

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, Apr. 25, 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 Apr. 24, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Robert Haddock

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

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

Public: Robin Clawson, Larry Lee, Dennis Jacobson, Liz Moldenhauer, Jim Chase

OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION

Opening remarks were offered by Steve Anderson

Pledge lead by Jim Chase

APPROVAL/AGENDA TIME FRAME

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

VOTE:	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	APPROVED
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Mayor Haddock introduced the new Public Works Director Jerry Clark. On Jerry's first day he got to fix a broken pipe.

PUBLIC FORUM

Robin Clawson stated he has lived here for nearly 20 years and he understands there is going to be a rate increase and wants to know how the council is justifying this. He wants to know where all the money is going and wants to have a state audit.

Dennis Jacobson stated he has lived here for 70 years. He has seen things that blow his mind. He has been in the construction field for 40 years and agrees with Rob there needs to be a state audit or someone come in and make some accountability with at least the water department, where the money is being spent, how much is being drawn out. He doesn't think there is any accountability and wants a state audit to see what is going on and what has been going on for a number of years. He asked if Councilmember Abbott is on the Strawberry board. Councilmember Abbott corrected him that he was appointed to the SESD and was asked by Mr. Jacobson what SESD was. Councilmember Abbott explained that SESD is the power provider for Elk Ridge, Woodland Hills, and south Utah County and reiterated that he was appointed to the board to represent the city. Mr. Jacobson stated that he wanted Councilmember Abbott to be removed from the board because his water bill has gone up 42%. Councilmember Abbott stated he is one vote on the council and encouraged Mr. Jacobson to talk to the other council members about their decisions and he agreed that 42% is ridiculous.

Councilmember Thompson stated that the council has been discussing the upcoming increase for the last 4 meetings and if anyone had come to those meetings they would understand why there is going to be an increase and how the amount of that increase was determined. All the information was put up for all to see, full transparency and accountability but people have to be accountable and come to the meetings and not show up afterwards and complain.

1. STORM WATER

Mayor Haddock would like to get the jersey barriers up and keep the water on the east side of the road. There are plenty of sandbags available and welcomes community help to fill those if needed. Residents would like the road closed at Park Dr, keep the bus turn around open and open at 11200. A basin will be put in as well as S curves dug on the city property. The city has an excavator to do the work and all excavation will be on city property. The Chapman home on Elk Ridge gets flooded from water jumping the curb and would like the council to consider extending the trail in front of the house when the road is done. Councilmember Peterson is concerned about the Woodland Hills hillside moving and Councilmember Thompson sees that hillside out his window every day and hasn't noticed any changes but will watch it. Jerry Clark, Public Works director stated the ponding on Salem Hills drive is being worked on. A pipe was installed to move water away and some berming has been put it, the homeowners can now access their driveways.

2. REZONE

Mayor Haddock stated he would like to surplus the Cloward well pump house which is no longer in use. The city needs to see if the well needs to be capped and find out all the regulations involved. Another well is already in place. Mayor

Haddock invited Steve from Fusion, who would like to purchase it to speak. This is the old Cloward well site he would like to create a data center and springboard to put in fiber for the area. It would be a benefit to the city and surrounding area. The city is not putting up any bonds and the residents are not on the hook for any funds. Mayor Haddock stated the city is not putting in the lines and solely a Fusion backed project and would go through the requirements of selling the property in the open market. The city would have to rezone the property to commercial.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE THE REZONE OF PARTIAL PROPERTY TO COMMERCIAL AND ABANDON THE OLD CLOWARD WELL COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT SECONDED.

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED

3. SURPLUS

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO DECLARE THE PROPERTY NEAR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING NEAR THE OLD CLOWARD WELL AS SURPLUS PROPERTY COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS SECONDED.

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED

4. NUISANCE CODE

Councilmember Peterson stated the attorney sent back the flow chart with a few revisions, color and shapes, and the language matches the current code and recommends voting on this next meeting. Councilmember Thompson the flow chart is great and wants to make sure that section pertaining to fines or citations is solid and ties in clearly to the code.

5. CITY OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Haddock stated the city needs a bigger council room and more administrative space and is waiting on the cost estimate on the plan. It's not the civic center but it bridges a gap. Councilmember Willis stated she doesn't want to do the improvements at the same time the water rates are going up. Councilmember Thompson stated the city is not raising water rates to pay for a remodel, remodeling comes from different funds which the city has been saving. The city doesn't use general funds to subsidize water rates. The remodel should have happened a long time ago. The mayor doesn't even have his own office. Councilmember Peterson stated he estimates the remodel to be about \$350,000. Councilmember Abbott stated it would be nice if the fire chief and EMS captain didn't have to use a supply closet as an office. Councilmember Thompson added the fire and EMS do training in their homes instead of the fire station. Councilmember Abbott stated that happens every week due to conflicts with this building. The city needs to remodel this space and make it so meetings with more people don't end up in the fire bay where you can't hear. He has walked through the building and looked at the plan and it is the best plan for the city.

6. WATER RATE

Mayor Haddock stated council has the figures that were discussed last meeting. Councilmember Thompson stated tier 7 was eliminated, tiers 2-6 absorbed that difference making those tiers broader and increased the base rate by \$15. Councilmember Willis stated she sees the bills the city pays and without an increase the city will have big problems financially. She and Councilmember Thomas met with SESD and there is a lot of misinformation out there. Councilmember Willis would like to see a cost benefit of putting turbines in the pipes to mitigate the electricity cost, watering every other day would reduce the electricity cost as well. All council members expressed they do not want to pay higher water rates but there is no choice but to increase the rate. Discussion ensued on residents paying the rate of the max tier they hit that month. Ty Ellis put up all the graphs from the last meeting and reviewed the figures discussed and showed some new analysis on the rates. Council has the following in mind and will vote on the fee schedule next meeting

Base fee = \$63 per month

Charges for water used above base fee:

- a. 0 to 10,000 gallons - \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons
- b. 11,000 to 20,000 gallons - \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons
- c. 21,000 to 30,000 gallons - \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons
- d. 31,000 to 50,000 gallons - \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons
- e. 51,000 to 70,000 gallons - \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons
- f. 71,000 to 120,000 gallons - \$6.25 per 1,000 gallons
- g. 120,000 gallons and up - \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE ROYCE SWENSEN TO PUT THE NEW WATER RATES INTO THE CITY FEE SCHEDULE WHICH WILL BE VOTED ON IN THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED

7. **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

There were no concerns.

8. **APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 14, 2023**

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2023 MINUTES AS PRESENTED
COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO GO INTO A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO CODE 52-4-205 TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND OTHER MATTERS COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED.

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED

Councilmember Willis AYE
Councilmember Peterson AYE
Councilmember Abbott AYE
Councilmember Thomas AYE
Councilmember Thompson AYE

COUNCILMEMBER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) APPROVED



Laura Oliver