Riverton City, Utah
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
April 21, 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
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

<u>WORK SESSION – 4:00 PM</u>

Call to Order

Mayor Buroker called the Work Session to order at 4:01 PM and conducted a roll call. Councilmembers Haymond, Johnson, McDougal, Pierucci and Smith were present.

Presentations – N/A

Discussion Items

Budget Study Session

Nick Geer, Administrative Services Director, discussed budgeting practices including the general fund. Some Councilmembers expressed concern about reducing general fund reserves before fully understanding how funds would be allocated. There was also discussion about past practices of shifting funds between accounts, particularly subsidizing utility services.

Mr. Geer discussed a proposed change to remove the Dutchman to Old Liberty Road project from the road impact fee budget due to it not being included in the current impact fee plan. He explained that the project could be added back once the updated impact fee study is completed and formally includes it. Several Councilmembers expressed concern that removing the project entirely could signal to residents that it was no longer a priority, particularly given prior public expectations. In response, alternatives were discussed to maintain transparency, including listing the project in the budget without an assigned dollar amount and noting it as “under study” or pending the updated impact fee plan.

Mr. Geer discussed the general capital improvement fund and explained that some projects, including the rodeo grounds building addition, were deferred. The Council approved a split that reduced skate park funding and restored funding for the rodeo grounds building addition.

The Council discussed water funding and clarified that the current budget did not include bonding, but that future discussions would be needed to address long-term water capital needs. Staff explained the budget adjustments were intended to support near-term projects while deferring some costs, though Councilmembers expressed concern that this could lead to future pressure to raise fees or consider bonding if funding does not keep pace with needs.

Mr. Geer reviewed the water impact fee and secondary water capital funds, noting that no major changes were proposed aside from minor adjustments tied to project timing and ongoing impact fee study. He discussed the culinary water system and explained the complexity and cost of bringing other wells online, including testing and regulatory requirements, and emphasized the need for a broader long-term water strategy.

The Council discussed whether the City should continue funding memberships in two chambers of commerce. Some members expressed concern about the overall value of chamber participation while others noted networking benefits and support for local businesses. After discussion, the majority of the Council agreed to discontinue participation in the Mountain West Chamber and remain with the South Valley Chamber.

Water Rates and Conservation Discussion

Mr. Geer introduced a discussion on water rate communication and conservation messaging, seeking Council input on how best to educate the public about new water rates. Councilmembers suggested using multiple communication channels, including social media, a water bill insert, newsletters, and updates on the City's website.

General Plan Discussion

Jason Lethbridge, Development Services Director, presented updates to the City's general plan priorities, including continued focus on improving trails, active transportation, and land use planning along major transportation corridors. Councilmembers discussed expanding pedestrian infrastructure details such as sidewalks and bike routes. The discussion also focused on land use conflicts along major corridors such as Redwood Road and 12600 South, particularly the tension between state-driven density expectations and UDOT's transportation and access constraints.

Mr. Lethbridge outlined next steps for the general plan update process, including upcoming individual meetings with Councilmembers to discuss district-specific land use and planning concerns. He also indicated that a joint work session with the Planning Commission was being scheduled, likely in May, to review proposed updates and gather additional input. He noted past low turnout at standalone open houses and expressed support for leveraging existing community events to increase participation.

Fencing Ordinance

Kevin Hicks, City Manager, discussed the proposed updates to the City's fencing ordinance as part of an effort to simplify code language and provide greater flexibility in development standards. He explained that the current requirement for solid masonry fencing in non-compatible land use situations had created challenges, particularly in infill areas where conditions vary widely.

Mr. Hicks noted that upcoming ordinance revisions would also remove burdensome requirements such as notarized affidavits and instead provide clearer standards for Planning Commission decision-making. The general direction from the Council was to proceed with drafting amendments that increase flexibility, improve clarity, and allow case-by-case evaluation based on context.

Adjournment of Work Session

Councilmember McDougal **MOVED to adjourn the Work Session**. 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. The Work Session adjourned at 6:22 PM.

<u>COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM</u>

Call to Order

Mayor Buroker called the 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

Father Anthony, St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church, offered the invocation and Chief Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations

Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Buroker read the Arbor Day proclamation, outlining the history and origin of Arbor Day.

Citizen Comment

Mayor Buroker called for public comments;

David Mobley addressed the Council regarding the City's 287(g) agreement with ICE. He linked the local agreement to broader national protest movements and labor actions, describing them as coordinated efforts to oppose immigration enforcement policies and disrupt governmental systems. He concluded by asking the Council to maintain the current agreement despite political pressure.

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

Presentations

Riverton Choice Awards for Excellence in Education, Mountain Ridge High School and Riverton High School

Mayor Buroker recognized Joshua Wright (teacher), Hailey Scott (student) and Luke Ferguson (student) from Riverton High School for the Choice Awards.

Mayor Buroker recognized Angie Lester (teacher), Katie Varga (student) and Brayden Amott (student) from Mountain Ridge High School for the Choice Awards.

Miss Riverton Royalty Presentation

Miss Riverton, EmmaLee MacKay, First Attendant, Mykenna Rolfe, and Second Attendant, Cecilie Thomas introduced themselves and their initiatives to the Council.

Legislative Report from Representative Doug Fiefia, Representative Candice Pierucci, and Senator Dan McCay

Representative Doug Fiefia thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and represent Riverton. He summarized the recent legislative session as focusing on growth, infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility, and noted his role on a House economic development committee working with cities on these issues.

Representative Candice Pierucci summarized the legislative session as primarily focused on cost of living concerns, family stability, limited government, public safety, education, infrastructure, and water issues, and stated that several policy areas saw progress in those fields.

Senator Dan McCay provided legislative updates, highlighting the scale of recent transportation investments in the southern valley over the past several years. He referenced major corridor and interchange projects and upcoming implementation of additional transportation funding mechanisms.

Riverton Police Department Presentation

Chief Taylor recognized members of the Riverton Police Department for their work on a wire theft investigation that resulted in significant financial losses to the City. Detectives were commended for extensive investigative efforts, including surveillance, tracking stolen materials to recycling locations, and obtaining search warrants, which ultimately led to the suspects' arrest and the recovery of stolen wire as well as illegal drugs and paraphernalia. It was also noted that interviews with the suspects revealed additional thefts across Salt Lake County.

Consent Items

Mayor Buroker presented the following Consent Agenda:

a. Minute Approval: April 7, 2026;
b. **Resolution No. 26-16** – Declaring City Equipment as Surplus, Authorizing the City Manager to dispose of the item as he deems appropriate; and
c. **Ordinance No. 26-07** – Granting Questar Gas Company, DBA Enbridge Gas Utah a

Franchise for the Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of a Gas Distribution System in Riverton City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah.

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.

Public Hearing(s)/Action Items

Ordinance No. 26-06 – Timberline Development Agreement was continued and will be re-noticed for a future meeting.

Mayor/Council/Manager Reports

Councilmember Smith reported on recent community events and meetings attended, including the opening day of Riverton baseball, a ribbon cutting, and the Temple Square open house. She also provided updates from regional meetings, noting that mosquito abatement efforts were adjusted due to fluctuating weather conditions and the AMC meeting included long-term planning for parks and recreation. She also summarized updates on renewable energy program timing and reported that the CDBG meeting involved budget balancing adjustments and necessary funding cuts.

Councilmember Pierucci reported on a Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Board meeting where a drought level two declaration was approved. He noted that this signals a challenging water year ahead and that the City will be operating under firm conservation rules. He also summarized participation in a state panel on digital identity and addressed concerns raised by residents regarding parking citations near Riverton High School.

Mayor Buroker reported that Utah Fire Authority (UFA) budget meetings since January have been extensive, with the organization managing a $105.5 million revenue budget. The Board approved a 3.84% fee increase for member entities. She also highlighted a significant long-term funding concern, as $3 million in annual county support for recreation and fire protection is expected to phase out by 2029, requiring a plan to replace those funds.

Councilmember Johnson reported attending an Association of Municipal Councils meeting, where discussions included Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation planning and regional park service areas near Bluffdale. He also attended a UTA Board of Trustees meeting focused on contracts and financial disbursements. He noted that, due to drought level two conditions, the state is encouraging delayed irrigation until May 15 and emphasized the importance of water conservation given current snowpack conditions.

Councilmember Haymond reported attending a week-long water and sewer industry conference in St. George focused on wastewater treatment operations and infrastructure. He provided an update on the Jordan Basin Improvement District's upcoming capital project, noting that a design engineer would be selected for the next phase of a wastewater treatment plant expansion intended to significantly increase capacity. He emphasized the importance of continued investment in critical sewer infrastructure.

Councilmember McDougal provided a budget and operations update for the TransJordan Landfill, noting a 6.5% year-over-year decrease in Riverton trash volumes alongside an 11% increase in overall profitability driven by increased commercial use of a new transfer station. He reported that the resident voucher program has been updated to QR codes to prevent duplication and misuse while maintaining resident access. He also stated that the landfill is entering its final cell with an estimated remaining lifespan of about six years.

Discussion/Action Items

Resolution No. 26-15 – Approving the Riverton City Water Shortage Plan

Cary Necaise, Public Works Director, discussed and reviewed Riverton's Water Shortage Plan, which outlines tiered response levels for drought conditions affecting both culinary and secondary water, aligning with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's current drought level two designation. He clarified that while the City can adopt its own internal response structure and enforcement measures, it cannot avoid District-imposed penalties for exceeding water allocations.

Councilmembers emphasized the need for flexibility in managing escalating drought levels, particularly in how parks are irrigated and potentially used, with staff noting parks are being categorized by service level to prioritize limited watering resources. Concerns were raised about long-term impacts on park conditions, maintenance costs, and the potential need to adjust recreational usage during higher drought stages.

This item was continued to a future meeting to amend the language so that drought level decisions are clearly made through elected leadership.

CLOSED SESSION

- **Discussion of pending or reasonably imminent litigation**

At 8:10 PM, Councilmember Johnson **MOVED** to convene in a Closed Session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Councilmember Johnson also moved to close the City Council meeting at the end of the Closed Session. 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**.

The meeting resumed in a Closed Session at 8:21 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 8:44 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 McDougal **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council meeting at the conclusion of the Closed Session. Councilmember Smith **SECONDED** the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Approved: CCM 5.5.26