

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
December 2, 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

Animal Shelter Discussion

Nate Slack, Public Relations Specialist, provided an update on animal control operations and recent improvements to manage the number of animals in the shelter and improve response and posting times for lost pets. He shared that data showed a significant decrease in adoptable animals at the start of the year due to transition efforts with Stone Ridge, and the shelter has maintained fewer than ten animals at a time since then. He outlined several strategies, including coordinating with neighboring cities, featuring adoptable animals in the City newsletter, creating short videos to showcase behavior, and holding adoption events or shelter open-house activities to raise visibility.

Update on HB 48 Wildland Urban Interface

Fire Marshal Wade Watkins presented an overview of House Bill 48 and its relevance to Riverton City, noting that the City's 2010 adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code

already met the bill's requirements. He explained that Riverton's structure exposure scores, based on fire likelihood, intensity, and ember load, were low, with none exceeding five and well below the state's high-risk threshold of seven. Because of this, Riverton did not need to establish a WUI boundary, and no local properties were expected to be subject to the state-assessed fees associated with higher-risk areas.

Councilmembers asked questions about the map, the location of higher-risk areas, and whether establishing a boundary would provide any benefit. In response, Fire Marshal Watkins advised that boundaries are typically adopted only when justified by higher exposure scores and noted that adopting one unnecessarily could influence insurance costs.

Homeowners Association (HOA) Water

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, reported on efforts to address Riverton's unusually high water usage and water loss rates, and to identify causes and reduce losses. He prioritized rapid leak repairs and investigated HOAs after discovering that many communities were receiving unmetered water through redundant connection points equipped with weighted check valves. Testing confirmed that isolating these valves significantly increased metered flow, indicating long-term unbilled usage. After completing a full billing cycle, he found that several HOAs, about 25 communities, will see substantial increases on their upcoming bills, with one large account showing an estimated \$16,000 increase in a single month. He also noted that this particular HOA had been repeatedly warned about leaks over the years but had declined to repair them, benefiting from unmetered water use. Correcting this issue is expected to significantly improve the City's water-loss reporting and financial accuracy.

Councilmembers discussed strategies for communicating upcoming water bill adjustments to HOAs and residents following the identification and repair of long-standing leaks. Concerns were raised about ensuring residents understand the historical context, that these bills reflect usage that should have been metered and billed for years. Councilmembers emphasized direct communication both to the HOAs and to individual units to reduce confusion and prevent misattribution of costs. Staff confirmed that letters were already being drafted and that all 24 affected accounts would be placed on a watch list to monitor usage and ensure accurate reporting to the state. Councilmembers requested to see the letter before distribution and to receive a list of HOAs within their districts so they can provide outreach as well.

Councilmembers reached consensus to implement a phased billing approach for all 24 HOAs, applied equitably and based on a percentage discount rather than fixed dollar amounts. They agreed on a three-month transition period, no longer than six months, after which all affected accounts will move to full, real-time billing.

City Manager Report

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, provided an update regarding the South Valley Aqueduct project, noting that residents recently received mailers implying the contractor had City approval for night work. He clarified that the City did not issue such approval and that the authorization referenced in the mailer was granted by another governmental entity. He explained that, under the City's noise ordinance, waivers may only be granted for specific events, such as a one-time overnight concrete pour, not for blanket or open-ended after-hours construction. Any work conducted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. remains subject to the ordinance, and this has been communicated to the project representatives.

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 6:55 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Staggs called the Riverton City Council Meeting to order at 7:03 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Buroker, Haymond, McCay, McDougal and Pierucci were present.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember McCay offered the invocation and Fire Marshal Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations

Silver Rush Proclamation

Mayor Staggs welcomed Riverton High School's student body officers, their advisor, and principal for the presentation of the annual Silver Rush Proclamation. The Silver Rush tradition, established in 1999, involves students selecting a charity and raising funds through service and community projects. Past efforts have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, amounting to millions raised over the program's history. Mayor Staggs formally proclaimed December 1–19 as Riverton High School Silver Rush Season and encouraged residents within Riverton High School boundaries to participate and support the event.

Christmas Card Winners

Mayor Staggs recognized and congratulated the following Christmas card winners: First place, Priscilla Rose, first runner up, Onalise Barton and second runner-up, Bhavni Shambhavi.

Riverton Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Midas Creek Elementary

Councilmember McDougal presented the Choice Awards to Trish Calhoun (teacher), Lorenzo Williamson (student) and Kynlee Pace (student) from Midas Creek Elementary.

Riverton Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Foothills Elementary

Councilmember Pierucci presented the Choice Awards to Shasha “Alicia” Li (teacher), Nixon Heise (student) and Elise Meyers (student) from Foothills Elementary.

Citizen Comment

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

Mayor and Council Reports

Councilmember Haymond reported attending the National League of Cities conference and highlighted opportunities to interact with other mayors and council members, visit vendor exhibits, and learn about city development projects. He shared information on the American Ramp Company, which specializes in skate parks and all-wheels recreational facilities, including projects in Bluffdale, Herriman, and South Jordan that creatively utilize retention ponds.

Councilmember Buroker – No Report.

Councilmember McCay reported attending an Interfaith Council meeting during the National League of Cities conference, where she listened to Elder Gary Stevenson and Sharon Eubanks speak. She noted that Riverton was recognized as one of the “Just Serve” cities and highlighted the value of involving nonprofits and community groups in city events.

Councilmember Pierucci reported attending the National League of Cities conference, noting the value of learning from other city leaders about challenges and mistakes in areas such as zoning and infrastructure. He also participated in a panel on how partnerships with local businesses can drive upward mobility. Additionally, he referenced the Mountain View Corridor public event hosted by UDOT and encouraged both City staff and residents to engage and provide feedback throughout the process.

Councilmember McDougal – No Report.

Consent Items

Mayor Staggs presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: November 18, 2025; and
- b. **Resolution No. 25-56** – Establishing Annual Meeting Schedules for Riverton City for the Year of 2026;
- c. **Resolution No. 25-57** – Declaring City Equipment as Surplus, Authorizing the City Manager to dispose of the item as he deems appropriate;
- d. **Resolution No. 25-59** – Approving the Execution of an Amendment of the Water Contract with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District; and
- e. **Resolution No. 25-60** – Approving Daniel J. McDonald to Serve as a Hearing Officer for Reviewing and Deciding Reasonable Accommodation Requests under City Code.

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. 25-58 – Approving Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, reminded the Council that the listed items represented projects with invoices arriving after the fiscal year, and that this review was part of the year-end reconciliation process.

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

Councilmember Buroker **MOVED that the City Council approve Resolution No. 25-58 – Approving Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget.** 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

Resolution No. 25-61 – Approving the Riverton City Skate Park be Closed for Use by the Public

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, provided an update on the skate park, clarifying that the discussion was not related to any adjacent development or land transactions. He reviewed the timeline, noting that the skate park had been assessed during strategic planning nearly a year prior, with further evaluations conducted by multiple vendors and the City's new insurance carrier, Utah Risk Management Agency. The inspections indicated that the park could not be safely repaired and needed full replacement. He emphasized that the decision to close the skate park was solely for safety reasons and discussed plans to install a temporary fence to prevent future use.

Mayor Staggs explained that the decision to close the skate park could have been made administratively based on the safety report, but he chose to bring it to the Council for discussion due to prior conversations regarding the facility. He clarified that any future decisions regarding rebuilding or relocating the skate park would be addressed by the Council at a later time.

Councilmember Haymond asked about the legal process for closing the skate park, how it would be enforced, and the type of fencing needed to mitigate liability without excessive cost. Staff explained that a six-foot chain link fence could be rented and locked, with signage indicating closure for safety, at a cost of approximately \$1,500 per month. Ryan Carter, City Attorney, confirmed that fencing the park in this manner is the minimum required to protect the City legally, noting that temporary or lightweight fencing, such as orange hazard fencing, would not be sufficient. He emphasized that prior experiences with inadequate fencing have

exposed the City to legal liability, and the chain link fence is the preferred method to prevent unauthorized access.

Councilmember McCay noted that the letter regarding the skate park stated it needed to be made safe and properly repaired, rather than explicitly torn out. She asked whether additional contractor options could be explored to repair the park, given the limited history of emergency incidents and examples of other City areas with “use at your own risk” signage. In response, Mr. Hicks responded that exploring additional contractors was possible, but cautioned that even if repairs were made, the park would still need to meet safety inspections by specialists. He suggested that the Council first decide whether the skate park should remain at its current location or be replaced, as that would guide next steps for repair or reconstruction.

Councilmember Pierucci asked about the legal effectiveness of posting cautionary signs at the skate park. Mr. Carter explained that because the park is designed for children, who are not legally capable of fully understanding risk, warning signs alone do not protect the City from liability. Councilmember Pierucci emphasized the importance of finding a long-term solution and suggested educating residents about skate park facilities in nearby cities while the park remains closed, potentially using signage with QR codes linking to alternative locations.

Councilmember Buroker emphasized that the discussion and decisions were focused on resident safety and fiscal responsibility, and stressed the importance of communicating to residents that the action being taken was to ensure the City remains safe.

Councilmember McDougal said that the City has a fiduciary and safety responsibility to residents. He noted that professionals had identified risks in the skate park, supporting the need to close it. He supported communicating alternative facilities to residents and stressed that the closure was a prudent measure for both public safety and City liability, while allowing for thoughtful consideration of the park’s future.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** that the City Council approve Resolution No. 25-61 – **Approving the Riverton City Skate Park be Closed for Use by the Public**. 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-no, McDougal-yes, and Pierucci-yes. The motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. December 16, 2025 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. January 6, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. January 20, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. February 3, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember Pierucci **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Approved: CCM 12.16.25