

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, October 24, 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 October 23, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Robert Haddock

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

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

Public: Larry Lee, Lisa graham

OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION

Opening Remarks were offered by Larry Lee

Pledge led by Tanya Willis

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

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	APPROVED
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PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

The Planning Commission has not had a meeting since council last met.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. SPEED LIMIT ON ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY

Mayor Haddock stated there are conflicting speed limit signs on Rocky Mountain Way with 25 mph and 30 mph signs posted. The council needs to confirm what the correct signage should be. Councilmember Abbott stated Rocky Mountain Way was built to be a collector road and should remain 30 mph. Councilmember Peterson stated until the road is finished in that area the sign should be 25 mph. Councilmember Thomas people tend to go over the speed limit and agreed the road should be 25 mph. Councilmember Willis stated the driver in her would like 30 mph but

the mom in her wants 25 mph and, considering all the kids on that road on bikes, is in agreement that it should be 25 mph. Councilmember Thompson agreed it should be 25 mph.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO MAKE THE SPEED LIMIT EAST FROM THE ROUND ABOUT ALL THE WAY DOWN TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY TO 11200 25 MPH COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE AYE (4) NAY (1) APPROVED

2. **RESOLUTION 23-10-24-2R SESD BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Haddock stated Councilmember Thompson has expressed interest in representing Elk Ridge on the SESD board next year. Councilmember Abbott stated under Utah State Code 17b-1-304 is what SESD is managed under at least until the Utah Supreme Court decides otherwise. It states that the representative doesn't have to be elected, and they just have to be a resident. If Councilmember Abbott is not the representative, he would suggest Charles Wixom since Charles has a degree in electrical engineering and would understand the technical side of things. Councilmember Thompson stated if the council thinks that would be a better choice, then he would support that. Councilmember Abbott stated he spends more time dealing with SESD on a monthly basis by about 4 hours a week. He is not asking that he continue but he's not saying he wouldn't. He believes in lifting where you stand and would continue to serve the community and will do what he can if asked but if not, that is fine too. Councilmember Thompson stated he is interested in representing the city and is very interested in what is happening with SESD on behalf of the city. Councilmember Thomas asked how long the position lasts. Councilmember Abbott stated the council decides how long the term is and SESD also has the right to remove someone from the board. Councilmember Peterson asked how the number of board members is determined. Councilmember Abbott stated the state code 17b-1-304 is being contested in the courts right now and it may be determined that representation will be based on customers which would give Elk Ridge City 2 board seats. Councilmember Willis stated she doesn't like the hate that comes from representing the city on the board and maybe having residents represent the city would be better. Councilmember Thomas stated but what is the council there to do if not to represent the city? Councilmember Thomas stated she would prefer two representatives, one resident and one councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-10-24-2R APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON TO THE SESD.... BOARD STARTING JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028, COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE	AYE(4)	NAY (1)	APPROVED
COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS	AYE		
COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON	AYE		
COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT	NAY		
COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS	AYE		
COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON	AYE		

Mayor Haddock thanked Councilmember Abbott for all the years and time he has spent representing the city. He has done a great job and appreciates all he has done.

92
93 3. **RESOLUTION 23-10-24-1R CANCEL ELECTION, NO CONTESTED SEATS**

94 Mayor Haddock stated that the city has 3 council seats open for election and there are 3 residents
95 who are running unopposed. By state code if a seat is uncontested the city can opt to not have an
96 election and the seat is automatically appointed. This has been confirmed by the county and the
97 state. All the deadlines have passed to enter a race. The write in deadline has passed, any write-
98 ins at this point do not count. Even if a candidate gets 1 vote they are in. The city will save
99 \$5,000 to \$6000 by canceling the election. Does the council want to cancel the election?
100 Councilmember Willis stated even though it doesn't change the outcome there is something about
101 protecting the process. Councilmember Thompson stated this is difficult one he sees the value in
102 respecting that we are a democratic institution and should allow people to vote but struggles with
103 wasting \$5000-\$7000 when there can be no change in the outcome and why would he spend
104 \$7000 grand to get the same result that he gets with spending \$0. Councilmember Peterson asked
105 for confirmation that the ballots were already printed. Mayor Haddock stated they were, but they
106 would just not be mailed out. Councilmember Abbott stated there isn't anything else on the ballot
107 other than the city council seats. Councilmember Thomas stated she sees both sides.
108 Councilmember Abbott stated he heard from many residents that they didn't even know there was
109 an election. Councilmember Willis stated she had posted it on social media over and over.
110 Councilmember Thomas stated it would literally be throwing money away but still.
111 Councilmember Abbott stated Woodland Hills, until this last election, has never had an election
112 because they have not had any contested seats. Council asked the two residents in attendance one
113 resident was for canceling it and the other resident said yes but....They both saw both sides.
114 Mayor Haddock asked has there been any campaigning, any signs, or websites for those running?
115 Councilmember Thomas said no why would you? Councilmember Willis said why would they
116 incur the cost? Mayor Haddock stated Bingo. It was confirmed that all candidates have turned in
117 their financial disclosures and no one has spent any money.
118

119 COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO PASS RESOLUTION 23-10-14 1R TO
120 CANCEL THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED

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122 VOTE AYE (3) NAY 2
123 Mayor Haddock made the tie breaking vote APPROVED
124
125 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS NAY
126 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON ABSTAINED
127 COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT AYE
128 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS NAY
129 COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON AYE
130 MAYOR HADDOCK AYE
131

132 4. **RESOLUTION 23-10-24 3R PAYSON, REUSE AGREEMENT**

133 Mayor Haddock stated this is a reuse permit from Payson. Once the new sewer plant is built
134 Payson wants to reuse the Elk Ridge sewer wastewater in their power plant and as secondary
135 water. This is only a draft. The attorneys for Woodland Hills, Payson and Elk Ridge are still
136 working on this. Councilmember Abbott asked what Payson is going to pay Elk Ridge for the
137 reuse. One of Councilmember Abbott's frustrations is part of the reason Elk Ridge power costs
138 are high is because Payson said they no longer had the water necessary to run their power plant
139 even though they had the water to run the power plant. They are taking the water and sending it
140 out into the fields to the farmers from the sewer plant instead and taking the farmers' water and
141 using it for their growth. Payson failed to plan properly for their infrastructure. There is a value

for Elk Ridge's water, Payson is getting value from Elk Ridge water and at the very least Payson should knock Elk Ridge sewer rates down for our residents every month. Elk Ridge needs to spend the money to put a meter in the sewer line, so Elk Ridge knows how much water is going to the Payson Sewer plant, not only for this but for the purpose and intent of what Payson is charging Elk Ridge. They are charging Elk Ridge residents a higher rate for sewage than they charge their residents. This will not be resolved before I (Councilmember Abbott) am gone but strongly urge the council not to sell our birthright. Councilmember Thomas stated there needs to be more transparency there and Elk Ridge City needs to have a seat at the board. Mayor Haddock stated the Woodland Hills Mayor stated they should get at least what the water is worth after it is treated on the open market. Elk Ridge and Woodland Hills are paying for the treatment process. Elk Ridge can come up with a usage rate pretty easily by using the winter water base. Councilmember Abbott spoke with an engineer in the Payson sewer plant and since the sewer lines from Elk Ridge are newer and based on the condition of those lines, almost all the water is making it to the sewer plant so it should be pretty hard data; other words in the winter months if Elk Ridge sends 100,000 gallons Payson is getting at least 950,000 to 980,000 gallons. Elk Ridge should have the city engineer extrapolate what residents use per month. Councilmember Thompson stated he reached out to Ty Ellis to figure out the sewer usage previously and he said he would put a presentation together, council just needs to say when and he said he would do it. Councilmember Thomas suggested having a joint meeting with Payson. Discussion ensued on other items they could discuss at a joint meeting, such as water pressure, water rates along with the sewer rates.

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO TABLE RESOLUTION 23-10-24-3R
PAYSON REUSE PERMIT COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	APPROVED
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5. **FINANCIALS**

There were no questions or concerns.

6. **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, 2023**

COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR OCT. 10, 2023, WITH THE CORRECTION ON LINE 21 AND 77
COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	APPROVED
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COUNCILMEMBER ABBOTT MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS
SECONDED

Laura Oliver