

**ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2026**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This regularly scheduled meeting and public hearing of the Elk Ridge City Council was scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 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 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Robert Haddock

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

Others: Royce Swensen, *City Recorder*,

Public: Larry Lee, Michelle Burch, Bryan Wadlington, Rita Wadlington, Kristie Terronato, Candace Gunn, Terry Gunn, Tonya Silva, Dave Olsen, Penny Olsen, Greg Shelton, Marcia Brown, Lisa Barker, Mazzy Barker, Cory Knuteson, Lindsey Knutson, Jason Prestwich, Lyndi Prestwich, Carolyn Cross, Jennifer Tedjamulia, Oriana Kwok, Andy May, Kyle Gulley, Brittany, Robert Dickens, Whitney Elton, Dagon Elton, Kimberly Wagner, Jen Morgan, Brittany Dupaix, Will McCammon, Diane McCammon, Pat Small, Scott Chamberlain, Allyson Chamberlain, Miguel Pomar, Gina Pomar, Dani Schultz, Lauren Wbster, Spencer Nelson, Kelsey Cain, Burt Harvey

Opening – Andy May

Pledge – Cory Thompson

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND ADJUST THE TIMEFRAME TO 7:02 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

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

Dani Schultz stated the meeting last week was on Highlands phase 2 regarding the intersection of Canyon View Dr and Meadow Lar. It was passed depending on city council approving the permission to work on Canyon View Dr which belongs to the city.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public comment

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED CEMETERY

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PROPOSED CEMETERY FOR ELK RIDGE CITY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS
SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

Councilmember Peterson stated the city is doing information gathering and would like those who speak to state whether you are for a cemetery in Elk Ridge, or against the proposed location and if you don't, where do you think would be a better option. This is very early in the discussion, the council did a public hearing to hear comments. Councilmember Willis stated council has heard from a lot of people with an interest in Elk Ridge having its own cemetery and this location has been brought up before. Council wanted to hear from the residents before any money, research or time was spent on the location. Nothing has been done, no money has been spent.

The wildflower park location goes from Sky Hawk Dr to 11200 which is 6.672 acres.

Michelle Burch - 8 years ago people were complaining about weeds, She took it upon herself to make it a citizen zoned (owned?) park instead of asking the city to maintain it and water it. She looked at it as a spark that would be beautiful in 10-10 years, it's been a slow progress. She was frustrated to learn about the cemetery in a letter. It has been heavily maintained by the citizens, planting daffodils and other flowers. It is not watered and would take 4 years for the ground to settle. And 15-20 years to rebuild the soil. It was dedicated to open space. In 2022 a water reduction plan was signed to reduce water by 10%. The wildfire park does not use water. A cemetery would use more water. It hurts that it is being taken away. We care, we want open space, we don't want a cemetery and don't think it is the right place for a cemetery.

Bryan Wadlington - Lives directly across from the wildflower park and is strongly opposed to putting a cemetery there. Cemeteries are built on the outskirts and are built around them if people choose. Property values drop by 12%, Sky Hawk Dr is a residential street not a thoroughfare. Holidays like memorial day would be terrible. Revenue will dry up. The landscaping crew for the city is stretched thin. He doesn't have a proposal for you, that is what you were elected to do. Dave Olsen - Lives next to the wildflower park. There is no room for parking. There is no room on the surrounding streets to park. They enjoy watching the kids with their scooters and bikes. Playing in the park.

Penny Olson- All day long there are people walking through the park. A cemetery may accommodate that but eventually it will need to be closed off due to vandalism is always a problem in cemeteries. The walkway goes all the way from 11200 to Rocky Mountain Dr. You would be cutting out a long walkway.

Greg Shelton- Thanks the council for letting them speak. He worked for the developer at the time and that is when he chose to live here. Since 2015 the residents have been talking to different councils with different ideas that all got stone blocked. The residents all gave up and under Michelle's direction the residents started to maintain it themselves. Michelle has put in 100's of hours as well as other residents. Turning it into something else would be a slap in the face for something the citizens have done. As far as needing a cemetery, he's been to many planning commission meetings where people have brought this idea up by residents. It needs to be built where people can decide if they want to build next to a cemetery.

90 Lisa Barker - she agrees with everyone here. Her house backs up to the park. She has a 7-page
91 petition from 2019 when a parking lot was proposed in the wildflower park of people opposed to
92 development in this space. They don't want parking lots, roads, or cars. They built next to
93 designated open space, a cemetery is not consistent with the character of the neighborhood. Open
94 space is a prized commodity, once developed you can never get it back. They are not opposed to
95 improving the aesthetics of the park. A lot of improvements have been made with the wildflowers
96 and other things. Trees, landscaping and other beautification measures would be welcome. They
97 were told in 2019 by Mayor Ellis that there was not enough water for landscaping in this
98 meadow. In the May 14, 2019, city council he stated that water was our number 1 precious
99 resource and responsibility and is confused that now, in 2026, we now have the water to facilitate
100 a whole cemetery. The path going through the park is highly consistently used. There is a lot of
101 dog waste and should be taken into consideration. All the surveys state open space is a priority.
102 Let's just take care of what we have.

103 Mazzi Barker - they have lived here since 2017. The location, water, including the contradictions
104 of city and state officials about water shortages, maintenance, density, diminishing quality of life
105 in the first phases of building with lights, dust etc. are all reasons against a cemetery. The trail
106 goes through Elk Ridge Meadows from 11200 to Sky Hawk Dr. and across to the park, Everyday
107 families, kids, dogs walk on this trail for exercise and enjoyment of the mountains all around us.
108 A cemetery would be an obstruction to this trail. Elk Ridge promotes open space, and this is
109 precisely why her family moved here. The council should take the citizens' opinions into
110 consideration and from what she is gathering they do not approve.

111 Lyndsey Knutsen - Her house corners that field. They came from Riverside Ca. They bought their
112 home and the biggest factor was the field. They were told it would never be developed, her kids
113 could play outside safely. The park goes from park to park. It is a happening field, there is frisbee
114 golf and people are constantly coming through that field. We are constantly losing open space.
115 Up in that corner storage units are going in and now we are going to be sandwiched between a
116 storage unit and a cemetery. What will happen to our property value? Everything is just getting
117 filled in. A lot of people may feel like this field is a blight, but we all love it who live around it.
118 People travel to the field to play frisbee golf course. She really doesn't want a cemetery there, she
119 is opposed to it.

120 Jason Prestwich - They have lived there for 10 years. The biggest selling point was there was
121 nothing behind them. It's full of flowers in the springs and people walking along the trail. Putting
122 a cemetery there is not a good idea. He is opposed to a cemetery and would like to leave to park
123 the way it is.

124 Caroline Cross - She does not live in that area but drives to it to use the trail. She recently
125 purchased a home here and her biggest concern is losing the open space and the water. The
126 upkeep of keeping the grass green is wrong for the residents around it. Being new to the area she
127 does not know of a better location.

128 Chris Butterfield - He is not opposed to a cemetery, the city has been here long enough, there are
129 people who have lived here for a long time and would like a cemetery but thinks that the city
130 should look for another location. He thinks a cemetery would be beneficial to the city but is
131 concerned about maintenance and costs.

132 Andy May - He was part of the team that recently worked on the frisbee golf course so that
133 frisbees wouldn't go into the yards. He didn't get down to that neck of the woods as often as he

would like. He does not have a cemetery plot, and he would like to have one someday. He has lived here for 30 years now and is in favor of a cemetery. He doesn't know the ideal bullet points of what would make a piece of land a good cemetery, but he is sure there is one. He would like a systematic, proactive, research project done. What are those bullet points: how big does it need to be, how many plots does there need to be, how much parking is needed, how much traffic will make it? All of the things that have been brought up that doesn't take our parks, trails and open space. He feels that is the best way to go about it .

Whitney Elton — Live on Bear Hollow since 2012 and is not against a cemetery but is against that location for a cemetery. She understands that the park is private open space which is intended to preserve land and recreation for community use. They built their home or moved there because it was supposed to stay that way and remain open space. Converting it into a cemetery would change the use of the land. As a park or open space, it allows for activity, recreation, walking, biking, frisbee golf, to run, play and explore that is not on other people's property. You can walk in a cemetery, it's just a different type of land use and would serve a purpose but many activities would not be appropriate to do. Traffic and parking is usually across, there is usually soccer games, or used to be, it is going to get really congested. She is concerned about maintenance and water and thinks the city needs to look at other city owned property.

Brittany Dupaix - She is against it as well and agrees with everything that has been said. There is now a storage unit next to us. It needs to be on the outskirts of town. This is not the best location.

Allyson Chamberlain- Is opposed to a cemetery in this location for all the reasons that have been stated.

Dani Schultz- She lives on the other side of town and understands their feelings. What are the costs to maintain that? Is there any type of government oversight, the city just spent money on fixing the frisbee golf which is being used more and more. She is neither for or against, these are things to think about. Whenever a cemetery is picked up water doesn't need to be an issue, you can have an amazing cemetery with native grasses, low water, low maintenance, that would better fit the surrounding community.

Lauren Webster - lives on Bear Hollow. The retention basin takes up a third of the area. Is that going to stay it usually has water in it, when we have water. It's not a very good space and doesn't think it's big enough for a cemetery with a retention basin and parking and doesn't think it will be well maintained.

Spencer Nelsen - has lived here since 2010. That open space was originally part of an HOA, and it sat dormant for a number of years. There was a petition to deed it over to the city with a stipulation that it would remain open space. Is that going to arm that stipulation if a cemetery is put there. That is up to how you want to argue and twist it and justify it however you want. He is very opposed to it as well as his wife. They walk on it regularly and enjoy the space and doesn't think it is a good fit. He isn't opposed to a cemetery, but that location doesn't fit for all the reasons stated. It's important to remember the stipulation that it should remain open space and be utilized and it is robbing that if a cemetery is put there.

Kelsey Cane- Has been a resident here for 25 years and was surprised to hear a cemetery was being talked about. The cemetery has been talked about for many years. Once these big spaces are gobbled up and once they are gone, they're gone. We have time here that we could do a cemetery and if we are going to do it then we better do it. He wants to echo what Andy May said, let's find the best place. There is no water issue in Elk Ridge, there is no drought in Elk Ridge, that's BS.

Our water doesn't come from reservoirs here it comes from wells. If we need more water drill wells.

Burt Harvey - He lives near the park. He is not opposed to a cemetery, it's a really good idea but doesn't think there is enough room for graves once roads, curb and gutter go in. From a property tax standpoint, he works with property tax every single day. There are 2 phases to this, there is the development phase which has to be paid for and there is significant infrastructure that needs to go in that is not cheap. Then there is maintenance. If the city wants to build a cemetery through a bond or special service district or a simple tax increase, we are still talking about a tax increase in property taxes. If a city were to find a better location, one that meets the criteria and is not in the middle of an established neighborhood then we may be supportive of an increase to pay for a cemetery. Right now leave it alone, it's a wonderful space, it's highly utilized. Let's find a better place and do it fast before things get more expensive.

Councilmember Wixom asked for a raise of hands of those who live next to the park.

Councilmember Paxton stated she agrees with everyone and thinks the city needs to find land on the outskirts of town and go into a private-public partnership and have someone else come in and maintain it versus the city running it. There are a lot of options of private property of people that are in our community that she would love to approach.

Councilmember Peterson stated he spoke with Payson, Salem and Provo and that the existing and projected growth would need 3.5 acres to sustain for 75 years. The cost is about 15% by residents, development is offset by buying the plots, The normal parks are subsidized 100%, a cemetery would be less. There are opening and closing costs and the city sets that which also offsets costs. If you double stack you could use less land.

Resident- The city could look out of the box and do something less conventional. They are doing so many different things all over the world and it might be worth investigating.

Resident -does the city know what percentage of the city wants a cemetery?

Councilmembers- There are many requests for a cemetery. There has been no survey yet to find out. Right now, this is preliminary, and that is the reason for the public hearing so that council can hear from the residents.

Resident - They have family in Salem and would rather pay the non-resident fee once then pay in property tax year after year. A cemetery isn't essential and how many residents are pushing this 10% ?

Councilmember Wixom- Elk Ridge gets about 10% of the property taxes residents pay. The majority go to schools and other things.

Resident- He is 93 and is looking for his next home. He has lived here since 1998. He has watched the expansion, there used to be a lot of open space. They could look out over the bluff

and none of that down there where you live. We appreciate you and glad you are here. Right now, over 30% of us are over 65. We are looking for a place we would like to stay here. We appreciate the young people, but we would also like some thought as to where we are going to be next.

Mayor Haddock thanked everyone for coming

Councilmember Willis thanked everyone for coming and thinks the message is clear that the city needs to keep looking.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	Approved
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COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR
RESOLUTION 26-06-23-1R FOR THE FINAL AMENDED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026
COUNCILMEMBER

Mayor Haddock went through the budget and pointed out any changes. Discussion on parks and pickle ball courts ensued. Discussion ensued on Xpress Bill Pay and other options. There were no changes to the Amended Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER WIXOM MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
FINAL AMENDED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	Approved
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AGENDA ITEMS

1. CEMETERY DISCUSSION

Jared Peterson stated the residents do not agree that it is a good spot and he does not disagree. When he and Charles walked the park, there are people that extended their yard into the park, there is construction debris, grass clippings, there is a chicken coop, a rock structure, retaining walls on the park property which is city property. The Public Works Director has to ask permission from a resident to mow that park and a rock garden spiral that makes it impossible to mow. The city needs to look at the ordinances and what is required in mowing weeds and possibly modifying them. Letters need to go to those items that need to be corrected. There are no deed restrictions as per the deed that was found on the Utah County Recorder.

COUNCILMEMBER WIXOM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-06-23-1R
AMENDED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED

VOTE	AYE (5)	NAY (0)	Approved
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2. RESOLUTION 26-06-23-1R FIRE WORKS

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-06-23-2R
BANNING ALL FIREWORKS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2026, COUNCILMEMBER
PAXTON SECONDED
VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

3. RESOLUTION 26-06-23-1R THE 2026-2026 FINAL AMENDED BUDGET

COUNCILMEMBER WIXOM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE FINAL AMENDED
BUDGER COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED
VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

4. CANYON VIEW ROAD WIDENING EXCEPTIONS DISCUSSION AND MOTION

Discussion ensued on the existing retaining walls and trees. The width of the road and the trails
will need to be narrower a few feet if the oldest trees and retaining wall are to be preserved.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTIONED GO TO PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE CANYON VIEW ROAD
WIDENING PROJECT AND ALLOW THE PAVEMENT TO GO 2 FEET NARROWER, GO
UP TO 2 FEET NARROWER ON THE TRAIL, CHANGE THE TRAIL FROM CONCRETE
TO ASHALT COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS SECONDED
VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

5. FINANCIL REVIEW

There were no concerns.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR MAY 26,
2026, COUNCILMEMBER PAXTON SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN COUNCILMEMBER PAXTON
SECONDED

VOTE AYE (5) NAY (0) Approved

Laura Oliver