

**Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
February 17, 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 Necaie, Public Works Director
Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director
Jamie Larsen, City Recorder
Chief Shane Taylor, Riverton Police Department
Brook Bowen, Graphic Design & Marketing Specialist
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 4:03 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Haymond, Johnson, McDougal, Pierucci and Smith were present.

Presentations

Edge Homes Park Design Presentation

Brandon Watson, Edge Homes, presented plans for a new 10-acre park in the Mountain Ridge development area, located south of 13400 South and east of Mountain View Corridor. The proposed park includes eight pickleball courts, shade structures, playground areas, splash pad, multi-use play fields, and parking on both the north and south ends.

Dan Egan, Big T Recreation, the playground designer, described a large, inclusive play area featuring a central structure and a variety of interactive and accessible equipment. The design focused on durability, low maintenance, and creating an inviting space for families and the broader community.

Discussion Items

FY25 Audit and Financial Reporting Discussion

Jeff Miles, HBME, reported issuing an unmodified, or clean, opinion on the financial statements,

confirming they fairly presented the City's financial position in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. He found no deficiencies in internal controls, no state compliance issues, and confirmed federal and impact fee funds were properly used, while noting the City remained within required fund balance limits and was expected to qualify again for the Government Finance Officers Association reporting certificate.

Budget Study Session on Personnel Requests

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, presented requests for personnel including the following: IT technician, animal shelter technician, partial FTE count for facilities, and two water distribution operators.

Mr. Geer presented a request from the police department to add a 12th step to the officer pay scale, consistent with the existing 4% step structure, to address the growing number of officers who had reached the current top step and were no longer eligible for step increases. He explained that the change was intended to improve retention, remain competitive with surrounding agencies, and provide retirement-eligible compensation increases, while emphasizing that this would likely represent the final step addition.

EV Stations Feedback

Matt Cassel, City Engineer, reported that the City received grant funding through the Wasatch Regional Council's carbon reduction program to install three to four EV charging stations, with the City contributing a portion of the cost, and requested Council feedback on whether the stations should be free or pay-as-you-go. A majority of the Council recommended installing level two chargers and offering them free initially while monitoring usage and operating costs, noting the City could later implement fees, usage limits, or operational changes if necessary.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session**. 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. The Work Session adjourned at 6:08 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

Bishop Michael Anderson offered the invocation and Chief Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Buroker called for public comments;

Dave Mobley expressed appreciation to the Council for prioritizing public safety and supporting law enforcement in response to recent protests and street disruptions. He characterized the demonstrations as organized efforts intended to undermine local authority, urged the Council to remain vigilant, continue supporting law enforcement and intergovernmental partnerships, and encouraged the Council not to adopt policies that could weaken public safety or community stability.

Megan Mitchell expressed concern about the City's collaboration with federal immigration authorities, stating she did not support the partnership and was troubled by how it was established. She questioned whether the decision had been made without Council approval or public input and urged the Council to review the matter and ensure any future actions followed proper procedures, transparency, and the established decision-making process.

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

Mayor/Council/Manager Reports

Mayor Buroker reported being heavily involved in the Unified Fire Authority budgeting process, which has included challenging discussions on the coming year's budget. Additionally, she is closely monitoring the ongoing legislative session, noting over 900 bills, many of which could impact Riverton.

Councilmember Pierucci reported on the most recent Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District board meeting, highlighting two key items affecting Riverton. First, the District is considering a policy to stabilize its revenue structure, which currently mixes water fees and property taxes; concerns were raised about subsidizing water costs with property taxes. Second, a policy is being discussed to require large developments to either provide or pay for the water they will use, with ongoing questions about how the District will coordinate with cities like Riverton.

Councilmember Smith highlighted attending ribbon cuttings, visiting the "Not Your Parents" student art exhibit, and commended the water department for quickly fixing a neighborhood leak. She also reported joining the Mosquito Abatement Board, noting that lower water levels reduce mosquito numbers but smaller pools could increase disease risk.

Councilmember McDougal – No Report.

Councilmember Haymond reported that the Sewer District is progressing well, noting a recent \$2 sewer fee increase with minimal complaints and highlighting ongoing projects totaling nearly \$600 million, while Riverton remains one of the lowest sewer rate cities in the state. He also attended the City dance with live music and dance instruction.

Councilmember Johnson shared that he spoke at a Seventh Day Adventist Church in West Jordan about civic service. He also participated in the first skate park subcommittee meeting, engaged with new residents about City input, and highlighted recent appointments to the South Valley Chamber of Commerce board and the Jordan River Commission to promote recreation and community engagement.

Presentations

Communications Department Presentation

Brook Bowen introduced Riverton City's communications department, highlighting their goal to create consistent, professional, and engaging messaging to connect City government with residents. He discussed the newly redesigned newsletter and outlined plans to improve email outreach.

Nate Slack provided an overview of Riverton City's digital communications, highlighting trends over the past five years across the website, social media, email, and text alerts. He explained strategies to improve engagement, including fewer, more strategic posts, a recognizable blue stripe on social media posts, consolidated messaging for community classes, and tailored content across platforms to reach residents effectively.

Transportation Master Plan

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, provided an update on the Master Transportation Plan public engagement process, noting that the consulting team had completed the resident survey and produced a brief video summarizing some initial results. He asked the Council to provide input on the upcoming spring engagement, including whether to hold an in-person open house, utilize an interactive online map for comments and project information, or a combination of both.

The Council supported a hybrid approach to the upcoming public engagement for the Master Transportation Plan that combines an interactive online map with an in-person event, ideally located further west to attract broader participation.

Riverton Police Department

Chief Shane Taylor reported that overall activity trends from 2022 through 2025 show a peak in calls for service in 2023, followed by a decline through 2025, with property crimes decreasing by 37.8% over that period due to targeted patrols in high-crime areas. Arrests, citations, and traffic stops have fluctuated year to year, largely influenced by available state funding for enforcement programs, with proactive measures like DUI shifts and speed enforcement expected to increase as funding improves.

Consent Items

Mayor Buroker presented the following Consent Agenda:

- a. Minute Approval: February 3, 2026;
- b. **Resolution No. 26-10** – Declaring City Equipment as Surplus, Authorizing the City Manager to dispose of the item as he deems appropriate.

Councilmember McDougal **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.

Discussion/Action Items

Grant Discussion

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, explained that the City's grant process is managed by a dedicated grant administrator who researches opportunities using tools like Lexipol, with support from multiple staff members. Grants range from federal, state, local, and private sources, often requiring matching funds and support letters, and projects need to be "shovel ready" to ensure timely use of funds. Once awarded, the finance team tracks spending and reporting requirements until completion. Over the past three years, the City applied for about \$8 million in grants and received nearly \$2 million, with roughly a 50% success rate, and staff plan to provide regular updates on active and potential grants.

Jordan Basin Improvement District 13400 South Project

Mr. Necaise reported that the City is coordinating with the Jordan Basin Improvement District ("JBID") on the 13400 South project, which is approaching the intersection of 2700 West. Two options are being considered: a partial closure over four weeks with daily openings for school hours, or a full intersection closure during spring break to complete the work in one week. Both options will significantly impact traffic, particularly access to Walmart and surrounding areas, and a traffic control plan with detours will be developed.

A majority of the Council supported a full one-week closure of the 13400 South and 2700 West intersection during spring break, recognizing it would allow JBID to complete the work in a single excavation and backfill cycle, reduce overall costs, and limit prolonged disruption compared to a partial closure over several weeks.

Capital Facilities Plan

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, outlined the City's plan to create a comprehensive Capital Facilities Plan which focuses on capital needs, consolidating past impact fee facilities plans, long-range planning, and master-planned projects into a single, cohesive framework. The Capital Facilities Plan will include transportation, parks, stormwater, and other infrastructure projects, prioritize timing with construction seasons, and track external funding, impact fees, and City funds, while excluding operating, staffing, or maintenance needs.

Councilmembers emphasized the importance of chronological organization and including grant match amounts for budgeting clarity. Council discussed sustainability concerns for parks and noted the importance of committing impact fee funds within required timelines to avoid returning money to developers.

Mr. Hicks explained that the plan will continue to be refined and updated as additional studies, transportation master plan updates, and funding opportunities arise.

Upcoming Meetings

- a. March 3, 2026 – Work Session & City Council Meeting
- b. March 17, 2026 – Work Session Only
- c. April 7, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting
- d. April 21, 2026 - Work Session & City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Councilmember Johnson **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Smith **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Approved: CCM 3.3.26