

River Heights City Council
Minutes of the Meeting
April 22, 2014

Present were: Mayor James Brackner
Council members: Doug Clausen
Richard Okelberry
Geoff Smith
Dixie Wilson
Blake Wright
Recorder Sheila Lind
Public Works Director Clayton Nelson
Finance Director Clifford Grover

Others Present: Gayle Brackner, Rodger Pond, Curtis Roberts, Doug Thompson, Todd Beutler, Kristen Baird

The following motions were made during the meeting:

Motion #1

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Council Meeting and the evening’s agenda.” Council member Okelberry seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #2

Councilmember Clausen moved to “pay the bills as listed, including the \$742.89 Visa bill.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #3

Councilmember Clausen moved to “buy a 2015 4-wheel drive, extended cab pickup, which would be sold after two years. Two of the current trucks will be sold with the decals removed. The new truck will have a city decal added.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #4

Councilmember Wilson moved to “adopt changes to the Building Use Policy, including raising the rental fee to \$100 for the first 5 hours.” Councilmember Clausen seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. Okelberry opposed.

Motion #5

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt a Resolution to Establish a Regional Waste Water Treatment Technical Committee between the City of Logan, Smithfield City, Hyde Park City, North Logan City, River Heights City, Providence City and Nibley City Regarding Waste Water Treatment.”

47 Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith,
48 Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

49
50
51
52

Proceedings of the Meeting:

53 The River Heights City Council met at 6:30 p.m. in the Ervin R. Crosbie Council Chambers in
54 the River Heights City Building on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

55 Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Okelberry gave the opening
56 remarks. Finance Director Grover led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

57 CVTD Funding Discussion: Rodger Pond, River Heights representative on the CVTD Board,
58 informed, the bus system has been managing pretty well with minimum funding but its reaching a
59 point they will need to cut services if they can't collect additional revenue. Curtis Roberts reviewed a
60 handout from the Cache Valley Transit District (included with these minutes). The CVTD has been
61 researching how to generate income so they can continue the level of service the community desires.
62 They have studied charging \$1 per rider and decided this would lower ridership and probably cause
63 them to break even. They've looked into advertising, etc. They have concluded that a sales tax
64 consideration would produce long-term viability. Their surveys show 63% would be in favor of a
65 .25% sales tax increase. They'd like to eliminate their dependence on federal money by creating
66 control rather than wondering if they are going to continue bus service. Mr. Roberts asked the Council
67 to consider putting a sample question on the election ballot in November to find out if residents would
68 support the sales tax increase. Councilmember Smith asked how long this would sustain them. Mr.
69 Roberts said the projections show it will last a long time.

70 Mr. Roberts discussed ridership. Doug Thompson discussed the averages per trip and how they
71 determine whether to keep certain routes.

72 Councilmember Clausen asked what would happen if River Heights residents vote it down and
73 Logan residents were in favor. Mr. Roberts informed that the tax will come from businesses in Logan.

74 Councilmember Wilson asked for clarification on some items. She'll call Todd Beutler to
75 discuss it later.

76 Councilmember Wright asked who would draft the verbiage. He was told the CVTD would
77 prefer cities use the wording they have set forth in the handout, which states:

78 "To maintain and improve public transit services in Cache Valley and support economic
79 development, shall the City be authorized to impose a sales and use tax of 0.25%, which amounts to ¼
80 of 1% or 25 cents per \$100 spent, to be adopted pursuant to the provisions of Utah's Sales and Use Tax
81 Act, subject to annual audits, independent citizen's oversight and public review of all expenditures?"

82 If the council decides to put this to a vote, Todd Beutler would get a resolution to the city for
83 adoption.

84 Mayor Brackner asked the Council when they would like to consider this. Councilmember
85 Wright is concerned about the ballot language. He'd like it to be more specific so citizens would be as
86 informed as possible. They will discuss this at a later meeting.

87 Adoption of Previous Minutes and Agenda: Minutes of the April 8, 2014 Council meeting were
88 reviewed.

89 **Councilmember Clausen moved to "adopt the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Council
90 Meeting and the evening's agenda." Council member Okelberry seconded the motion, which
91 passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.**

92 Pay Bills: The bills were presented and discussed. Councilmember Wilson wondered why the
93 ice center bill was taken out of the parks budget and not split. Mayor Brackner reminded, the Council
94 approved to pay this but it didn't get budgeted. He thought it fit better in parks than anywhere else.
95 He assured her the parks budget would be covered when they make budget amendments. Finance
96 Director Grover explained, the bill is one simple transaction. It's easier for them to consolidate, rather
97 than take it from four different budgets. Ms. Wilson believes it is a sales tax items and it should be
98 split. She feels surprised when she gets to meeting and sees a big amount coming out of her budget
99 that she wasn't consulted about it.

100 Finance Director Grover explained there is a Visa bill that didn't get on the list, which needs to
101 be paid, in the amount of \$741.89.

102 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “pay the bills as listed, including the \$742.89 Visa**
103 **bill.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry,**
104 **Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.**

105 Finance Director Report: Mr. Grover didn't have anything.

106 Purchase Requisition Requests: There were none.

107 Public Works Report and Discussion: Mr. Nelson reported on the following:

- 108 • The treasurer's office is coming along downstairs. They have installed sheetrock and will have
109 the window cut on Tuesday morning. By the end of the week it will be put together and then
110 he'll schedule the carpet installer. They will use the leftover carpet from the large basement
111 room.
- 112 • He discussed the additional greenwaste dumpster north of the cemetery. They are both getting
113 filled. The trash dumpster by the cemetery hasn't filled up once. He will order a second trash
114 dumpster to have on the city square, as was announced.
- 115 • The old float trailer tongue has been changed out to make it easier to move around. He and
116 Councilmember Smith have met and made some decisions about the float. He ordered the
117 materials today.

118 Administrative Report: Ms. Lind didn't have anything.

119 Public Comment: There was none.

120 Discuss Road Striping on 600 East: PWD Nelson had this bid last year when the parking stalls
121 were striped. He remembers it was about \$600 to have a center yellow line striped and a white line on
122 the east edge of the road. He guessed the paint should last 3-4 years. Mr. Nelson suggested they could
123 have the yellow line painted so the east lane would narrow enough to preclude the need for the white
124 line. The Council felt the bid was expensive. Mr. Nelson wasn't sure if it covered striping 400 East,
125 as well. The Council asked for a more specific bid and then they'll decide.

126 Discuss the Purchase of a New Truck under State Contract: Mayor Brackner discussed his
127 findings after talking with mayors of other cities. Some lease their vehicles. Others purchase state
128 vehicles and keep them a long time. There are some who buy new and sell before the warranty is up.
129 Mr. Brackner recommended purchasing one new truck to keep for two years and then sell. If it works
130 well, they could consider purchasing more vehicles this way. Upon buying one new truck, the city
131 would dispose of two.

132 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “buy a 2015 4-wheel drive, extended cab pickup,**
133 **which would be sold after two years. Two of the current trucks will be sold with the decals**
134 **removed. The new truck will have a city decal added.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded,**
135 **which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.**

136 Adopt Revisions to the Building Use Policy: Councilmember Wilson discussed the changes
137 made at the last meeting. Councilmember Wright asked if the city advertises to rent the basement.

138 Councilmember Wilson said, ‘No, it’s a service to our citizens.’ PWD Nelson doesn’t feel \$50 is
139 enough to cover the costs. He is aware that other cities charge much more and suggested it should be
140 at least \$100.

141 **Councilmember Wilson moved to “adopt changes to the Building Use Policy, including**
142 **raising the rental fee to \$100 for the first 5 hours.” Councilmember Clausen seconded the**
143 **motion, which carried with Clausen, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. Okelberry opposed.**

144 Councilmember Okelberry explained that he feels by only allowing River Heights residents to
145 use the building, the city is being discriminatory. He’d like all the cities in the valley to be more
146 supportive of each other.

147 Adopt a Resolution to Establish a Regional Waste Water Treatment Technical Committee
148 between the City of Logan, Smithfield City, Hyde Park City, North Logan City, River Heights City,
149 Providence City and Nibley City Regarding Waste Water Treatment: Mayor Brackner asked for
150 discussion. It was reiterated that this technical committee is strictly advisory.

151 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt a Resolution to Establish a Regional Waste**
152 **Water Treatment Technical Committee between the City of Logan, Smithfield City, Hyde Park**
153 **City, North Logan City, River Heights City, Providence City and Nibley City Regarding Waste**
154 **Water Treatment.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which carried with**
155 **Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.**

156 Discuss River Heights Historical Update: Mayor Brackner talked with Bob Davis about
157 updating the River Heights City history book. Mr. Davis is willing to assist, but not to do the writing.
158 David Rhodes was contacted since his mother, Wanda Rhodes, wrote the first edition. Mr. Rhodes
159 doesn’t have time. Elaine Thatcher was contacted. She expressed willingness, but does this for a
160 living and would therefore require payment, estimated at \$2,000. She said there are grant options she
161 can look into. Mayor Brackner suggested the city could pre-sell books. Councilmember Wilson feels
162 this assignment should be advertised, in case there are others in the city that might want to do the job.
163 Mayor Brackner suggested getting this information on social media.

164 Mayor and Council Reports: Councilmember Wilson had a non-resident ask if he could teach
165 tennis lessons on the city’s courts. She asked what the business license rule was. Discussion was held
166 on how it’s been done in the past. It’s been understood that the business license needs to be granted to
167 a resident of River Heights. This person can then hire a helper that isn’t a resident. She has found
168 there are other cities who run the tennis program. They hire the teachers, sign up the students and take
169 a cut. This would allow the city to say what times the courts are being used and to make sure one court
170 is always open. Councilmember Okelberry feels if the teachers are making a profit off the city’s tennis
171 courts the city should be getting a cut.

172 PWD Nelson asked Councilmember Wilson how much the lessons interfere with citizens
173 wanting to play. Ms. Wilson said they manage to have at least one court empty. Mr. Nelson informed
174 they may run into the same issues with the ball diamond. Providence runs the program but River
175 Heights might need to limit the number of teams that use it.

176 Mayor Brackner isn’t in favor of the city hiring tennis teachers. Councilmember Okelberry
177 feels there should be a block of time for instruction, not during peak time.

178 Councilmember Wilson will discuss some ideas with PWD Nelson and come back to the
179 Council with a proposal.

180 Councilmember Clausen didn’t have anything.

181 Councilmember Okelberry has reinstalled the city’s original website and updated the emails.
182 Councilmember Clausen said his still isn’t working. Mr. Okelberry will fix it. He asked the Council
183 to email him information about upcoming events so he can put them on the website. He discussed

184 using twitter for getting announcements out. The city already has a facebook page, which isn't getting
185 much use right now. He suggested a set-up for emailing a regular newsletter. Councilmember Clausen
186 asked Mr. Okelberry if he would be willing to try to get everyone in the city's email addresses. Mr.
187 Okelberry said he would be willing to work on this. He will be working with Recorder Lind on getting
188 the audio recordings of the meetings posted on the website.

189 Councilmember Smith announced the city clean-up day will begin at 10:00 a.m., Saturday and
190 go until 1:00 p.m. Mark Malmstrom has offered his branch chipper beginning tomorrow night but
191 won't be here there on Saturday. He discussed the organization of the event.

192 Councilmember Smith discussed the 100 year anniversary of Troop 11 in conjunction with
193 Apple Days, as requested by David Rhodes. Mr. Smith has called the League about a private
194 organization joining a city celebration. They responded, if the city does it for one, they do it for all.
195 Mr. Smith proposed the city help by coordinating efforts, but not co-sponsor their reunion or Apple
196 Days. Councilmember Clausen suggested Mr. Smith work with them and make the decisions with the
197 scouts. The Council didn't see a problem with Mr. Smith's suggestion on how to handle the situation.
198 Mr. Smith will proceed. Councilmember Okelberry said the city has an appledays.org domain if Mr.
199 Smith wants to use it.

200 Councilmember Wright informed that the Commission will meet on April 29 for a workshop on
201 the cemetery/park property. The consultant they hired will attend and he'll try to get Cathy Wood
202 there. He gave a special invitation to the Council, if they can come.

203 Mayor Brackner said he and PWD Nelson met with Doug Jackson-Smith to learn about a
204 Household Water Survey being conducted by USU and UofU for the State of Utah. Their goal is to
205 meet with 150 members of our city (and other cities they've chosen in the state) to explore how
206 residents use and think about water in their daily lives. They will create a large data base which will
207 enable them to inform local and state water managers about the needs and priorities of residents. They
208 plan to target homes on the south side of River Heights and north side of Providence.

209 The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

210
211
212

Sheila Lind, Recorder

213
214

James Brackner, Mayor