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Minutes of the **Town Meeting** of the **Riverdale City Council** held Tuesday, **September 17, 2009** at 7:02 p.m. at the Riverdale Senior Center, 4433 South 900 West.

Members Present: Bruce Burrows, Mayor  
David Gibby, Councilor  
Doug Peterson, Councilor  
Gary Griffiths, Councilor  
Shelly Jenkins, Councilor  
Don Hunt, Councilor

Others Present: Larry Hansen, City Administrator; Lynn Moulding, Public Works Director; Randy Daily, Community Development Director; Dave Hansen, Police Chief; Doug Illum, Fire Chief; Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder; and approximately 49 citizens.

Mayor Burrows called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. He gave a brief overview of the issues pertaining to Ritter Drive and discussed the Fact Sheet that was distributed. He reported that representatives from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) were invited but that they could not attend and that they will be asked to participate in a future City Council meeting regarding the Riverdale Road completion. He discussed the Falcon Hill project and the possibility of connecting 5600 South with Riverdale.

A survey regarding options for Ritter Drive was distributed to the citizens. Time was given for the citizens to fill out the survey. They were collected and tallied.

Mayor Burrows opened up the meeting to public comment.

Lynn Wheeler stated that he lives on Ritter Drive and feels that as the community grew, Ritter Drive has been impacted and is unsafe. He reported that it is difficult for him to get out of his driveway because of the traffic and he is concerned with the safety of the road. He stated that he appreciates the City looking into this and hopes that it gets corrected. He reported that trucks are using the new road and hopes that traffic will be directed onto that road.

Connie Sherman reported that she lives on Ritter Drive and also has a hard time getting out of her driveway. She stated that there have been accidents in her front yard and that traffic backs up from the frontage road to her house. She stated that something needs to be done. She asked that they please keep in mind the people who live on Ritter Drive and help them out.

Carl Cook stated that he feels people use Ritter Drive to get places faster than just using it to get from point A to point B. He reported that with the expansion of Riverdale Road and the new road connection, there are now options. He stated that the proposed idea of putting a cul-de-sac

at the end of Ritter Drive would reduce traffic by taking cars out of the neighborhoods and putting it onto Riverdale Road. He stated that it may impact those who live outside of the City but hopes that they would understand how it relates to reducing traffic in the neighborhood. He thinks this is a real opportunity to reduce traffic on Ritter Drive and reclaim it as a residential street that could have an effect on the entire area.

Lynette Cook stated that she would like to add one more reason that people come on Ritter Drive. She feels they come for the enjoyment factor as it is a beautiful road and is a beautiful place to drive through. She reported that is also a reason why it should be preserved.

Mike Davis reported that he lives at the bottom of Ritter Drive and really hopes that something happens this time. He stated he understands that before Riverdale Road was widened they needed the time, but now that it is completed and there is a new road he hopes that something can be done. He reported that it is faster for a person to use Riverdale Road instead of Ritter Drive when going to Roy.

Chad Buckner reported that he has lived at the top of Ritter Drive for 2 ½ years and that he loves the area. He stated that his concern is that Ritter Drive is a very narrow street at the top and that he sees more traffic on it than there should be for the size of road it is. He stated that trash gets thrown from cars onto his front lawn and is supportive of placing a cul-de-sac there. He reported that people come down Ritter Drive too fast in the winter and it is not very safe.

Howard Dixon reported that he lives on Ritter Drive and that it has not changed one bit in all the years he has lived there. He thinks it is time to improve it or change it.

Janet Dechamps reported that she lives on Ritter Drive and the new road lines up directly to her house. She is concerned about the amount and speed of traffic on the road and feels it is scary for families with young children. She is hoping something gets done.

Roy Miller reported that he likes the idea of putting in the cul-de-sac. He stated that if cars go down 1500 West and want to turn left onto Freeway Park Drive during rush hour, he feels they would have a very difficult time due to traffic. He stated that something would need to be done right away to help that situation.

Leon Poulson stated that he has lived on Ritter Drive for 54 years and that it used to be a country road and now it is a dangerous road. He reported that he is in favor of placing a cul-de-sac on the road.

Kevin Higgs reported that he lives on South Weber Drive and feels that people are creatures of habit. He inquired if there had been a suggestion to make it a one-way road during the day so people are inconvenienced.

Wayne Grant drives Ritter Drive many times a day. He wondered if a traffic study had been done since 1500 West opened in order to see the impacts of the traffic flow on the upper and lower parts of the road. He stated that it seems that 1500 West isn't very well utilized. He suggested that regardless of what option is chosen, he hopes that the City will do it on a test basis

and track it to see if it works rather than being locked into an option that won't work long term. He feels that Coleman Lane is dangerously tight and needs improvement regardless of what is done.

Amy Buckner stated that she lives at the top of Ritter Drive and has two young children. She reported that she can't walk to the mailbox without being scared and that last Friday there was a diesel fuel spill in front of her house. She feels that shouldn't be happening in a residential area. She inquired as to how quickly action might be taken and if the City was actually going to do something.

Pat Crezee stated that driving 1500 west to turn left onto Freeway Park Drive takes forever with traffic. She feels that if something is done at the top of Ritter Drive that something should also be done for the people at the bottom. She suggested putting sidewalks on Ritter Drive.

Bob Jones reported that he lives on 1150 and is concerned about the intersection at the end of Ritter Drive. He stated that there is no line to stop at and cars are cutting out into the intersection. He stated that he knows something needs to be done with Ritter Drive, but feels if Ritter Drive is changed, there will be a bottleneck elsewhere, as the traffic will go somewhere.

Kevin Higgs stated that if the City is talking about putting sidewalks on Ritter Drive, it would be nice to have a bike lane on South Weber Drive.

Don Higgs stated that if they are thinking of putting sidewalk on South Weber Drive, the State won't go for it.

Dave DeYoung stated that he is impressed with roundabouts in Riverdale and suggested putting one at the bottom of Ritter Drive.

Mark Desobeau stated that the reoccurring theme tonight is safety and that everyone living on Ritter Drive mentions the danger. He suggested using resources to create a safety presence of law enforcement on that road until a change is made.

Ellen Miller reported that she doesn't live on Ritter Drive but drives on it a lot. She stated that she sees what goes on there and has seen people come down on the wrong side.

Van Gilbert reported that he lives in the subdivision on 1200 West and uses Ritter Drive all the time. He stated that the 5600 project with Falcon Hill concerns him as it would be bringing a collector road through a neighborhood and would create another Ritter Drive. He stated that he doesn't see that the road going to the freeway should be the foremost concern and if they are talking safety in neighborhoods, he doesn't see the need for the 5600 project.

Chad Buckner stated that he thinks law enforcement on Ritter Drive would be great if there was room for them. He reported that they have a small shoulder on their grass but nothing else. He feels that something needs to be done with the intersection at the bottom but hopes that fixing the top will stop everyone from driving through and should decrease traffic at the bottom.

Leon Poulson reported that when the freeway went in in 1965, Ritter Drive used to come out onto Riverdale Road and when the freeway was built they dead-ended Ritter Drive and 1150. He stated that he made a mistake to oppose that and that there are a lot of things that have happened over the years that has created this problem.

Kevin Higgs reported that he feels they don't need the 5600 project, but that two lanes could come off I-15 and one could merge into I-84.

Dave Gailey reported that he lives at the bottom of Ritter Drive and that cars barely stop at the intersection before they go again. He stated that he was cleaning up weeds in his yard and almost got hit as people don't obey the laws. He stated that it is a dangerous place to be and thinks stopping traffic from coming down would alleviate that.

Garth Heiner reported that he thinks traffic could be cut in half if Ritter Drive were made into a one-way street.

Bob Jones stated that another idea would be to close Ritter Drive by the Motor Vu Drive-in and would eliminate traffic coming from Walmart and South Weber as they would need to find another route.

Mark Desobeau inquired why the survey didn't list an option to have west bound traffic only at the top from 1500, as that might make it easier to turn left onto Freeway Park Drive.

Connie Sherman reported that she would like to have it blocked at the top, but feels that something must be done for those at the bottom also.

Lynn Wheeler inquired if the speed limit on Ritter Drive could be changed. He reported that it used to be 25 MPH and then went back to 30 MPH. He stated that there are other roads with sidewalks and wide streets that are 25 MPH. He suggested lowering the speed limit while a decision is being reached.

Gina Randall stated that she lives at the top of Ritter Drive and wondered how a right turn only would be enforced.

Scott Evans reported that he lives by Golden Spike Park and drives a school bus and sees speeding through the area. He feels that if the City closes the one end of Ritter Drive and inconvenience drivers, they will use Riverdale Road. He stated that since the state has taken away our tax base, he doesn't mind inconveniencing those who travel through the City.

Mayor Burrows turned the time over to the City Council to respond to the public comments.

Councilor Hunt reported that it may seem as though there isn't a perfect solution to this problem and appreciates the comments that have been made. He stated that he has seen numerous accidents and gets impacted by the noise and traffic congestion on Ritter Drive. He stated that they will work hard and hopes that the residents recognize that this will be difficult and not perfect. He explained that what may be convenient for one, may not be for another and that there

will have to be give and take along with sacrifice to make Ritter Drive a safer road. He stated that he hopes the residents will bear with them and allow the Council to discuss this issue further in their next Strategic Planning meeting.

Councilor Griffiths reported that he has had to have several signs replaced and that his fence has been run down by a car. He stated that a car ran right into the pick up that was on his lawn for sale, and if the truck hadn't been there, the car would probably have went into his son's bedroom and killed him. He stated that he now places the truck on the lawn every winter in order to protect his son while he sleeps. Councilor Griffiths reported that they are here as the resident's representatives to make the appropriate decision and not have self interest, but that it is clear that the City needs to do something to preserve life. He stated that most of the businesses in Riverdale are destination businesses and people will get there any way they possibly can. He explained that he doesn't think the City will lose revenue by doing traffic calming on Ritter Drive. He stated that he feels this is doable thing and loves the brainstorming that has went on tonight.

Councilor Gibby reported that when he decided to run for Council, the first thing he was hit up about was Ritter Drive and that it has always been a high priority for him. He stated now that 1500 West has opened up, they have several key options and is in favor of moving ahead with some sort of solution as rapidly as possible, and then study it to do a permanent solution. He feels that some quick action might immediately save a life as it is a dangerous road and needs to be fixed. He reported that if they can't do a full fix, it would his opinion to go ahead with something like the right turn only in order to give a calming affect and/or lower the speed limit. He feels that they need to preserve it as a residential area.

Councilor Peterson reported that he lived in that neighborhood for 5 years and used to travel Ritter Drive quite a bit. He stated that like Councilor Gibby, when he first decided to run, Ritter Drive was brought up. He stated that the political reality is that they have had 4 years and a lot of options looked at and that it is gratifying to hear the same ideas tonight as they have had and get the input from the residents. He stated that he thinks this meeting tonight is helpful as it gives them the political momentum to make a decision and wants to see something done before his term expires.

Councilor Jenkins reported that the information that has been shared tonight has been heard before as they are all aware of the nature of Ritter Drive. She feels this is a wonderful community to live, shop, and play in, and that they have many assets. She stated that they will take these comments and discuss them during the November Strategic Planning meeting and work through the street department and UDOT to ensure safety. She feels they need to move forward immediately and thinks that now that the City has the new road, there is an opportunity to take advantage of that and move forward and do some of these options. She stated that she wants to do a trial basis and then move to a more concrete solution as she thinks it is prudent to give some of these suggestions a try.

Mayor Burrows read the tally of the survey. It is as follows:

- Ritter Drive should be a collector road for retail and commuters: **7 yes**

- Ritter Drive should be preserved and protected as a quiet residential road: **46 yes**
- Do you live on Ritter Drive?: **24 yes**
- Close Ritter Drive at the West end with a cul-de-sac.: **31 yes**
- Change Ritter Drive to one-way eastbound from Freeway Park Drive to 1500 West: **7 yes**
- Make Ritter Drive a right-turn only onto Freeway Park Drive: **8 yes**
- Do nothing and leave Ritter Drive the way it is: **18 yes**

Mayor Burrows reported that he will make the survey available at the City offices and on the City's web-site until the end of the month to have others fill them out. He stated that they will take the notes from tonight and filter them back to the Traffic Safety Committee at their next meeting and let them look at some shorter term recommendations and see if any of those can be implemented quickly.

Mayor Burrows opened the floor for additional public comments.

Garth Heiner reported that Riverdale reminded him of a city in California by the ocean which had some commercial and there was a one-way street into the town which was watched by the police to ensure the neighborhood traffic was local.

Leon Poulson stated that he hopes that when Riverdale Road is widened from 1500 West to 1900 West in Roy that UDOT looks at the intersection of 1500 West and Riverdale Road to ensure that it is designed properly.

Mayor Burrows reported that he will take these comments back to the Safety Committee to see what can be implemented immediately. He stated that the Council and staff will look at all the possibilities there and give feedback to the residents through the newsletter. He reported that the Council will discuss this issue at their November Strategic Planning meeting and if another Town Meeting is necessary, after that meeting, they will schedule one.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Approved: October 6, 2009

Attest:

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Bruce Burrows, Mayor

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Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder