



**RIVERDALE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
CIVIC CENTER - 4600 S. WEBER RIVER DR.  
TUESDAY –MARCH 20, 2012**

Minutes of the **Regular Meeting** of the **Riverdale City Council** held Tuesday, **March 20, 2012** at 6:05 PM at the Riverdale Civic Center, 4600 South Weber River Drive.

Members Present: Bruce Burrows, Mayor  
Don Hunt, Councilor  
Norm Searle, Councilor  
Alan Arnold, Councilor  
Michael Staten, Councilor  
Braden Mitchell, Councilor

Others Present: Larry Hansen, City Administrator; Steve Brooks, City Attorney;  
Shawn Douglas, Public Works Director; Lynn Fortie, Business  
Administrator; Ember Herrick, City Recorder and six members of  
the public.

**A. Welcome & Roll Call**

Mayor Burrows called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance including all the Council members, members of the Veterans Committee, and the public.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilor Staten led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Burrows read a quote from Edward Everett Hale given during a Labor Day speech where he spoke about the American flag and its importance as a symbol for our nation and where he challenges his listeners to never let another night pass away without praying to God to bless the flag.

**C. Moment of Silence**

Mayor Burrow's quote was followed by a moment of silence when he asked everyone to remember those serving in our armed forces.

**D. Open Communications**

Mayor Burrows invited any member of the public with questions or concerns to address the Council.

Riverdale Resident Jerry DeGroot said he would like to address the 25 mph speed limit on 700 West. According to Mr. DeGroot, maintaining a speed of 25 mph is hard without riding your brake pedal and he said that he is tired of people tailgating him on this road. Mr. DeGroot said in February 2010 the Council previously addressed the speed limit on this road because staff had raised the speed limit to 30 mph on the advice of two traffic studies and with the approval of the police department. According to Mr. DeGroot, the Council determined that they knew better than staff and the experts and changed the speed limit back to 25 mph. Mr. DeGroot said the adjacent road 4400 South is 30 mph even with a church and elementary school on the road. He said he would like the Council to reconsider raising the speed limit on 700 West to 30 mph in accordance with the

recommendations and professional opinions of engineers because there is very little pedestrian traffic or children playing off 700 West and he and his neighbors believe a five mph speed limit increase is justified. According to Mr. DeGroot, his neighbors were happy when the speed limit was raised to 30 for a few weeks back in 2010 and were disappointed when it was changed back to 25 mph.

There were no additional comments.

#### **E. Presentations and Reports**

Mayor Burrows told the Council that Planning Commissioner Vice-Chairman Blair Jones recently suffered a heart attack and is recovering at McKay Dee Hospital. He said that he will keep city staff and the Council updated on Commissioner Jones' condition.

Mayor Burrows said that he and City Administrator Larry Hansen had attended a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier in the day to celebrate the re-opening of Lifetime Products, following a remodel and store expansion. According to Mayor Burrows, Lifetime Products is a member of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce so the Chamber was participating in the event. He apologized for not having sufficient notice of the event to invite the Council to attend. Mayor Burrows said now boundary lines have been adjusted, he and Mr. Hansen met with Riverdale's new State Senator Stewart Reid to discuss city priorities and how they can work together in the future. Mayor Burrows said that he had also met with Rocky Mountain Power to discuss a Community Performance Plan and the potential development of the land behind Gibby Floral. He also recognized Riverdale Band for playing at Roy's 75 Anniversary Celebration.

Mr. Hansen said the City Recorder had emailed the Mayor and Council a document showing sales tax distribution for Utah cities illustrating the amount of sales tax brought in through Riverdale businesses but distributed to other Utah cities with larger populations. He said downtown Salt Lake City is the only city in Utah that had more sales tax money redistributed than South Salt Lake and Riverdale. According to Mr. Hansen, Riverdale was number one in sales per store in the state prior to the recession when Utah stopped publishing each city's revenues. He said Riverdale attracts developers, brokers and vendors without offering land or tax incentives because the city is a destination retail hub for consumers.

Mr. Hansen also noted the increases in code enforcement, inspections, and business licensing activity outlined in the department reports included in the packet. He said that he is pleased with the progress the city is making and feels confident the city's Code Enforcement Officer is well prepared to address code enforcement issues as the busy season begins.

Mayor Burrows said one recent incident not included in the police department's report was an armed robbery at a Roy Sinclair gas station where Riverdale police assisted in the arrest of the alleged suspect. He commended the police department for their efforts.

Mayor Burrows and Mr. Hansen honored Tina Nelson who has five years of service with the city as a Clerk at the Recreation Center and was also celebrating a birthday.

Mr. Hansen said the city is current operating two full time staff equivalents under authorization as part of the 2005 action plan.

Business Administrator Lynn Fortie gave the Mayor and Council a report on the condition of the treasury for the month ending February 29, 2012 stating that the numbers reflect December's sales tax revenue which he said was up slightly over the previous year. He said the city also received revenue for business license renewals and made payments to Central Weber Sewer, Ormond Construction, and Lincoln Environmental for their clean up of a fuel spill. Mayor Burrows asked about reimbursement to the city for the fuel spill, and Mr. Hansen said he had sent a letter to Ken Garff and expected them to reimburse the city.

**F. Consent Items**

Mayor Burrows asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes and none were noted.

Mayor Burrows asked for any questions about the Community Development Projects Status Report and there were none.

There were also no comments or questions on the Recorder's Report.

Mayor Burrows said the Council has one week to review and comment on proposed changes to RRC 10-10-A.

**Motion:** Councilor Hunt moved to approve the consent items. Councilor Arnold seconded the motion.

**Call the Question:** The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Action Items**

1. a. Consideration of obtaining bids for Storm Water Construction on the River Glen Project for a Gate System on River Glen Storm Channel.
- b. Consideration of obtaining bids for Storm Water Construction on the River Glen Project for Storm Drain diversion 4400 South 1150 West.

Public Works Director Shawn Douglas said the gate system and storm drain diversion projects have both been discussed by the Council at previous meetings and site visits. He said these projects will be a good start to mitigate future flooding and he said that he would like to put them out for bid immediately while costs for construction work are low. Councilor Searle said he feels both of these measures are needed based on the Council's Site Visit on March 6, 2012 and he said these projects will be a good use of city funds and he sees no problems with the City Engineer's preliminary project estimates.

**Motion:** Councilor Searle moved to obtaining bids for Storm Water Construction on the River Glen Project for a Gate System on River Glen Storm Channel and on the Project for Storm

Drain diversion 4400 South 1150 West. Councilor Hunt seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

**Call the Question:** The motion passed unanimously.

2. a. Consideration of approval awarding bid on Roundabout Project at the Intersection of 4400 South and 700 West Streets.

Mr. Douglas said the city received a low bid from a reputable contractor with a history of successfully working with the city and he recommended approval of awarding the bid for the Roundabout Project at the Intersection of 4400 South and 700 West Streets to Advanced Paving in the amount of \$285,751.50. He asked for any questions and Councilor Hunt asked Mr. Hansen to explain how this project will be funded using RDA money not capital projects funds that could be used for other community needs. Mr. Hansen said RDA funds must be used in RDA project areas or locations like this proposed roundabout that will connect to an RDA area. According to Mr. Hansen, 700 West was widened as part of the Riverdale Road construction project and the intersection at 700 West and 4400 South is part of an RDA project area. He said he is pleased that the project bids came in lower than the Engineer's estimate and he said the RDA funds are available to start this project immediately.

Councilor Arnold asked why this bid is being approved by the Council and not the RDA Board if RDA money is being used and Mr. Hansen said the RDA Board previously met and approved the funding of this roundabout project last year so the money is already set aside in the budget. According to Mr. Hansen, it is legal and expedient to have the Council award this project bid as there were no agenda items to merit holding a separate RDA meeting tonight and the City had the project put out for bid along with the City 2012 Streets Projects.

Councilor Mitchell said he is happy to see this roundabout project started as he has lived on 4400 South in the past and he thinks replacing the two way stop with a roundabout will alleviate accidents in the area to help regulate the flow of traffic. Mayor Burrows said the intersection used to be a four-way stop and some people still aren't used to the change and so they stop even when they don't need to, creating a traffic hazard.

**Motion:** Councilor Mitchell moved to award the bid for the Roundabout Project at the Intersection of 4400 South and 700 West Streets to Advanced Paving. Councilor Staten seconded the motion.

Mayor Burrows asked for discussion on the motion and Councilor Arnold asked that the dollar amount of the project be included in the motion. Councilors Mitchell and Staten both agreed to the change and Councilor Mitchell restated his motion as follows:

**Motion:** Councilor Mitchell moved to award the bid for the Roundabout Project at the Intersection of 4400 South and

700 West Streets to Advanced Paving in the amount of \$285,751.50. Councilor Staten seconded the motion.

There was no additional discussion on the amended motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Councilor Hunt, aye; Councilor Searle, aye; Councilor Arnold, aye; and Councilor Mitchell, aye; Councilor Staten, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Consideration of awarding bid on 2012 Roadway Improvements Project.

Mr. Douglas said the 2012 Roadway Improvement Projects' low bid was also under the Engineer's estimates and he attributed the cost savings to the fact the city is bidding these street projects early in the season. He said some funds to pay for these projects will come out of his department's current budget and some will come from next fiscal year's budget for work performed after July 1, 2012. He said Post Asphalt is a contractor with a proven track record of successfully completing projects for Riverdale City and he recommended the Council approve the awarding of this bid in the amount of \$451,325.00.

**Motion:** Councilor Hunt moved to award the bid for the 2012 Roadway Improvements Project to Post Asphalt in the amount of \$451,325.00. Councilor Arnold seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Councilor Searle, aye; Councilor Arnold, aye; and Councilor Mitchell, aye; Councilor Staten, aye; Councilor Hunt, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Establish a "Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee" comprised of City Council members, Planning Commissioners, Public Works Representatives, Police Officers and Citizens.

Mayor Burrows said after additional discussion with Mr. Hansen about the creation of a Bike/Pedestrian Ad Hoc Committee, he feels it would be best not to have a member of the Planning Commission on the committee as any recommendations dealing with Riverdale's General Plan will go back to the Planning Commission for their review. He said the Planning Commission members can have input on the committee's recommendations at that time. Mayor Burrows suggested the makeup of the Bike/Pedestrian Ad Hoc Committee be one member of Public Works, one member of Community Development, one member of Public Safety and once Representative from the City Council. He said four additional members could be selected from the community for an eight member volunteer committee charged with making recommendations to the city for making Riverdale more bike and pedestrian friendly.

Commissioner Staten said this committee will be a good way to identify Complete Streets recommendations for Riverdale to make our roads safer for everyone in the community. He said he is planning to attend a Utah Transportation Committee meeting this week

where transportation grants may be discussed that cities can apply for from the federal government to help fund bicycle and pedestrian projects in the city. Commissioner Staten said he is interested in serving as the Council representative on the Bike/Pedestrian Ad Hoc Committee and Councilor Searle said with his cycling background Commissioner Staten is a good choice.

**Motion:** Councilor Arnold moved to create a “Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee” with Councilor Staten as the City Council Representative, a representative from the Public Works, Community Development and Police departments and four members of the community. Councilor Mitchell seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

**Call the Question:** The motion passed unanimously.

#### **H. Discretionary Items**

Mayor Burrows asked if there were any discretionary items and Councilor Arnold said in the future he would like projects being considered for bid to be separate line items on the agenda instead of listed as “A” and “B” with the contractor with the lowest bid and that bid amount listed on the executive summary. Mr. Hansen noted the recommendation.

Councilor Searle said a few months back some residents who bike over the viaduct had complained to him about litter and debris on the sides of the road impeding their travel. He said that just recently he saw individuals cleaning the walkways over the bridge and he thanked them for their efforts. Mayor Burrows said the bridge is under UDOT’s control and he said after Councilor Searle had reported this problem he had spoken to someone at WACOG about sending a crew out to clean up the area. Mr. Douglas said he isn’t sure if UDOT has been out this year as temperatures must be at a certain level to prevent the water lines on the road sweepers from freezing. He said the workers cleaning the bridge walkway last week were Riverdale Public Works employees and he said although the road is UDOT’s responsibility, the sidewalk is part of Riverdale City’s regular maintenance schedule. Councilor Arnold asked about the possibility of using a sweeper attached to an ATV instead of manual labor to keep this walkway clean and Mr. Douglas said the path is so narrow that his crew has determined it is faster and safer to use the backpack blower at this location.

Mayor Burrows asked Mr. Douglas if a broken handrail at this location had been repaired and Mr. Douglas said he had reported it to UDOT and would follow up to see if the work has been done.

Councilor Staten asked about the history of the speed limit on 700 West and Mr. DeGroot’s assertions that the previous City Council overrode the Engineer and two road study’s recommendations to raise the speed limit from 25 to 30 mph on this street. Mr. Hansen stated for the record that he had no discussions with Mr. DeGroot about 700 West and the speed limit prior to tonight’s meeting. He said that administratively the city did increase the speed limit from 25 to 30 mph on 700 West based on the recommendations

of experts and studies done on this area and at the request of some residents like Mr. DeGroot who feel the speed limit of 25 mph is too slow and creates a hazard. Mr. Hansen said several weeks after the speed limit had been changed members of the City Council were upset about it and argued that staff did not have authority to change the speed limit without Council approval so the speed limit was changed back to 25 mph. He said that in retrospect the City Administration regrets changing the speed limit without consulting with the Council as the intent was not to create a divisive issue between staff and elected officials. According to Mr. Hansen, because the change was at the request of members of the public and the traffic experts and studies supported raising the speed limit by five mph, he didn't anticipate any controversy. He said if at least two members of the Council wish to reconsider changing the speed limit on 700 West based on this latest request from a resident, he will be happy to put it on an upcoming agenda. According to Mr. Hansen, Riverdale City Code does not clearly state who has authority to change speed limit signs in Riverdale.

Councilor Staten asked how 700 West compares to 4400 South with a speed limit of 30 mph and Parker Drive with speed limits of 30 and 40 mph. Mr. Hansen said 700 West is wider and so people feel they can go faster, he said the traffic studies indicated an average speed of 33 mph on this road and the traffic counts on 4400 South and Parker Drive were much higher than those on 700 West. Mr. Hansen said it wouldn't cost the city much money to get updated traffic counts for 700 West, and he added that in his opinion it may be prudent to keep the speed limit on 700 West at 25 mph where it narrows and turns going up the hill. Mr. Douglas said the goal of the city in putting in bike paths on either side of 700 West was to narrow the road and help reduce traffic speeds as the roadways are 11 or 12 feet wide.

Councilor Arnold said in the past there were residents that wanted the speed limit to remain at 25 mph and he said Police Chief Dave Hansen said his officers won't cite anyone unless they are 40 mph in this zone so he doesn't see the point in raising the speed limit to 30 mph. Councilor Arnold said he is concerned that people who take 700 West to get to Wal-Mart will speed on this road if the speed limit is increased by five mph and he said that he would rather err on the side of caution by keeping the speed limit at 25 mph. Mr. Hansen said as someone who drives on 700 West to and from his home daily, he would appreciate the Council discussing the possibility of raising the speed limit again and he said the city could advertise that this issue is being discussed to get additional public feedback.

Councilor Searle said the traffic studies indicated that 30 mph was an acceptable speed, the Riverdale Risk Management Committee and Police Departments both approved the speed limit increase to 30 mph on 700 West and so he voted in favor of increasing the speed limit when this issue was last discussed by the Council. He said he sympathizes with Mr. DeGroot and also gets frustrated when he is tailgated by drivers while he is just trying to obey the speed limit. Councilor Searle said he can't ask that the Council consider this again on a future agenda because he was in favor of the change, but he said he would like to see it on a future agenda.

Councilor Hunt said he feels the larger question that needs to be answered is clarifying if administrative staff or the Council should be making decisions about Riverdale traffic

signs and speed limits. He said when speed limits are involved it is a safety issue and he isn't comfortable with the Council being held responsible if someone is injured on a street where the Council decides to change the speed limit or put up or take down signs. He said he feels these decisions would be better made by the Risk Management Committee and he stated that he would like the city's policy addressed to determine who should make these determinations. Councilor Staten said in his occupation as an Engineer it irritates him when politicians disregard expert opinions and make decisions ignoring the recommendations of trained professionals. He said 700 West, 4400 South and Parker Drive all have different speed limits and in his opinion the best way to address Mr. DeGroot's request is to clarify the policy and make the process for changing the speed limit of a Riverdale road consistent, fair and based on expertise, not politics.

Mr. Brooks said Council Rules and Procedures state that Council members who were in the losing minority cannot request something be placed on the agenda again. He said either two Council members who voted against the speed limit increase must ask that this issue be put on a future agenda or the two new Council members can make the request as they did not previously vote on this issue. Councilor Arnold said he disagrees with Mr. Brooks' interpretation of the Council Rules and Procedures allowing the new members to bring an old issue back up for discussion. He said the rule states that those in the majority must request it and Mr. Brooks said the new council members aren't bound by the old Council's decisions and they together or one of them with the support of the Mayor could bring the 700 West speed limit issue back to a future Council agenda.

Councilor Arnold said he agrees with Councilor Hunt that the city's policy should be addressed first to determine who should have the authority to make determinations about speed limit and street signs before the Council looks at individual streets. **Mayor Burrows asked for consensus for the Council to have a future action item on an upcoming agenda where they discuss whether these decisions should be made legislatively or administratively. Unanimous consensus was reached.**

There were no additional discretionary items mentioned.

#### **I. Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilor Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Staten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:12 PM.

Approved: April 3, 2012

Attest:

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Bruce Burrows, Mayor

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Ember Herrick, City Recorder