ELK RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 4, 2015

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

This regularly scheduled Meeting of the Elk Ridge City Council, was scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM**; this meeting was preceded by **a City Council Work Session Meeting at 6:30 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 these Meetings, were provided previously to the Payson Chronicle, 145 E. Utah Ave, Payson, Utah, and to the members of the Governing Body.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Hal Shelley
Council Members: Nelson Abbott, Paul Squires, Brian Burke, Dale Bigler, Brittany Thompson
Others: Royce Swensen, *Recorder*, Jan Butler, *City Clerk*
Public: Becky Shelley, Joanne Crook, Paul Crook, Katherine Gerber, Roy Gerber, Jim Chase, Anita Ault, Dan Thulin, Maureen Thulin

OPENING REMARKS

6:30 pm

Mayor Shelley welcomed all to the work session of the council and introduced Jan Butler as the newly hired City Clerk.

WORK MEETING/CITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:35 pm 1. Proposed Tax Increase in preparation for the upcoming Truth in Taxation meeting.

Mayor Shelley stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed 25% tax increase, noting that the people were informed of a potential 25% maximum tax increase. All citizens received an individual notice. Elk Ridge City is proposing to increase its property tax revenue. The Elk Ridge City tax on a $280,000 residence would increase from $628.32 to 785.40 which is an increase of $157 for a business, everything else will be residential in nature. His own tax would increase about $60 a year.

A $280,000 home would have about a $7.20 a month increase. The increase of certified tax rate would generate an additional $26,000 more than last year, attributed to growth. If the City went with the proposed tax increase there would be an increase of $71,000 total not in addition to the $26,000. It's a projected amount that is usually higher because it is estimated lower than actually occurs.

The city last year was within about $8,000 of the budget. Reducing several project budget amounts was done in order to achieve that goal. $40,000 was taken out for improvements to Maple Lane. Public works building parking lot reduced/cut out $15,000. $30,000 was taken out for moving and increasing the size of the salt shed. For collaring, the City pulled out $30,000. Parks was reduced by $7,500 and $25,000 was reduced to the city planner. $115,000 was lowered for roads. All this decreased the budget from a $160,000 overage to a pretty much balanced budget. The proposed budget was a shortfall of $160,000. Budget was proposed by Jan Davis while she was ill. It was not accurate at the time because of her illness. The money was not spent, the City adjusted the budget when the inaccuracies were discovered and before any funds were spent.

Municipal budgets work differently than people think. The City has to make residents aware of how funding works. Funds from the general fund don't go to other things. If the water funds don't cover water issues, the City has to raise water rates. The sewer situation was a good example of that.

DRAFT

Mayor Shelley listed on the whiteboard things on which money could be spent. The list included the following in no particular order:

1) Increased Law Enforcement. $55,000

People want traffic violations ticketed. The City only has the sheriff here part time. If the City doubled her hours the City could get a little more revenue from traffic tickets but probably not enough to make up her salary.

2) A new fire truck.

Last ISO rating was pretty decent. To maintain that rating with larger structures or even more residents the City needs a new fire truck, costing $500,000 to $1,000,000. The need is higher due to more homes being built as well as the fact that the Assisted Living Center is building the next phase of their operation, which has already been approved by The City. There also needs to be EMTs to make the City's ambulance able to transport.

Nelson Abbott and Brittany Thompson objected to the Assisted Living Center expansion, saying that The Assisted Living Center shouldn't be able to expand because of lack of fire coverage unless they bought a fire truck, stating that was the plan to which they had agreed.

3) New plow truck.

Need more with new roads coming online. $50,000 for the truck. Employees to run them. Costs of maintenance of vehicles can be divided into other budgets.

4) Employees to take care of city parks, etc.

Brittany Thompson questioned about "wings" for mowers to increase production. The City would need new mowers which would cost $30,000. But employees are needed for more than just parks.

5) Civic Center not really needed at this time.

6) Office computers.

Small bill compared to other things.

7) Roads

The City needs to maintain roads and need more funds to keep them from deteriorating which always costs more to repair. Loafer Canyon grant has a few issues. For one, the state has to declare it a need. Another prerequisite is that the city has to pay 25% of the amount of the grant amount so out of $1,000,000 the City would have to pay $250,000 which the City doesn't have. Funds could come out of Road Impact Fees but those funds are only for new roads. Block retaining walls on the Loafer Canyon project, which the City could do, would perhaps solve the problem. The city would need the engineering done for it which all told could be around $100,000 instead of the $250,000. Roads could take up the whole budget which moneys come out of the general fund.

8) Code Enforcement

The City has a code enforcer working 5 hours a week. That is not enough time to do the job the citizens want done. Public works doesn't have time to do it. If the City doesn't have teeth in the code violation enforcement nothing happens. But the City needs more money to pay the code enforcement officer to enforce the codes and impose fines.

Britany Thompson wants a moratorium on building. (Can't do that.) The City can only do a 6 month moratorium by statute every 6 – 7 years. Buying a firetruck by a developer can't be done legally either. The City must pay for the roads the city has already annexed.

Through discussion it was determined that:

1.) The City needs to have concrete numbers so it can be determined what priorities are and what the costs will be and how to raise revenue for the needed items.

2.) The City needs to determine how the City wants it to appear and what the priorities are. (Curb and gutter for instance) The challenge is of what city council in office at the time determines how things should be. What do the residents want their city to be? It was determined the citizens should be asked what they are willing to pay for.

3.) There has been no tax increase for 7 years and the City is in need of the funds now. Will 5% make a difference?

Feeling on whether to raise taxes or not:

Dale Bigler: YES
Brittany Thompson: NO There should be itemized needs and amounts to determine tax increase.
Nelson Abbott: NO There should be itemized needs and amounts to determine tax increase.
Brian Burke: YES The City can't afford NOT to increase taxes.
Paul Squires: NO There should be itemized needs and amounts to determine tax increase.

It was decided that each councilperson should come up with a plan and meet at 4:30 before the public hearing.

Public Input:

- Roy Gerber
  - Wants specific Items and amounts
- Sean Nielsen
  - Determine wants vs needs
  - Can the City sell the gravel pit and develop for more revenue?
  - Likes line item amounts
- Kathryn Gerber
  - The City needs to follow the Constitution
  - Beware of Agenda 21
  - Likes the line item amounts
- Jim Chase
  - Is appreciative of those serving and wants to keep the community nice.
  - Likes the idea of line item amounts.
  - Study the need for parks

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Shelley adjourned this meeting at 8:30 pm.

Melanie Hoover, Deputy Recorder
(Transcribed by Jan Butler, Office Clerk)