

Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
February 3, 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, McDougal, Pierucci and Smith were present. Councilmember Johnson joined the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Discussion Items

Water Rate Study Discussion

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, provided a brief history of Riverton's water rates, noting that base rates and tier changes since 2015 had been relatively modest and largely flat over the past decade. He then introduced Shawn Koorn of HDR Engineering, highlighting his extensive experience in utility rate studies across North America and in Utah specifically.

Mr. Koorn explained that the rate study is meant to create fair, cost-based water rates by first identifying total revenue needs, then allocating costs among customer groups, and finally designing the rate structure. Riverton typically conducts these studies about every five years. The discussion stressed the importance of funding operations, reserves, and infrastructure replacement, and noted that different water sources can either have their costs spread across all users or be reflected in tiered pricing.

Mr. Koorn reported that the rate study shows that Riverton's current water revenues and reserves are not enough to fund needed capital projects like aging pipe and meter replacements, so future

funding gaps will require new financing options such as debt or rate increases.

Staff encouraged Councilmembers to keep the broader financial context in mind during budget discussions, noting that while there may be resistance to taking on new debt, avoiding it means either delaying needed projects or finding other funding sources. They emphasized that sales tax is already stretched across many City services and is slowing, limiting its usefulness as a solution. They also acknowledged that strong reactions are part of open dialogue and should not discourage discussion, since the Council will likely face difficult but necessary decisions.

Budget Study on Revenues

Mr. Geer reviewed non-tax revenues, starting with a positive update that November sales tax was the strongest in four years and now about 3.65% above last year, though December data is still pending. He explained tax increment revenue from redevelopment averages around \$2.8–3.1 million annually but largely balances out because it is reimbursed to developers and other taxing entities. Other general fund revenues, such as licenses, permits, services, fines, interest, and grants, are mostly flat or slightly declining, partly due to a shift away from the “non-reciprocal” practice of not charging the City for its own water use. Some increases in development services are tied to zoning and plan reviews for large projects like Mountain View Village, but these are considered one-time revenues.

Mr. Geer explained that impact fee revenues are unpredictable and will likely decline as Riverton reaches development build-out, since these are one-time fees tied to new construction and can only be used for specific new capital projects, not maintenance. Culinary water revenues are projected to rise slightly due to new rate tiers, growth, and system changes, while secondary water revenues remain flat because they are based on fixed rates and only increase with new development. The City is still short about 500 secondary water shares and actively seeking sellers, with rising prices making acquisition more challenging.

Mr. Geer reviewed several “other revenue” sources, including HB 244 funds, which provide about \$700,000 over 15 years for infrastructure, stormwater revenues that flow into the general fund to support future capital projects, and one-time reimbursement grants for large projects.

Secondary Water Meters

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, discussed completing installation of the remaining secondary water meters, especially larger meters on private properties and private HOA lanes, noting that about 110 are still needed and roughly 50 face access issues. With a 2030 deadline and state funding covering about 70% of costs, he recommended sending formal letters to property owners requiring installation or risking disconnection. Councilmembers supported moving forward while requesting copies of the letter and a list of affected properties.

Traffic Calming (Speed Bumps) Discussion

Mr. Necaise discussed traffic calming, focusing on speed bumps and humps, noting the City currently has 111 of them, which creates ongoing maintenance and operational challenges. Although speed bumps are effective at reducing speeds in the short term, they are costly (about \$9,000 each), require frequent upkeep, delay emergency response, create noise, vibration, and vehicle wear, and often frustrate drivers, leading to faster driving between bumps. Most neighboring cities no longer allow them for these reasons, and Riverton’s policy is to remove them during major road maintenance and not replace them.

Mr. Necaise discussed the need for a clear, data-driven policy on traffic calming, noting that stop signs are inexpensive and sometimes more effective than speed bumps. He requested formal guidance from Council on whether removed speed bumps should be reinstated and under what circumstances, suggesting the ordinance may need updating. Several members supported a comprehensive, consistent approach that considers different contexts (such as school zones, parks, and connector roads), and uses traffic studies rather than complaints alone.

City Council Meeting Agenda Review

Councilmember Smith discussed the resolution to amend the terms for Planning Commissioners serving as Chair and Vice Chair. She supported the idea of allowing them to serve more than one term but wanted to include language which would restrict their service to two years.

Councilmember McDougal emphasized that Council would continue to oversee appointments, but believed that the Planning Commission could manage the appointments of Chair and Vice Chair and the duration that they serve.

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 6:20 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

Rabbi Avremi Zippel, Chabad Lubavitch of Utah, offered the invocation and Fire Marshal Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Buroker called for public comments;

Amanda Perkins expressed appreciation for Riverton as a community and for the opportunity to organize a recent pro-immigrant protest. She emphasized the peaceful and lawful nature of the event, shared reflections on historical and religious examples of welcoming outsiders, and highlighted the contributions of local immigrants. She urged the Council to consider repealing the City's existing agreement with ICE and referenced the importance of supporting immigrant residents in Riverton.

David Mobley expressed concern that recent local protests were part of organized efforts to disrupt the City and test law enforcement responses. He urged the Council to enforce laws consistently, redirect protests to sidewalks and parks, and maintain the City's partnership with ICE under the

existing agreement. He emphasized the importance of upholding public order and supporting law-abiding residents.

Troy Rushton raised concerns about a lay-down lot established along 3200 West, citing nonconforming land use, lack of water retention, inadequate fencing, and absence of public review. He also highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of the City's General Plan, noting inconsistencies in past development approvals and emphasizing transparency, consistency, and accountability in city planning.

Preston Fetzer stated that limiting protests to designated zones was an infringement on free speech and opposed the presence of ICE in the City.

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

Presentations

Riverton Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Southland Elementary

Councilmember McDougal presented the Riverton Choice Awards to Jeana Howe (teacher), Troy Anderson (student) and Eliza Christensen (student).

Riverton Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Silver Crest Elementary

Councilmember Pierucci presented the Riverton Choice Awards to Michelle Hansen (teacher), David Jones (student) and Sienna Borough (student).

Unified Fire Authority Presentation

Fire Marshal Wade Watkins presented a fourth quarter 2025 service report, covering data from October 1 to December 31, 2025, and reported 568 total incidents, with 232 classified as emergent. The presentation reviewed trends and outlined engine, ladder, and ambulance responses within Riverton.

Mayor/Council/Manager Reports

Councilmember McDougal – No Report.

Councilmember Haymond – No Report.

Councilmember Johnson reported attending the League of Cities and Towns legislative committee meeting at the state capitol, where concerns were raised about Utah's water supply and historically low snowfall levels. He also attended a South Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors meeting to discuss legislative bills affecting businesses and municipalities. In addition, he participated in a visit to Riverton High School to mark the start of the second semester and support students.

Councilmember Pierucci reported being reappointed to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) and appointed to the National League of Cities Small Cities Committee, noting the opportunity to share Riverton's perspectives and learn from other cities. He also attended the Riverton Intermountain Hospital art wall ribbon cutting and acknowledged the contributions of staff involved

in the project.

Councilmember Smith reported attending the Riverton High School activity and the Riverton Hospital art wall ribbon cutting. She also acknowledged the efforts of staff in meeting with organizers of a recent march, noting that the discussion was respectful and productive.

Mayor Buroker said she met with the City's lobbyist to receive legislative guidance and noted ongoing advocacy efforts. Updates were provided on the Riverton Hospital art display, including related media coverage, as well as multiple Unified Fire Authority and budget meetings. She announced organizational changes, including restructuring the communications department, and assigning code enforcement to the city attorney.

Consent Items

Mayor Buroker presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: January 20, 2026;

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda**. 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.

Public Hearing(s)/Action Items – N/A

Discussion/Action Items

Resolution No. 26-08 – Appointment of Alternate Commission Member to the Riverton City Planning Commission

Mayor Buroker presented Galen Mills to be appointed to the Planning Commission as an alternate.

Councilmember Haymond **MOVED to approve Resolution No. 26-08 – Appointment of Alternate Commission Member to the Riverton City Planning Commission**. 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. 26-09 – Approving the Appointment of Commission Member to the Riverton City Planning Commission

Mayor Buroker presented Joe Marzo to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Johnson **MOVED to approve Resolution No. 26-09 – Approving the Appointment of Commission Member to the Riverton City Planning Commission**.

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

Open and Public Meeting Training

Ryan Carter, City Attorney, reported that the annual Public Meetings Act training for elected officials would be completed through the Utah Legislative Auditor's Office using an automated system. The process included online videos, quizzes, and issuance of completion certificates, which would be submitted to the City for recordkeeping and audit compliance. Instructions for completing the training were to be emailed.

Ordinance No. 26-02 – Amending Riverton City Code Section Title 2.95.030 (Planning Commission Officers)

Mr. Carter discussed a proposed ordinance to modify how the Planning Commission selects its chair, allowing current chairs to continue serving for additional one-year terms. The change was recommended by the Mayor and intended to provide greater continuity, as commissioners reported that a single year was often insufficient to become fully effective in the role.

Councilmembers expressed differing views, with some supporting no cap and allowing the commission to self-govern its leadership, and others favoring a two-year limit to prevent long-term concentration of authority.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to approve Ordinance No. 26-02 – Amending Riverton City Code Section Title 2.95.030 (Planning Commission Officers) as is.** 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.

Sentinel Ridge Median Discussion

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, reviewed traffic projections for the area, including the impact of the Edge Homes development and new apartment complex, and explained that some intersections are projected to experience substandard traffic flow in the future. He clarified that “failure” in the traffic study refers to performance below optimal levels and emphasized the need for careful consideration of median materials and design.

Council discussed the Sentinel Ridge median and traffic management and raised options including stop signs, flashing school-zone lights, and roundabouts, weighing pros and cons for traffic flow, safety, and future development. Staff committed to returning to a work session within the next two meetings with detailed options and data to enable informed Council decisions.

Parks and Amenities Discussion

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, provided an update on Riverton’s parks, including an improved online map showing all park locations, amenities, and accessibility features. He highlighted how park budget resources are allocated: the largest portion goes to ground maintenance, including mowing, landscaping, and irrigation; the next portion covers park facilities such as bathrooms and related maintenance; and a smaller share supports open spaces and playgrounds.

Upcoming Meetings

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

- c. March 17, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. April 7, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION

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

At 8:27 PM, Councilmember Pierucci **MOVED** to convene in a Closed Session to discuss of pending or reasonably imminent litigation and to discuss the sale, purchase, exchange or lease of real property including any form of a water rights or water shares. Councilmember Pierucci also moved to close the City Council meeting at the end of the Closed Session. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a roll-call vote. the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting resumed in a Closed Session at 8:37 PM. Minutes for the Closed Session were taken and recorded and are now on file as a Protected Record.

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:25 PM. Councilmember Smith **SECONDED** the motion. Mayor Buroker called for discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a roll-call vote. the vote was as follows: Haymond-Yes, Johnson-Yes, McDougal-Yes, Pierucci-Yes, and Smith-Yes. **The motion passed unanimously**

Adjournment

As previously noted, Councilmember Pierucci **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council meeting at the conclusion of the Closed Session. Councilmember McDougal **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Approved: CCM 2.17.26