

**ELK RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 27, 2025**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

This regularly scheduled meeting and public hearing of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 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 May 23, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor: Robert Haddock

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

Others: Royce Swensen, *City Recorder*, Laura Oliver, *Deputy Recorder*, Seth Waite *Fire Chief*

Public: Kelly McIlrath, Larry Lee, Maureen Bushman, Lisa Graham, Lillian Kump

OPENING – Lisa Graham

PLEDGE - Fire Chief Seth Waite

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

VOTE                      AYE ( 4)                      NAY (0)    Approved    Absent - Cory Thompson

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

There was no update

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Kelly Mc Ilrath stated this past week there was a situation regarding a resident who was open burning who had extreme flames. He has concerns about burning in back yards and would like the council to ban burning in back yards and move to clearing and chipping.

Lillian Kump from Tabitha's Way Food Pantry is celebrating its 15-year anniversary with a block party and a food drive and would like Elk Ridge to participate in helping with the food drive.

The Mayor and Council are happy to help with advertising, food bins at the city office and will set up space for Tabitha's Way at the city celebration.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. FIRE CHIEF WAITE ANNUAL REPORT**

Mayor Haddock welcomed and turned the time over to Fire Chief Seth Waite.

Fire Chief Waite stated that currently the city has ISO is a 4Z valuation which good. Fire calls were up 30%, EMS calls were up 16%. Over the past 3 years calls were up 100% and have

48 increased every year. With the city's growth the fire and EMS department calls are increasing and  
49 26% of calls are from the care center. Councilmember Willis asked if the calls from the 55 plus  
50 community were tracked. The Fire Chief will add the community to his tracking. The total number  
51 of personnel is down. The fire department is having a hard time getting people to join.  
52 Councilmember Wixom asked if there was a database or something where certified EMTs or  
53 firefighters can be found? The Fire Chief stated there is not. He has asked individuals who are  
54 certified for EMS or who are employed elsewhere, and the response is "I do this every day I don't  
55 want to do it when I get home" and he gets that. Even paying for the training isn't working.  
56 Councilmember Paxton asked if the Fire Chief has talked with other communities and if they are  
57 struggling as well. Fire Chief stated all communities are struggling, some are even worse off  
58 than Elk Ridge; Salem and Payson are struggling, even the cities that are full time. Families are  
59 busy with children's activities, work and don't feel like they can afford to or have the time to  
60 volunteer. Fire Chief stated if calls keep increasing and the city loses 2 more EMT's the  
61 department won't be able to respond to anything. Currently 3-4 of our EMT's out of 9 are covering  
62 all of the shifts up to about 85%. EMT's have cut back to 1 EMT on call which is 60 shifts, they  
63 are doing flexible schedules as much as they can. Councilmember Paxton asked what the city is  
64 going to do if the Fire Chief ever retired? The Fire Chief has tried to groom and train individuals  
65 to take over, he isn't going to be here forever. Everyone is busy; he retired and is wondering how  
66 he had time for his day job. There was legislation passed recently that if you volunteer to make  
67 medical calls and respond to 20% of the city's call you can get insurance through a grant, which  
68 they are working on now and have had several requests for enrollment for the insurance. The fire  
69 chief stated he has not done anything with the pay scale and asked if council is ok with him  
70 adjusting for a cost of 3% living increase or what would the council like him to do?  
71 Councilmember Willis stated that the increase needs to be bigger and look at the long-term  
72 insurance due exposure to harmful elements. Councilmember Wixom stated the council needs to  
73 determine if the cost-of-living increases should be automatic or if increases need to be requested.  
74 The Fire Chief stated his budget is the same as last year and does not have a cost-of-living increase  
75 and they have been staying within their budget but would like to add the cost-of-living increase.  
76 Councilmember Peterson stated this is the fire chief's budget and put in what is needed.  
77 Councilmember Willis would like to see at least a 5% increase. The fire chief stated what is the  
78 dollar amount that makes people happy? The fire department increased the amount several years  
79 ago and it did nothing. Councilmember Wixom asked what other cities that are struggling are  
80 doing to try and correct the problem? Fire Chief stated they are having the same problem as Elk  
81 Ridge: no one new is moving in to draw from, everyone is busy. It is not just Utah either.  
82 Councilmember Peterson stated it's everywhere in the trades and agrees there should be an  
83 increase, he doesn't know what that is but yes. The Fire Chief will get a revised budget to council  
84 for the public hearing on the tentative budget.

85  
86 The Fire Chief explained that fire permits have been issued since he has lived here, which is a very  
87 long time. Over the last 5 years or so before the Bald Mountain Fire, the Fire Department has been  
88 working with the State with CWPP which is a way for cities to do in-kind things to meet a  
89 requirement, an insurance premium, to help the city fight a fire. In 2018 the city was able to get all  
90 that money back, even though it was a federal fire, because the city had met the state agreement.  
91 Because of the burn permits and all of the things that were done last year, our matching funds to

the state are \$5,400. By process, in excess of \$11,000 back to the state in in-kind labor, 85% of that was burn permits. Fire Chief takes the burn permits based upon the hours the individuals want to burn, I credit it 8 hours, do a time on that and multiply that out and then the burn and all the clearing time and burning time, it basically doubled the insurance premium to the state because of all the things the city is doing within the community. The Fire Department started Chipper Days this year, The state chipping crews on the wildland crews have been chipping bush and limbs residents have cleared from their lot. This is all paid for by a grant to the state. Residents have to sign up and follow the requirements. The state wants to see in kind hours- how long they were clearing which really counts towards the city's monetary requirement. Councilmember Paxton asked how the Fire Chief gets an account of all of that. The Fire Chief stated its all online with links on the city website for residents to sign up. I run reports off of those permits. Councilmember Peterson stated burn permits chipping go into your reports and are beneficial. Burn permits are good for 1 day but they can burn as many days as they want, they will get a permit for each day. Fire Chief went through the burn permit process. The Fire Department gets calls all the time of open burn fires, in fact they answered the call on the resident who was referred to earlier had all the safety precautions in place and was better prepared than most. Councilmember Peterson asked if he thought open burns were appropriate in all parts of the city. There are some areas where lots are smaller, and homes are close. The Fire Chief stated based on the conversations and discussions, since that call, he plans on speaking with that resident to see if there is anything that can be done to mitigate risks. Councilmember Peterson is all about safety and property rights but does not think open burns should be allowed in some areas of town. Councilmember Wixom stated that maybe individuals can be denied permits for repeated burn issues. Fire Chief Waite stated if there are people who feel they have the room and can burn safely then he does not care if they get a permit. The bigger the pile the bigger the fire, bigger piles should be broken down into smaller piles and burn over several days. The city gets so much benefit on the back end. By popular demand he does not have a list. There are people who have had problems in the past who he has asked to be told they have a permit so they can help mitigate instead of banning it completely. Councilmember Willis wants to red list those who are problems. Councilmember Peterson stated it is a matter of risk versus reward. Mayor Haddock asked if there could be size restrictions on the diameter of brush on the permit. Fire Chief stated they got a call on a totally legitimate burn that someone saw from the highway, he gets calls on smokers. If the council feels they need to legislate this then that's fine. The next open burn is in the fall and set by the County Fire Marshall. The council will discuss this further at a future meeting.

## **2. E BIKES SCOOTERS CITY CODE**

Mayor Haddock turned the time over to Deputy Hanson regarding ordinance on E Bikes etc. Deputy Monson stated Salem City has some really good rules regarding E Bikes which the city should look at, She also thinks the golf cart ordinance needs to be tightened up, so they follow the same rules as motorcycles. Motorcycles, golf carts E bikes have to follow the same road rules as a car. If she stops someone once, she gives them an official warning, the second time they get a ticket. E bikes have to follow the rules and are not permitted to go over 20 on the street. Bicycles can roll stop signs but even they have to follow the speed limit. Even trails have speed limits. It's difficult to know the different classifications and thinks the rules need to be simplified and pertain to all bikes. Golf carts are not a huge issue, but the code is worded poorly. The biggest problem is

speeding with E bikes, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. The council will work on code, and this will be on the next agenda.

**3. CANYON VIEW DR BELOW HUDSON SIGNAGE**

Mayor Haddock would like there to be no parking allowed along Canyon View Dr. below Hudson. Councilmember Peterson stated this road was created with no driveway entrances and is meant to be a thoroughfare and would like there to be no parking allowed along Canyon View Dr. below Hudson.

COUNCILMEMBER PAXTON MOTIONED TO PLACE NO PARKING SIGNS ALONG  
CANYON VIEW DR BELOW HUDSON COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (4)	NAY (0)	Approved	Absent - Cory
Thompson				

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

There were no concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS  
SECONDED

Vote	aye (4)	nay (0)	Approved	Absent - Cory Thompson
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Laura Oliver