

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 11, 2024**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This public hearing was held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council scheduled for **Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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 June 10, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Mayor Haddock

Council Members: Jared Peterson, Tanya Willis, Melanie Paxton, Cory Thompson, Charles Wixom

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

Public: Maureen Bushman, Larry Lee, Lisa Graham

OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION

Opening remarks were offered by Councilmember Paxton

Pledge lead by Councilmember Thompson

APPROVAL/AGENDA TIME FRAME

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA TIME
FRAME COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

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

Maureen Bushman No new updates the last meeting was a joint meeting with the City Council and are they finishing up the General Plan.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public comment

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Haddock opened the public hearing

RESOLUTION 24-06-11-1R TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Mayor Haddock stated this for the coming fiscal year that runs June 1, 2024, through July 30, 2025.

Councilmember Wixom asked about the interest rate being lower than the current year. Mayor Haddock stated revenue is estimated conservatively and thinks that number will end up being higher.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. FEDERAL FUNDING GRANT DISCUSSION

Mayor Haddock presented Mark McIntyre *Principal and Founder* and Brandon Bookout Co-Founder of Amplio Services– and are federal lobbyists the proposal is 6500 for a 90-day trial.

Mark McIntyre stated they want this to be a good partnership, so they have the trial period to make it easy for the city to fire them if it's not a good fit. They work with local governments and other types of nonprofits who don't have money to burn. There is an unprecedented amount of

federal funding flowing out of Washington DC for local governments especially rural local governments. All of the money they win for Elk Ridge will have been authorized and appropriated by the US Congress. He is a Ronald Reagan conservative, he is fiscally conservative which means every dollar they win will not add a dime to the federal budget. There are billions of dollars flowing to red states and they work for numerous entities all over the country. In Utah they have previously succeeded in Salt Lake, they currently represent Uintah Valley Technical College where they have achieved a 14-1 ROI. Elk Ridge as a local government has much more to market than a technical college at the federal level. Brandon Bookman stated there is a boat load of federal funding available for the city's priority needs. The mayor asked for them to highlight specifically federal support for both parks and trails. Their firm has a long history of securing major dollars for both parks and trails for local governments exactly like Elk Ridge. For example, they recently secured 5.7 million to construct a trail in a city in Oregon, in Massachusetts they secured \$700,000 for park improvements, in addition, for dollars that are available for construction there are also planning grants available in these categories to help fund engineering and environmental assessment needs that need to take place before construction begins. They routinely help secure planning grants because it helps to fund those projects the city is going to do anyway as a project unfolds. Their firm performs the lion share of the work. Local governments retain agencies like ours because everyone in the city has a day job. Councilmember Wixom asked what the timeline is typically from start to finish in this process. Answer- It is different for each grant. It takes 1 year to identify the grant, prepare the grant, and receive the grant. We do as many grants during the course of a year and as many congressional earmarks through an appropriation cycle as the city internal capacity allows. The government will spend several trillion dollars of our taxpayer money. The bad news is it requires patience. The bottom line is at the end of each year either we deliver a good return on investment, or you throw us Utah Lake. We have spoken with your mayor and have done a little homework about your city, and we know that just like your professional staff each of you has a day job and the bottom line is the bottom line. We exist to achieve a strong ROI for the governments that we serve. Councilmember Willis asked if the contract is \$6,500 a month? Mayor Haddock confirmed yes, it's \$19,500 for the first 90 days. Councilmember Willis asked for clarification that the city realistically shouldn't expect a return in 90 days. Answer - If you look at the federal funding action plan you will see that there are very specific deliverables. In that first 90 days they meet with all of the key people in the state, the city's professional staff, all of you who have jurisdiction over your party funding needs. We are going to go deep into the different needs of the city and create a comprehensive federal funding strategy and the centerpiece of the strategy is a federal funding grid. The city will be able to see in black and white what the grants they can identify, what is the awards ceiling, what are the fundable activities, and when are they due. You can imagine based on those due dates that a very specific action plan develops immediately. The city will be able to see what the actual potential return on investment is based on how many billions of dollars those grants represent. In those first 90 days if there is a federal grant that is forecast to be open or is open, they are not going to wait until day 91 to attack it. They will work with the city's team to draft the application. This is a highly measurable accountable scope of work. Councilmember Willis stated that is probably the part that seems the most valuable for the city because we knew federal money was coming available and they let us know on Friday and it was due on Tuesday. Forecasting and projecting out when a grant is coming available, and the application is already being drafted is what the city can't do on our own. The key element on the scope of work for their firm in serving Elk Ridge is that forecasting component so most folks set their hair on fire when there is a grant opportunity due in a couple days or even 60 days. We forecast opportunities 6, 7, 9 months in advance so they can start working on those applications and ensure that as they work through the application development process, they check every single one of the competitive preference priorities they can and ensure the application is award worthy. Councilmember Wixom asked if the grants have to be approved by congress or is there

an administration arm that does that? Answer- The competitive grants come from each individual agency, such as if we pursue funds for trails or parks and rec from either the Department of Agriculture or The Department of the Interior. Congressional earmarks, which effectively are grants that members of congress write into the appropriations bills, come directly from congress. Councilmember Wixom asked how often does that happen, is it an ongoing process throughout the year, is it their fiscal year? Answer- Under the US constitution the sole power of the federal purse resides with the US Congress. Under the constitution the congress is required to pass 12 separate appropriation bills each year. Right now, the congress is working FY25 (fiscal year) those dollars flow down from Capitol Hill to the different agencies and there are annual federal grant programs that they will target on behalf of Elk Ridge. They will pursue dollars from both of those categories in competitive grants and directly from the congress. Councilmember Wixom which items such as infrastructure versus trails versus water allocations etc. are the toughest and most competitive that you have found? Answer- this is my 39 legislative cycle, and he has taken the word easy out of the firm's vocabulary. All of these dollars are competitive which by definition means all of these dollars are difficult to get, they are all competitive. One of the most competitive is the Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity raise grant program which has an award ceiling of \$25 million- one their clients was awarded \$17.2 million and is proud to say that their firm has won 4 raise grants. In the context for the most competitive program that Elk Ridge can apply for is probably raise grants which their firm has a pretty good track record. All 4 of those grants were for red states. All 4 of those grants were for states that Joe Biden is not going to step one foot into. Councilmember Peterson asked if Elk Ridge is successful in getting a grant, what is usually the process? Answer- Each grant is different, long story short there is a draw down process they help the city do so Elk Ridge gets the dollars as quickly and expeditiously as possible. Once the agency or congress awards the grant, they want the project implemented as quickly as possible. Councilmember Willis asked if they make sure everything is in compliance every step of the way after that? Answer- Yes. Councilmember Paxman asked if they ever had a city that you have not won a grant for? Answer- there have been cities in the past during the first 90 days they decided mutually that it was not a good fit either because their projects were not fundable, or they lacked the internal capacity to maximize their services. Councilmember Wixom asked in addition to the monthly fee, are there any other fees charged or a part of the % of the grant taken? Answer- Elk Ridge will have a crystal-clear budget certainty, there are no work-related expenses, there are no extra fees. They work on a monthly fee because it is illegal for an agency like ours to be paid anything out of the grant. Councilmember Thompson would like to see the actual contract. Answer- they will get a contract to the city to review.

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION 24-06-11-1R
TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON
SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) ALL APPROVED

The council was impressed by the firm but would like to look at some other firms to compare costs and resumes.

2. WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

Tabled- The presenter had a conflict and will reschedule.

3. ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-06-11-1R TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Mayor Haddock stated Republic Services raised rates last year which the city just covered and there will be another 3.5% increase as well as an increase from the transfer station. Discussion ensued on the number of cans in the city and cost per cans. Councilmember Thompson stated an option for the city setting up its own recycling station. Councilmember Willis created a spreadsheet on cans and rates and discussed the cost of a second can and recycle cans and what needs to increase to cover the \$60,000 shortfall and expenses. Council agreed to increase all extra cans and recycle to the price of the first cans of \$14.75 which will make all cans the same price. This will be on the next meeting agenda. Councilmember Paxman will look into recycling options. Sunrise Engineering does the city building inspections and plan reviews and has a price increase on their contract renewal. Discussion ensued on shopping around for engineering services and raising the costs of building permit fees. Councilmember Wixom will research a few engineering firms. Discussion ensued on including grant expenses and will do budget amendments during the year as needed. Discussion ensued on the fire department and pursuing grants and retention of volunteers and raising wages. The budget has to be approved by June 30. Options are passing the current budget and do amendments as needed, or do Truth and taxation- this increases city portion of property taxes,

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-06-11-1R
TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR WITH THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE
REVENUE FOR GARBAGE COUNCILMEMBER WIXOM SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (3)	NAY (2)	APPROVED
Councilmember Paxman	AYE		
Councilmember Wixom	AYE		
Councilmember Peterson	AYE		
Councilmember Willis	NAY		
Councilmember Thomspson	NAY		

There was no motion to go to Truth and Taxation

4. ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-06-11-2R THE CERTIFIED TAX RATE

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-06-11-2R THE
CERTIFIED TAX RATE COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED.

VOTE	AYE (4)	NAY (1)	APPROVED
Councilmember Paxman	AYE		
Councilmember Wixom	AYE		
Councilmember Peterson	NAY		
Councilmember Willis	AYE		
Councilmember Thomspson	AYE		

5. APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 23, 2024

Correction on Councilmember Thompson as being late line 13 along with punctuation. Line 20
correction to Wixom, punctuation on line 40.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR APRIL
23, 2024, WITH STATED CORRECTIONS COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	ALL APPROVED
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202 COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER
203 WILLIS SECONDED

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205 VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) ALL APPROVED
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Laura Oliver