

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2024**

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, May 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM preceded by a worksession at 6:00pm**. 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 May 13, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Jared Peterson, Mayor Protemp

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

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

Public: Maureen Bushman, Jan Christensen, Mark Christensen, Miranda Vanderhorn, Liz Moeller, Larry Lee, Lisa Graham, Dani Schultz

WORK SESSION

SESD PRESENTATION

Mark Holdaway and Dan Elsworth of SESD stated a year ago SESD implemented a substantial rate increase and there was a lot of misinformation about the increase. Mark Holdaway went through a spread sheet and explained what happened to force the increase. There are many different sources used to generate power. About 5 years ago a California Company spread to the neighboring states and started using those resources to create energy for California and that started pushing up the prices. In 2023 power prices went crazy. A Nebo gas plant near Payson had to shut down for significant repairs, which left SESD exposed to the open market. Gas and other prices also shot up at that time. At that time SESD was paying 18 cents per kilowatt of power, which typically was 7-8 cents per kilowatt. SESD had to use its reserves and it nearly killed SESD. Material costs had gone up, transformer cost doubled. In the last 5 years power poles went from \$5000 a pole to \$17,000 a pole. There were supply chain issues due to the pandemic that affected the cost of everything. Because of everything the board decided it had to implement 40% increase. This last winter was a good water year and which helped stabilize the cost. SESD forecasts prices to remain stable through the year. SESD purchased a flat block (?) to help maintain prices. The open market is expected to go up due to the hot summer that is expected. California is also expected to remain in the SESD's open market. The renewal power that goes through a converter is damaging transformers and regulators nationwide. The small modular nuclear project to be built in Idaho is dead at the moment. SESD has been working very hard to purchase power from other sources to keep things stabilized. Coal was being decommissioned all over the place until the co-ops stood up and said no we will not shut down. Rocky Mountain Power was scheduled to close a lot of their power plants but because of the legislation that was past implementing a rigorous process to ensure grid reliability, coal mines cannot shut down, so they left the plants open. SESD has made power purchase contacts that will keep things hopefully stabilized Anyone getting solar needs to get a battery. Solar rates compared to Rocky Mountain Power is identical. The kilowatt allowed went up from 10kw to 25 kw. SESD power rate was a little higher than Rocky Mountain before the increase, now SESD is higher than everyone. Rocky Mountain is getting ready to raise its rates which will be equal to SESD's. Everyone else is catching up and will be as high as SESD. Council would like to put tips in newsletter of ways to be more efficient and save money.

52 **OPENING REMARKS– INVITATION**

53 Opening remarks were offered by Councilmember Thompson

54 Pledge lead by Councilmember Paxton

55 **ROLL CALL**

56 Mayor: Mayor Haddock

57 Council Members: Jared Peterson, Tanya Willis, Melanie Paxton, Cory Thompson, Absent

58 Charles Wixom

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

60 Public: Maureen Bushman, Jan Christensen, Mark Christensen, Miranda Van Horn, Liz Moeller,

61 Larry Lee, Lisa Graham, Dani Schultz

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63 **APPROVAL/AGENDA TIME FRAME**

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65 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA TIME FRAME

66 COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED

67 VOTE AYE (4) NAY (0) APPROVED Absent Charles Wixom

68 **PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

69 Maureen Bushman the public hearing was May 2. Maureen went through what all was involved in
70 drafting the General Plan over the last year and recommended the council approve it.

71 **PUBLIC FORUM**

72 Jan Van Horn – Would like the road from Canyon View to Sunset opened back up. She does not want the
73 large development sign and thinks it would be a dangerous place for one.

74 Mark Christensen– people are driving over the curb to get to Sunset and locations beyond. Thinks a large
75 permanent development sign would make that area not seem like part of Elk Ridge.

76 Miranda Van Horn-would like to open the road as well. Is strongly opposed to a sign.

77 Liz Moeller – has been trying to understand the council and citizens' view. Like the changes planning
78 commission has made to the general plan regarding possible trails

79
80 Councilmember Peterson stated it was closed during the development process because of the difficulty in
81 creating design there that would meet intersection guideline for safety for visibility issues. The engineers
82 turned down every other design option.

83 Mayor Haddock stated this plan was approved through the subdivision process and any changes would
84 have to go through Planning Commission first.

85
86 **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**

87 **1. FRAUD ASSESSMENT**

88 Councilmember Willis played a short video about separation of duties. Councilmember
89 Peterson stated there are 3 items on here that need a written policy. Curtis Roberts is
90 currently doing internal audits; is he internal? He thinks some of this is already in place
91 and recommends putting these items on the next agenda.

92
93 **2. GENERAL PLAN**

94 Councilmember Peterson recommends having a work session on the general plan.

95 Maureen Bushman and the Planning Commission worked on this for more than a year
96 and does not want to rush it. Councilmember Willis is concerned about the moderate-

income housing unit. Andrew Jackson stated he will be happy to come back for the work session.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO TABLE THE AGENDA ITEM AND HAVE A WORK SESSION ON THE GENERAL PLAN COUNCILMEMBER PAXTON SECONDED.

VOTE (4) AYE (0) NAY ALL APPROVED Absent Charles Wixom

3. 2024-2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mayor Haddock stated all the additions from the previous meeting has been added except for the road improvements at 11200 and Canyon View widening. Councilmember Willis would like the employee cost of living adjustment to increase to 4% and add some funds for the website.

VOTE (4) AYE (0) NAY ALL APPROVED Absent Charles Wixom

Laura Oliver