

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
January 20, 2026

Riverton City Hall
12830 South 1700 West
Riverton, Utah 84065

Attendance:

Mayor Tish Buroker

Councilmembers:

Councilmember Spencer Haymond
Councilmember Alexander Johnson
Councilmember Troy McDougal
Councilmember Andy Pierucci
Councilmember Shannon Smith

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

WORK SESSION – 4:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Buroker called the Work Session to order at 4:05 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Haymond, Johnson, McDougal, Pierucci and Smith were present.

Presentations

Wasatch Front Regional Council

Ted Knowlton, Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), presented an overview of its role as a regional governmental organization responsible for long-term transportation planning and funding across multiple counties and cities, including Riverton. WFRC is currently developing a 30-year Regional Transportation Plan through 2055, which serves as the foundation for future roads, transit, and trails projects. For Riverton specifically, three key transit concepts were highlighted: extending the TRAX Red Line toward Mountain View Village and eventually along Bangerter Highway to connect with FrontRunner and the Blue Line; implementing Bus Rapid Transit along Redwood Road; and enhancing bus service along 12600 South. WFRC emphasized that implementation depends on ridership demand, supportive land use, and available funding, and encouraged Riverton to incorporate these concepts into its own transportation master planning to strengthen future funding opportunities and long-term coordination.

Mr. Knowlton also presented an overview of the Utah Trail Network and the Beehive Bikeway system, which together form a statewide and regional vision for connecting communities through trails for recreation and transportation. These networks integrate existing trails like the Jordan River

Parkway with planned off-street trails, protected bikeways, and on-street bike lanes. Funding for trails has significantly increased, with UDOT now allocating about \$45 million annually statewide. While UDOT can advance projects independently, cities that actively advocate, conduct feasibility studies, and invest local funds are more likely to receive priority.

Discussion Items

Budget Kickoff Discussion

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, presented an overview of the budget process, emphasizing a more flexible and collaborative approach than in past years. He outlined the required timeline, tentative budget by May and final adoption by June, but noted the goal is to complete the budget earlier and improve transparency through better communication. He explained that Council will review revenues, operations, debt, and capital projects in stages, with departments directly presenting their five-year needs during work sessions in late summer and fall. The intent is to give Council clearer insight into priorities, improve long-range planning, and adopt a more conservative, data-driven budgeting philosophy that avoids committing to projects before revenues are secure.

Mr. Geer highlighted sales tax as Riverton's primary revenue source, making up about 43% of total tax revenue and funding most general operations, with police and fire property taxes together accounting for most of the rest. Sales tax is economically sensitive and reported with a two-to-three-month delay, making forecasting challenging. While current year collections are slightly below last year, large months like November and December are still pending. There was discussion among Councilmembers and staff about the importance of diversifying the tax base, budgeting conservatively, prioritizing projects based on confirmed cash flow, and preparing for potential legislative changes affecting both sales and property taxes.

Timberline Development Discussion

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, presented a proposed development along 13400 South and Redwood Road, where a developer is seeking to rezone the currently commercial property to higher-density residential. Key concerns raised by the Planning Commission and public focused on road connectivity, as two older neighborhood roads currently stub into the site without modern curb, gutter, or sidewalks. The original plan proposed full roadway connections, but this raised issues about traffic, parking spillover, and infrastructure impacts on long-established neighborhoods. In response, a revised concept was shared that would close those road connections, provide only pedestrian and utility links, and instead create a new primary access point from Redwood Road, while still preserving future public access for adjacent undeveloped land.

The Council generally expressed support for this revised road layout, noting it better protects existing neighborhoods while still allowing connectivity through pedestrian paths. They emphasized the importance of minimizing disruption to 40-year-old communities, reducing traffic conflicts on Redwood Road, and keeping maintenance costs low by favoring simple concrete pathways over landscaped strips.

Representatives from Fieldstone, the developer, confirmed the project would be an HOA community due to the private road, with the HOA responsible for maintenance and snow removal, and emphasized their desire for Council guidance on closing the two road connections so they can proceed with the revised concept. It was noted that the public has not yet seen the new road-

closure concept, as it was created in response to earlier concerns, and that further review with emergency services and public input will occur before any final decisions.

Sentinel Ridge Median

Mr. Lethbridge explained that increasing development along Sentinel Ridge Boulevard has created significant traffic and safety issues, leading engineers to require a center median between 13400 South and 13800 South to restrict left-turn movements and reduce conflicts. The median design is not optional and is based on traffic studies, with the goal of improving safety while still allowing development to proceed. The median will prevent certain direct turns, meaning residents may need to travel up to half a mile to reroute. Emergency services have reviewed the design and confirmed it will not impede response times.

Council discussion focused on how the median should be treated aesthetically and practically. They strongly opposed landscaped medians due to long-term maintenance and water costs, favoring concrete or low-maintenance designs instead. While some supported incorporating public art or decorative concrete, possibly tied to Mountain Ridge High School, to give the area identity, there was broad agreement that any design must minimize future costs and disruptions. Council emphasized the importance of installing the median quickly so new residents understand the traffic patterns from the start.

Skate Park Discussion

Mayor Buroker outlined plans to form a Skate Park Advisory Committee and recommended Councilmembers Haymond, Johnson, and McDougal to serve on the this committee to provide a balance of perspectives. The intent is to move quickly but still gather meaningful community input.

City Council Meeting Agenda Review

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, explained that work sessions will be heavily focused on budget discussions over the next few months, with enough topics and feedback to support two extended sessions per month through at least June. Agendas will be flexible and “flooded” with items to allow in-depth dialogue with staff and department heads, including a standing item for open questions if time allows, so discussions don’t feel rushed and Council can stay informed and transparent.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember Pierucci **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session**. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 6:02 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Buroker called the Riverton City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Haymond, Johnson, McDougal, Pierucci and Smith were present.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Katie Varga offered the invocation and Chief Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Buroker called for public comments;

Ken and Kathleen Warner – Email comment included in the packet.

Antoinette France – Email comment included in the packet.

Douglas Hendricks spoke against the City's partnership with ICE, saying it is morally wrong and does not align with claims that it improves public safety. He argued that ICE is not primarily targeting violent criminals but instead detaining people with little or no criminal history, which he described as unjust. He also stated that the partnership creates fear in immigrant communities, discouraging residents from reporting crimes or cooperating with police due to concerns about deportation. He urged the newly elected Council to show bold leadership and end Riverton's relationship with ICE.

Dr. Steven Ford described an incident where his family was blocked on Redwood Road by protesters and expressed disappointment that police did not clear the street, despite the protest being in the roadway. While he said he supports First Amendment rights, he argued that protests should not disrupt public roads or law-abiding citizens.

Nathaniel criticized the City's contract with ICE, calling it harmful and unsafe. He urged the Council to terminate the agreement, arguing that it does not improve public safety but instead endangers the community.

Richard Keeler raised concerns about the Collective School's proposed greenhouse and animal enclosures, citing potential impacts on property values, increased traffic, and additional noise in what was once a quiet neighborhood. He also expressed worries about rodents, animal care and fencing, and weekend activity such as farmers markets.

Ellen Ford expressed concern about the Timberline development that was discussed during the work session. She said that neighbors remain opposed to the current design and urged the Council to listen to neighborhood feedback and reconsider the project's design.

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

Mayor/Council/Manager Reports

Councilmember Pierucci reported that he attended a Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Board of Trustees meeting which focused on their budget plan which explores alternative funding scenarios that balance property taxes and water rates. He also shared that he represented the City at a Salt Lake County Board of Realtors government affairs meeting, where mayors and local realtors discussed key issues including transit planning, housing, water resources, and zoning.

Councilmember McDougal – No Report.

Councilmember Johnson expressed gratitude and honor in representing the citizens of Riverton and stated he was eager to listen, engage with residents, and serve the community.

Councilmember Haymond reported that the sewer project affecting 13400 South is nearing completion and is expected to be finished within the next two to three weeks.

Councilmember Smith expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and stated she was looking forward to connecting with residents and hearing their concerns.

Mayor Buroker reported feeling very welcomed by City staff and praised their professionalism and expertise. She noted positive progress on several issues, including exploring future options for the City cemetery as plots are running low, participating in training sessions for new Councilmembers, and serving on the UFA board, where Riverton achieved full FEMA compliance, enabling access to federal emergency funding.

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, reported that a water main break occurred near 13400 South and 2700 West, and crews were dispatched. After calling for an emergency Blue Stakes clearance and setting up traffic control, crews isolated and stabilized the system, then completed repairs and backfilling that same day. An estimated 350,000 gallons of water, just over one acre-foot, were lost, and the road was fully paved and reopened to traffic the following day; the break was attributed to an old 14-inch ductile iron pipe that had deteriorated and eventually failed.

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, noted that the City has received resident feedback regarding certain signage around Riverton. It was clarified that signage located on private property is protected under First Amendment rights and generally cannot be regulated or removed by the City. When concerns are reported, code enforcement staff do review the situations to confirm whether the City has any authority to act; however, most of the signage in question has been on private property and outside City control. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting concerns so staff can verify each case.

Presentations

Religious Freedom Proclamation

Mayor Buroker read the Religious Freedom Proclamation and declared January 16 of each year as “Religious Freedom Day” in Riverton City.

Riverton Police Department Presentation

Chief Taylor recognized the Riverton Police Department’s Major Crash Investigation Team for their service responding to complex traffic collisions in the City, noting that these incidents often involved severe injury or loss of life and required advanced investigative skills, technical expertise, and professionalism. In 2025, the team was activated for 13 major callouts, including a structure fire and explosion in July, a fatal electric motorcycle versus auto collision in August, an auto versus motorcycle collision in September, and a fatal auto versus auto collision in November.

America 250 Celebration and Events

Sheril Garn, Events and Operations Director, provided an update on the City’s plans for the America 250 celebration and events this year. She noted the new City logo had been implemented on materials and social media, and sponsorship efforts had begun.

Consent Items

Mayor Buroker presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: December 16, 2025;
- b. **Resolution No. 26-01** – Appointing an Alternate City Representative to the Unified Fire Authority Board;
- c. **Resolution No. 26-02** – Appointing a City Representative to the Association of Municipal Councils;
- d. **Resolution No. 26-03** – Appointing a City Representative to Serve as a Board Trustee for the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District;
- e. **Resolution No. 26-04** – Appointing a City Representative to the Jordan River Commission.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda**. Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing(s)/Action Items

Ordinance No. 26-01 – Utah Collective SD Rezone – Proposed Addition of Specific Development Designations Stipulating Setbacks and Architectural Requirements for Agricultural Buildings on Property Located at 2673 West 11800 South

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, explained that this was a unique development application for the private school at the southeast corner of 11800 South and 2700 West, noting that while the property is zoned residential, it is classified as a quasi-public use. The Council was asked to approve a specific development designation to allow proposed animal enclosures and a greenhouse, including reduced setbacks and alternative building materials, which are not otherwise permitted under existing standards. The Planning Commission reviewed the application, recommended approval, and clarified language to ensure consistency between submitted descriptions, photos, and proposed structures.

Ben Milar, Applicant, stated that he and his spouse valued education and community engagement. He explained that the proposed animal enclosures and greenhouse were intended to provide hands-on learning opportunities for children.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 26-01, the “Utah Collective Rezone,” adding the following Specific Development Designations to the current RR-22 zone on property located at 2673 West 11800 South:**

1. **Animal shelters may be built with wood siding and metal roofs, as described and as shown in the attached exhibits.**
2. **Chicken coops may be built from natural wood siding and chicken wire enclosure for a chicken run, as described and as shown in the attached exhibits.**
3. **A greenhouse may be built with aluminum, and glass/polycarbonate clear panels.**
4. **A greenhouse may be build with a 10 feet setback from property line adjacent to 2700 West.**

Councilmember Pierucci **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion

passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 26-05 – Approving Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, provided an overview of the need for a new stormwater camera system, noting that information had been shared via email and posted as part of the public hearing process.

Mayor Buroker called for public comments; there being none, she closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to approve Resolution No. 26-05 – Approving Amendments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget as detailed in Exhibit A.** Councilmember Johnson **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

Elect Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to elect Councilmember Pierucci as Mayor Pro Tempore for 2026.** Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 26-06 – Approving the Creation of a Skate Park Subcommittee

Mr. Hicks discussed the creation of a skate park subcommittee, which would include up to three Councilmembers, the Mayor, and City staff including the Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director, and Events and Operations Director. The committee's initial scope was described as developing a recommendation on whether to build a new skate park, including the number and location of potential facilities. The committee would also consider prior grant funding from TRCC for skate park design and present its recommendation to the full Council for approval.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to approve Resolution No. 26-06 – Approving the Creation of a Skate Park Subcommittee and appointing City Councilmembers McDougal, Johnson, and Haymond to serve on the subcommittee which considers what, if any level of skateboarding services shall be provided by Riverton City.** Councilmember Johnson **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 26-07 – Approving an Amendment to the Riverton City Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual

Mr. Geer presented proposed updates to the City's personnel policies and procedures manual. The first change involved the observance of Juneteenth, recommending that the City observe the holiday on the actual date of June 19, rather than adjusting to a nearby Monday, to align with normal holiday closures and reduce public confusion. The second change pertained to the catastrophic leave program, proposing that employees be allowed to voluntarily donate sick leave in addition to vacation and comp time to support coworkers experiencing catastrophic events. He noted that the program is used infrequently but is intended to provide assistance when needed.

Councilmember Johnson **MOVED** to approve Resolution No. 26-07 – Approving an Amendment to the Riverton City Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for a vote; the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. February 3, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. February 17, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- c. March 3, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. March 17, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Haymond **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Approved: CCM 2.3.26