

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 27, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This Public Hearing was held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, June 27, 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 July 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Robert Haddock

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

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

Public: Anayanci Martinez Hill, Michael Hill, Larry Lee, Ashlee Cawley

OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION

Opening remarks were offered by Councilmember Thomas

Pledge lead by Mike Hill

Roll Mayor Haddock, Tricia Thomas, Jared Peterson, Tanya Willis, Cory Thompson Absent, Nelson Abbott

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE OF MOVING ITEM 3 TO ITEM 1 AND THE TIME FRAME COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

There is no update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anayanci Martinez Hill – stated it has been a pleasure to serve the community with the Elk Ridge Fire Department. After much prayer she has decided to resign due to a racial profiling act between a fellow Elk Ridge Fire Fighter and her children in public. Chief Waite has been very supportive and understanding at this time of high emotions. This event has greatly impacted her children who she has raised not to see color. Not only were her children berated they were also threatened with calling the police. She has been forced to have this difficult conversation with her children on this member's actions and have. This event has made it apparent to her that there are those in the organization who do not see people of different nationalities as equal and that these opinions dictate how they treat others. Although not everyone holds this belief it has called into question if her coworkers truly do have her safety on the line and her best interests in mind. When this event was brought to the attention of the fire department members through an inside training session the reaction was more than what she needed to hear to know the hearts of the people she was working with. It is imperative that who we are in public must reflect the values and standards set forth by the fire department and that we are public servants to all. She hopes and prays that with time those members in the fire department will learn to accept people of different heritages and nationalities and learn to understand that diversity in our community is not a bad thing. She closed with at the end of the day it comes down to this, we all should be able to enjoy life within Elk Ridge and not have to question will the fire department take care of her in her time of need without prejudice. She hopes that this letter is something we can reflect and learn from for ourselves and future generations. JK Rawlings said, "If you want to see the true measure of man, watch how he treats his inferiors not his equals. She wants change and it has to start somewhere, it crossed the line when this happened to her children in front of church friends.

The council apologized and all agreed that this behavior is unacceptable, and it should not be her leaving but those with prejudices. She is valuable and they need her especially now she could be the catalyst of change.

Michael Hill - stated he has spoken before the council many times concerning fire protection concerns and will always support the city. Their children were doing a project for their boy scout troop handing out flyers. A gentleman threatened to call 911. When he heard about the incident, he called the fire chief who was more than mad. When the gentleman found out it was their children, he said oh you're ok I know your parents. They decided to tell the council in a public meeting. He felt the individual should be given the opportunity to come up and say yea I screwed up and should be fired if he doesn't. With the size of our department, we cannot afford to lose people and have lost several good people over the last few years. You can give training until you are blue in the face but even with additional training you can't cure racism. The more ironic thing is, himself and everyone here probably doesn't see it. His wife and kids see it because they are not white. It's disheartening and frustrating. There are 2 council members that see inequality because they are female. We are not asking that the individual is terminated or for additional training because you cannot cure stupidity.

The council is disheartened and gives them their support and thanks the Hills for bringing this to their attention.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. FINAL AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING
COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott

Mayor Haddock stated the public hearing will be left open for 10-15 minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DEER MITIGATION

Mayor Haddock welcomed Rod Nielsen of the DWR. Councilmember Peterson stated he has been working on the mitigation program for 2 years. The city has a huge resident deer herd which is reaching unsafe levels. He gets a lot of calls about deer being hit and injured and suffering as has the DWR. They have done a lot of research and gathered actual numbers of what the city should have, and predevelopment numbers and the resident herd is way beyond those figures. For Councilmember Peterson it is strictly a safety item. There are pets that have been killed and would hate for that to be someone's child. For the last 2 years council has been trying to figure out what to do. The city reached out to Ron Nielsen, DWR to develop a plan to do some mitigation and trapping. Councilmember Thompson asked for clarification - the plan has 3 items, is the council discussing doing all three or is the council picking one item. Ron Nielsen stated the DWR gives the city a certificate of registration which allows the city to come up with the city's own management plan on how the city is going to handle the situation in the city. When the program first started, they trapped and relocated deer that program is no longer available. They stopped relocating due to expense and the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease which is very contagious. This disease is very contagious and is always fatal. They don't want to take sick animals and introduce them to other areas. Councilmember Willis asked if this disease was found in Elk Ridge. Ron Nielsen stated Elk Ridge is in unit 16B which is a hunting unit, and it has been found in the unit and is a concern in Elk Ridge. They don't want to spread the disease to other units. The success rate was not successful. Councilmember Peterson stated there are 3 tools we can do all three or they can choose. Councilmember Thompson asked if every method is to kill them which Ron Nielsen stated yes. Councilmember Thompson asked if the animals are harvested or just destroyed? Councilmember Willis stated the meat will be used. Councilmember Peterson has talked to several cities on what they do. They can do this on a complaint basis and access the property and find out what would be the best method for that area. Along with that is a donation list for those who

would want the meat. There are a few processing houses that will help process the meat. Councilmember Willis stated that in Alaska they process even roadkill and not waste it and they have volunteers that are called out as soon as an animal is hit and harvest the meat. The city will have permission to do this only in August before the migrating herds come in. Councilmember Thomas asked who would kill the deer. Councilmember Peterson said it is a short list. Ron Nielsen stated that is up to the city. Councilmember Peterson stated the deer lymph nodes have to be removed and tested for chronic waste disease before it is harvested, and the antlers have to go back to the DWR and the age ratio of male female have to be determined. Ron Nielsen stated the city's proposal is to remove 200 deer over the next 3 years. Councilmember Peterson stated the city has about 350 to 400 resident deer and would like to get that down to about 200. The safety issues are deer getting hit, interactions with pets and humans, they are more susceptible to disease, they cannot live in the wild and the effects are generational. The deer do not know how to live in the wild. Councilmember Thomas said so this is complaint driven and does not want anything killed near her and has a moral opposition to it. Councilmember Peterson stated the goal is not to eliminate the deer but bring it down to healthy levels as discreetly as possible. Ron Nielsen stated traps are placed where they are not visible from the road. Councilmember Thompson asked what kind of traps are they, is it possible for someone to get injured and who hold that responsibility? Ron Nielsen stated it's a rectangle box made from piping covered with a netting with a net that comes down covering the door. Councilmember Thompson stated again, who is liable for injuries and what is the city's liability coverage. Ron Nielsen stated the other city's doing mitigation program are using an archery specialist and have had no reports of incidents of any kind. There are a couple places that uses a bolt gun, it doesn't shoot a projectile. The DWR volunteered a couple traps and if the city would need more than they can be purchased. Councilmember Thompson asked where the funds are coming for this. Councilmember Peterson stated it is all volunteer, he will check the cages. Councilmember Thompson asked what are the main items that cities have done mitigation have had to struggle with? Ron Nielsen stated there are 2 different groups of people those that want them all dead and the other is that is why we moved here leave them alone and don't hurt a hair on their head. Highland City has been in the program since the beginning which is about 10 years. They had some upset people. Let the people know that the city is not getting rid of all the deer, there is always going to be deer in the town. After a while once the program has been up and running and if it is done right people will generally calm down. Councilmember Peterson stated most of the cities in the valley are using archery. Ron Nielsen stated since the city is just starting with the program, he recommends just 2 or 3 traps there may not be a high return the first year. There are a lot of things that have to be done and done right. Also, due to the proximity to the foothills the city will only be allowed to do mitigation in August before the migrating herds come down into the city. Without a doubt the deer that are here in August are the deer that were born and raised inside the city and will never leave. With just a couple of traps you can probably get 15-20 deer this year. Start out small and see how it goes so the city can plan accordingly next year. Councilmember Willis stated she is not comfortable with item two. Councilmember Thompson stated he does not want the use of firearms in the city. Councilmember Peterson stated a bolt gun cost about \$2000. To euthanize the deer a 22 handgun at close range would be effective.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE AMENDED BUDGET COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE URBAN DEER CONTROL PLAN WITH TRAPPING AND NO OPEN HUNTING IN THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED.

VOTE AYE (3) NAY (2) APPROVED Absent - Councilmember Abbott
Mayor Haddock tie breaker vote
Councilmember Thomas voted NAY
Councilmember Thompson voted NAY

2. RESOLUTION 23-06-27-1R ADOPT FINAL AMENDED BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-06-27-1R ADOPTING THE ELK RIDGE CITY FINAL AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR ALSO

AUTHORIZING ROYCE SWENSEN AND THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR TO MOVE THE EXCESS
FUND BALANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE STATUTE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO
THE CAPITAL FUTURE PROJECTS FUND 41 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott
Councilmember Willis AYE
Councilmember Peterson AYE
Councilmember Thomas AYE
Councilmember Thompson AYE

3. **RESOLUTION 23-06-27-2R ADOPTING THE 2023 OF CERTIFIED TAX RATE**

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-06-27-2R
ADOPTING THE 2023 CERTIFIED TAX RATE COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott
Councilmember Willis AYE
Councilmember Peterson AYE
Councilmember Thomas AYE
Councilmember Thompson AYE

4. **RESOLUTION 23-06-27-3R RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL
DECISION**

Ashley Cawley of Republic Services presented the cost of the collection service for the next 5-year period.
Some discussion ensued on the cost and recycling.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO APROVE RESOLUTION 23-06-27-3R
RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL DECISION COUNCILMEMBER
THOMAS SECONDED.

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott

5. **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

There were no concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Councilmember Abbott

Laura Oliver