, and that neighboring cities benefit from Riverton's recreational offerings without contributing financially. He stressed that the City cannot provide every recreational opportunity for everyone and must balance growth with financial sustainability. He stated that this perspective informed his hesitation to approve the \$50,000 for conceptual design at this time and advocated for a holistic review to ensure that existing facilities are maintained, residents can utilize what they are funding, and the City avoids taking on additional debt.

Resolution No. 25-55 – Authorizing the Filing of a Complaint to Take Property Through Eminent Domain

Ryan Carter, City Attorney, explained the procedural requirements for the matter, noting that the property owner must be given an opportunity to be heard before formal approval. He stated that this opportunity is separate from a general public hearing and is limited to the property owner.

Mayor Staggs asked if the property owner was present at the meeting and wanted to speak. The property owner was not present.

Councilmember McDougal MOVED that the City Council approve Resolution No. 25-55 – Authorizing the Filing of a Complaint to Take Property Through Eminent Domain. 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

Upcoming Meetings

a. December 2, 2025 - Work Session & City Council Meeting

November 18, 2025

- b. December 16, 2025 Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. January 6, 2026 Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. January 20, 2026 Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember Pierucci **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 8:40 PM.

Approved: CCM 12.2.25