

**ELK RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM.** The meeting was held at the Elk Ridge City Hall, 80 East Park Drive, Elk Ridge, Utah. Notice of the time, place, and Agenda of this Meeting, was provided to the Payson Chronicle, 145 E. Utah Ave, Payson, Utah, and to the members of the Governing Body on Feb. 27, 2023.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor: Robert Haddock

Council Members: Nelson Abbott, Tricia Thomas, Jared Peterson, Cory Thompson, Tanya Willis

Others: Royce Swensen, *City Recorder*, Laura Oliver, *Deputy Recorder*, Deputy Monsen,

Public: Larry Lee, Dianne Schulz, Sophia Clark, Ella Combs, Jim Chase, Kylee Cahoon, Ron Hill, Aspen Palmer, Paul Palmer, Chris Toro

**OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION**

Opening remarks were offered by Ella Combs

Pledge lead by Sophia Clark

**APPROVAL/AGENDA TIME FRAME**

**COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND TIME FRAME  
COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED**

|       |         |         |          |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| VOTE: | AYE (5) | NAY (0) | APPROVED |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

Ron Hill stated the commission will be discussing seasonal lighting on Thursday and they have invited an expert on permanent decorative lighting to learn the industry standards etc.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Jim Chase stated he is concerned about the deer population. It has been a growing concern for about 10 years and is growing exponentially. It is a health hazard with the increased droppings that causes disease and risk to people. Dogs have been killed and more deer have been hit by cars. It is a health and safety issue for the residents which is a of the council matter.

Paul Palmer stated he has the same concerns and feels that population is too high. There are too many deer that are starving, he had 1 pass right on his porch. You can kill a dog that is chasing a deer, but you cannot kill a deer that is chasing a dog, per state law. The city needs to do a bow hunt or something to lower the numbers.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. APPOINT RON HILL TO PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mayor Haddock stated Ron Hill has been an alternate for more than a year now and Larry Lee has stepped down from the commission and he would like to appoint Ron to the Planning Commission as a full-time commissioner.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPOINT RON HILL TO PLANNING  
COMMISSION COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT SECONDED.

|      |         |         |          |
|------|---------|---------|----------|
| VOTE | AYE (5) | NAY (0) | APPROVED |
|------|---------|---------|----------|

**2. RANK CHOICE VOTING VERSUS TRADITIONAL**

Discussion ensued on the presentations over the last couple years on both rank Choice and Traditional voting methods being bias. Councilmember Willis likes rank choice voting because of the small size of the community and the majority are conservative and the

candidates are all pretty similar. Councilmember Thomas voted no for rank choice the first time, Rank Choice lacks transparency and people find it hard to understand. Councilmember Thompson has voted both ways and found both systems were fine, he has no preference. Councilmember Abbott stated rank choice can be manipulated, people don't vet the candidates with rank choice and he is not in favor of it. Councilmember Peterson stated it is cheaper for rank choice because there is no primary but having a primary gives more time for residents to get to know the candidates. A vote is a vote and there shouldn't be second, third or fourth pick.

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO HOLD TRADITIONAL VOTING THIS YEAR COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

| VOTE  | AYE (3) | NAY (2) | APPROVED |
|---|---------|---------|----------|
| Nay votes - Councilmember Willis and Councilmember Thompson |         |         |          |

3. **SOCCER PROGRAM 1-9 SPORTS**

Mayor Haddock stated Tanya Peterson who had been the soccer director is no longer able to do it. The city has not had been able to find a new director. There is a company called I 9 Sports that is willing to come and run it for the city. They met with them last week. I9 Sports will come and do everything, marketing, insurance, collecting fees and registrations, preparing fields, refs, etc. Councilmember Thompson asked what the city would have to do. Mayor Haddock stated that the city will have zero funds involved, everything comes out of the fees. Councilmember Willis stated the fee per child is \$100; Salem is now \$75+. They have a snack shack at every game which the proceeds go into a scholarship to help pay for those who can't. This company is able to do other sports as well. Councilmember Thompson stated if there is no liability for the city and if the city does not do something like this there will be no program then the residents can decide if they want to spend their money on it. There was no opposition to trying this for this soccer season.

4. **NUISANCE CODE, WILDLIFE**

Councilmember Peterson stated per the last meeting he made changes discussed the previous meeting. He worked on lighting and will add planning commission recommendations. He also updated tobacco smoke ordinance. The city has not heard back from the attorney on the graphs yet. He drafted an ordinance for wildlife based on community needs and state code. He is meeting with deer mitigation person next month. The state is having issues with the contracted companies, like Humphry's. The best thing for the city to do is to come up with its own plan. There are several ways to do it, trapping, sharp shooting- law enforcement, sterilization etc. The results from a drone fly over, there is approximately 380 deer in the city limits, which is only a percentage. According to the state calculation the city should only have approximately 52-70 head. The steps in planning the city's own mitigation process is insurance coverage, implement an ordinance for not feeding wildlife and allowing mitigation efforts. The overpopulation is a safety concern. The resident herd, not the migrating herd, is the concern. The resident herd lives in the city all year round. The state is trying to extend the hunting season and they want all mitigation done in August and September, before any migrating herds come down. He has talk to Manti and Cedar City and has learned more about the pros and cons of mitigation and what those city's have learned. Residents in cities that have used sharp shooters don't even know it's happening. Sharp shooters can be more selective of the deer, where traps are indiscriminate. These are low caliber weapons used at close distance. The program the city would come up with will define the area, time, means, disposal etc. The city will have control over the mitigation program. Every animal would have to be tested for disease, state mandated, at no cost to the city. Most of the deer are not healthy. Councilmember Peterson will continue to draft an ordinance and a program.

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109 **5. WATER RATES**

110 Mayor Haddock stated Curtis Roberts, the financial director, said the city needs to increase water rates  
111 at least 25% based on the new electric rate increase. Councilmember Thompson asked if the city is  
112 able to put in solar and mitigate some of the electric costs. Councilmember Abbott stated the city can  
113 put in solar. There is a demand charge when the pump is started up. This is the most expensive power  
114 the city has. When the pumps are pumping the city incurs a cost. The SKADA system needs to be used  
115 to help mitigate these costs. If the city wants to use a different company, other than SESD, there is a  
116 very long withdrawal process that does take years. All the power companies have filed for rate  
117 increases. It is unclear where the rate increase will be. Councilmember Willis would like to know what  
118 amount is needed in order to be to get grants. Councilmember Thompson wants the city to be more  
119 efficient in pumping cost.  
120

121 **6. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

122 There were no questions or concerns.  
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124 **7. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2023**

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126 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR JANUARY  
127 10, 2023 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS SECONDED  
128

129 VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED  
130 Abstain- Councilmember Thompson  
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132 **8. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24, 2023**

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134 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR  
135 JANUARY 24, 2023 COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT SECONDED  
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137 VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED  
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140 COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER  
141 THOMAS SECONDED  
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143 VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED  
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Laura Oliver