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Minutes of the **Strategic Planning Meeting** of the **Riverdale City Council** held Thursday, **November 12, 2009** at 7:04 p.m. at the Riverdale Senior Center, Riverdale Utah.

Members Present: Bruce Burrows, Mayor  
David Gibby, Councilor  
Don Hunt, Councilor  
Shelly Jenkins, Councilor  
Gary Griffiths, Councilor (participated via telephone)  
Doug Peterson, Councilor

Others Present: Larry Hansen, Chief Administrative Officer; Lynn Moulding, Public Works Director; Doug Illum, Fire Chief; Dave Hansen, Police Chief; Lynn Fortie, Business Administrator; Norm Searle, Councilor-Elect; Alan Arnold, Councilor-Elect; Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder and 7 citizens.

**1. Welcome & Opening Comments**

Mayor Burrows welcomed all those present and noted that all Councilmembers were present except Councilor Griffiths who will join the meeting via telephone.

**2. Consideration of Resolution #2009-35 accepting the Canvass of the Riverdale General Municipal election as official and declaring the individuals with the highest vote totals as duly elected.**

Marilyn Banasky reported that Weber County conducted the final ballot count from the November 3, 2009, General Municipal election on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. She stated that 1,257 votes were cast and that Bruce Burrows received the highest number of votes for Mayor, while Alan Arnold and Norm Searle received the highest number of votes for City Council. She requested that the Board of Canvass declare the individuals with the highest vote totals as duly elected.

**Motion:** Councilor Gibby moved to approve the Canvass and declare the individuals with the highest vote totals as duly elected. Councilor Peterson seconded the motion.

**Call the Question:**

**Roll Call Vote:** Councilor Gibby; Aye, Councilor Jenkins, Aye; Councilor Peterson, Aye; Councilor Griffiths, Aye; and Councilor Hunt, Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Strategic Planning Process Connection**

Larry Hansen discussed the Strategic Planning Process.

**4. Action Plan Status Review**

Larry Hansen reviewed the Action Plan.

## 5. Special Projects

### **a. Discussion and Consideration of Action on Ritter Drive**

Mayor Burrows stated that during the September town meeting there were a number of ideas brought up that could be easily implemented to reduce traffic on Ritter Drive. He reported that the speed limit was reduced to 25 MPH and signs that monitor speeds were immediately installed. Police Chief, Dave Hansen, gave a report on the speed monitor signs. He reported that they were unplugged, which jammed the system and they haven't been able to download any data from them. He stated that they will bring the two speed monitoring signs from South Weber Drive and put them on Ritter Drive until the problem is resolved. He reported that most speeding occurs during the early morning hours. Larry Hansen discussed the results of the survey that was taken during the September town meeting and was available on the City's web-site. He reported that the residents who live on Ritter Drive would like to see it closed off, but that the response was mixed regarding closing it off from residents who don't live on Ritter Drive. He stated that the other options, such as right-turn only or making it a one-way street didn't get a lot of support.

Councilor Gibby reported that he would like to see something done right away to decrease the traffic and then they could review the options, and if there are still problems they could take additional steps. He stated that he is in favor of making a right-turn only onto Freeway Park Drive from Ritter Drive or making Ritter Drive a one-way street. He feels those options would have the least impact to residents on or off Ritter Drive, discourage commuter traffic through the area, and put the traffic onto Riverdale Road. Councilor Gibby stated that putting in a cul-de-sac by Freeway Park Drive may need to be done if these other options don't decrease traffic. He reported that the right-turn only or one-way options are fairly simple fixes and wouldn't have a huge budget impact. He suggested trying one of the options for six months and then re-evaluating it.

Councilor Jenkins reported that she feels the same way as Councilor Gibby. She stated that the City's investment in 1500 West was to eventually look at putting in a cul-de-sac on Ritter Drive and she hopes that will eventually happen. She explained her concern is that there is still a final phase for the widening of Riverdale Road and that she is in favor of temporarily making Ritter Drive one-way until the final phase for Riverdale Road is finalized. She would like to test options and see what the impacts are on 1500 West and try to get UDOT to work with the City during the final phase of Riverdale Road to ensure that the intersection at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive is designed safely. Councilor Gibby stated that either the right-turn only option or making Ritter Drive one-way to 1500 West will put more traffic into the intersection at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. He stated that he likes the right-turn option slightly better as that would allow residents who live west of 1500 West the ability to get home easier.

Councilor Griffiths reported that he likes the right-hand turn option and thinks driving habits will change as people are inconvenienced and traffic congestion on Ritter Drive will be reduced. He wants to try one of the options and re-evaluate it with data provided by Chief Hansen to see if they need to modify it or cul-de-sac the road later.

Councilor Peterson inquired which direction is being proposed to one-way Ritter Drive. Councilor Jenkins replied it would be one-way for eastbound traffic. Mayor Burrows replied that westbound traffic would have to turn right at 1500 West and that residents would have to go eastbound if they live west of 1500. Councilor Peterson stated that he thinks they should look at this in phases and that the two choices are similar. He suggested the next phase should be restricting traffic from turning east from Freeway Park Drive or dead ending Ritter drive at that point. He stated that they need to consider the impact any change may have on the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and the realignment of that intersection. He reported that he likes the one-way option from 1500 West to Freeway Park drive better because it forces the traffic onto Riverdale Road. He hopes that after he is off the Council, that the Council will look at this in phases and re-visit it in six months.

Councilor-Elect Arnold stated that the information they have is five years old when 1500 West wasn't there and Riverdale Road wasn't complete. He thinks the right- turn only option is less desirable and is concerned about the impact it could have on the intersection at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. He stated that he would like to see more information gathered before anything is done to take away the left turn on Freeway Park Drive from Ritter Drive.

Councilor Hunt reported that he is concerned with west end of Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive and that he is not sure that a right-turn only would addresses the problem at the east end. He feels that they would need to make the road one-way at some time. He also expressed concern about the dangers of the intersection at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and putting more traffic into that intersection.

Larry Hansen reported that there is a proposal for an Assisted Living facility on the west end of Ritter Drive and stated that they need to take the possibility of a cul-de-sac into consideration when the site plan is approved. A discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of right-turn only from Ritter Drive onto Freeway Park Drive or making Ritter Drive one-way westbound to 1500 West and the impact on the 1500 West/Freeway Park Drive intersection. Councilor Peterson suggested preventing a right-turn off of Freeway Park Drive onto Ritter Drive and force traffic onto Riverdale Road. Councilor Jenkins asked Mr. Moulding what he would recommend. Lynn Moulding stated that if they want to deter traffic, he would recommend trying a chicane and see what it does. He stated that he would put one east of 1250 West and east of 1500 West. He reported that this could be done with water filled Jersey barriers. Councilor Peterson reported that he felt a chicane would have a greater impact to residents than the other two options. Councilor-Elect Arnold reported that there is a large contingency that wants to see Ritter Drive remain open. He stated that he thinks something needs to be done for the residents but feels there should be documented data to base it on. Chief Hansen reported that the last traffic count was done about six months ago and showed that 2000 cars per day used Ritter Drive. Councilor-Elect Searle discussed the Transportation Master Plan and suggested looking at the options that were outlined there.

**Motion:** Councilor Jenkins moved to temporarily one –way eastbound traffic on Ritter Drive from 1500 West to Freeway Park Drive. Councilor Griffiths seconded the motion.

Councilor Peterson reported that he would like to make Ritter Drive one-way and then look at re-evaluating the situation by looking at traffic counts to see if the one-way option reduced traffic. He stated that he would like that to be part of the motion. A discussion was held regarding the options and traffic impacts.

Councilor Peterson called the question.

**Friendly Amendment:** Councilor Peterson moved to amend the motion to assess the traffic flow and residents reactions every three months until the correct solution is in place. Councilor Jenkins accepted the friendly amendment. Councilor Griffiths agreed.

**Call the Question:**

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Peterson stated that he wants to see if the Council would consider blocking off eastbound traffic turning onto Ritter Drive at Freeway Park Drive in order to prevent additional traffic.

**Motion:** Councilor Peterson moved to install a pork chop to prevent northbound traffic onto Freeway Park Drive from turning eastbound onto Ritter Drive. Councilor Gibby seconded the motion.

Mayor Burrows inquired if installing the pork chop was to be installed immediately or in phase two. Councilor Peterson replied that he sees it as phase two if they don't want to do it now, or it could be evaluated in three months.

**Call the Question:**

The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was held as to whether the residents west of 1500 West would be allowed to travel both directions or if the one-way eastbound also applied to them. It was determined that the motion only allowed for one-way eastbound traffic between 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive.

**Motion:** Councilor Peterson moved to clarify and amend the previous motion to allow two way traffic between 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive to allow right hand turns westbound from Ritter Drive onto Freeway Park Drive and make southbound Freeway Park Drive a left-turn only onto Ritter Drive. Councilor Gibby seconded the motion.

A discussion was held regarding how to force westbound traffic to turn right onto 1500 West and how to accommodate emergency vehicles. Mr. Moulding stated that a "Wrong Way Do Not Enter" sign could be placed at 1500 West to force them to go onto 1500 West. It was determined that a pork chop barrier or water filled jersey barriers in conjunction with signage could be added at 1500 West to route traffic.

**Amended Motion:** Councilor Peterson moved to add a pork chop, barrier and signage at 1500 West to force westbound traffic from Ritter Drive to 1500 West. Councilor Gibby seconded the motion.

Lynn Moulding suggested doing a one-half lane closure to accommodate emergency vehicles.

**Friendly Amendment:** Mayor Burrows suggested allowing Mr. Moulding and Fire Chief Doug Illum to work together to come up with best option and placement for the barrier at 1500 West and that signage be in place instead of a barrier to accommodate emergency vehicles. Councilor Peterson agreed. Councilor Gibby as the second agreed.

**Call the Question:**

The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Discussion of Water Wells**

Lynn Moulding stated that he had been waiting to see if Roy City hit good water when they drilled their well deeper before he made a recommendation on the City's well. He reported that Roy City did hit good water but that is no guarantee that Riverdale will. He explained that an engineering firm conducted a study several years ago on ground water issues and they found that there is no pattern to finding good or bad water. Councilor Gibby reported that he has used a water witch to find good water in St. George and suggested using one in addition to geological surveys. Mr. Moulding reported that he is less convinced that drilling deeper will produce good water. He thinks the best recommendation is to re-drill a new well at the golf course and see if they can hit good water there. Councilor Gibby inquired as to how the Schneiters feel about that. Mr. Moulding reported that he thinks the Schnieters want to see the current well go away, but the City owns the property and has a right to be there. He stated that they can negotiate possibly moving the well somewhere else and trading property as long as it is within a 150 foot radius from the existing well. Councilor Peterson inquired if the area to drill should be closer to the parking lot. Mr. Moulding replied that is his recommendation to move by the fence by the parking lot. Councilor Jenkins inquired if the flow on that well was very good. Mr. Moulding replied that it is not and that it is not as deep as the other wells and that he would recommend drilling deeper. Councilor Jenkins inquired as to the risks. Mr. Moulding replied that they can go 150 feet from the existing well, but if they go outside that radius the City would need to apply for a new well and water rights. He stated that re-drilling well #2 is the least expensive option but it is risky and he is less convinced that they will hit good water.

**Motion:** Councilor Peterson moved to open discussion with the Schneiters regarding where and how to drill the well and come back with a cost. Councilor Gibby seconded the motion.

A discussion was held regarding the motion and the cost of buying water versus drilling the well.

Councilor Peterson called the question.

**Call the Question:**

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Peterson inquired if there is financing for drilling a well. Mr. Moulding replied that there are state revolving loan funds but it would depend on who applies and how much money is available. He stated that there is a slim chance that stimulus money is available. Councilor Peterson suggested trying to package financing for the well and purchasing water tanks.

**c. Discussion of Water Tanks**

Lynn Moulding reported that he has looked at several options to repair or replace the current water tanks. He stated that when the tanks were bid out in 2005, the bids came back three times higher than was budgeted and that he has since looked for alternatives to repainting the tanks. He stated that in June, 2009, the cost was over \$400,000 to repaint them. He explained that metalizing is not a bad option and is better than painting but the outside of the tank would still need to be painted and is more labor intensive. He stated that he wouldn't recommend installing a PVC liner and painting because of the way they do it. He recommending purchasing two new glass fused steel tanks because it is the most cost effective options and has advantages over all the other options. He reported that bacteria doesn't like to grow on glass, they don't need to be resurfaced, and could last indefinitely. He stated that if there is a pin hole in the glass lining the water would start to corrode it but the entire tank doesn't need to be replaced - just one panel. He noted that there is another option of replacing the tanks with steel tanks, but there is no earthquake foundation and the tanks could move around, and slide or move up and down. Councilor Peterson stated that with inflation, the cost of the glass fused tank is the cheapest over time. Mr. Moulding recommended purchasing two 1 ½ million gallon tanks. He reported that he has received a price of \$1.688 million for two.

**Motion:** Councilor Peterson moved to move forward to purchase two 1.5 million gallon glass fused water tanks and try to package it with the water wells with Build America Bonds. Councilor Gibby seconded.

**Call the Question:**

The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Focus Topic: Long-Term Focus – Capital Improvement Plan**

Larry Hansen asked the Department Heads to review their FY 2010 Capital Improvement Plan items and then review the 5 year Plan items.

Fire Department: Fire Chief, Doug Illum stated that he wants to apply for a grant that will augment the part-time fire fighters and get some full-time employees. He reported that his part-time fire fighters approached him to receive disability benefits through this grant. Councilor Gibby inquired if there is some requirement to maintain the benefits at the end of the grant. Chief Illum replied that the only requirement would be if full-time people were

hired, the cost would have to be maintained after the five year period of the grant. He explained that the grant would pay 90% of the salary for five years for full-time employees. He stated that the time to apply is November 16 until December and that he wants to have this benefit for part-time people for retention purposes. Councilor Jenkins inquired if the City pays the benefits. Chief Illum replied that the grant would pay a max of \$105,000 per fire fighter per year for five years. Councilor Jenkins inquired if they could turn it down if they received the grant. Chief Illum replied that they could. Larry Hansen reported that the Safer Grant has been discussed previously along with the Action Plan and that he is very hesitant to increase staffing as this is a grant with a commitment at the end. He stated that he has organizational concerns about opening this up even though it may be subsidized heavily for five years. He discussed the actual revenue generated from the new ambulance service versus projected income and the cost of the part-timers that were hired to staff the ambulance. He stated that if they want to move toward a full-time department and take advantage of the Safer Grant they would be compelled to have an understanding about fire service costs. He stated that if they want a full-time fire department they would have to considerably negotiate down staffing from where the fire department is now. Chief Illum reported that there are two parts to the grant: 1) retention and benefits for part-time fire fighters and 2) staffing authorization to hire full-time fire fighters. He stated that he wants to get benefits for the part-time fire fighters and that he is not asking for full-time people. He explained that his part-time fire fighters want \$1,300 per year to get disability insurance through a private agency and were willing to purchase it out of their Association if they don't get the grant. Councilor Peterson stated that the grant covers the cost of that disability insurance for five years and asked what happens after the five year period. Chief Illum replied that the total amount of the premium is \$1,300 and that the premium would need to be paid for two years after the grant is exhausted. He explained that the Fire Association Fund could fund it. He stated that the part-time fire fighters work hard for Riverdale and only get a pay check. Councilor Peterson reported that he is not arguing the service, but that fire departments are expensive and is concerned about adding this expense. Mr. Hansen stated that the \$1,300 is immaterial in this discussion, but the probability of Riverdale continuing a fire department with good morale and highly skilled 33 part-timers is not probable. He stated that it is almost inevitable that they will have to reconsider the organization on a full-time basis, but that they may not be there today. He stated that the bigger issue is the potential conversion to a full-time department with a few part-timers to fill shifts. **Mayor Burrows asked for consensus to apply for the Safer Grant. Consensus was reached.**

## **7. Discretionary Items**

Councilor Peterson discussed the recent semi-truck accident on the I-84 ramp and wondered how many apple trucks need to tip over before UDOT does something. Chief Illum replied that UDOT is looking at resigning the ramp exit to 45 MPH. He reported that the best alternative would be to replace that bridge.

Councilor Jenkins discussed the sewer problem in Lael Gibby's yard. Mr. Moulding replied that he is trying to get the three property owners together to fix the problem.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilor Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Gibby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 p.m.

Approved: December 15, 2009

Attest:

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Bruce Burrows, Mayor

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Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder