

River Heights City Council  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 8, 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  
Treasurer Wendy Wilker  
Others Present: Don Davis, Mark Watterson, Gayle Brackner, Diane Peterson, Ruthann Nelson  
Excused Finance Director Clifford Grover

The following motions were made during the meeting:

Motion #1

Councilmember Okelberry moved to “adopt the minutes of the March 25, 2014 Council Meeting and Executive Meeting and the evening’s agenda.” Council member Wright 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.” Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #3

Councilmember Wright moved to “approve Ordinance 1-2014, An Ordinance to Rezone the Mark Watterson Property from R-1-12 to R-1-8.” Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Proceedings of the Meeting:

The River Heights City Council met at 6:30 p.m. in the Ervin R. Crosbie Council Chambers in the River Heights City Building on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Wilson opened the meeting with a prayer. Councilmember Wright led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

47 Adoption of Previous Minutes and Agenda: Minutes of the March 25, 2014 regular council  
48 meeting and executive meeting were reviewed. Minor changes were made on the executive minutes.

49 **Councilmember Okelberry moved to “adopt the minutes of the March 25, 2014 Council  
50 Meeting and Executive Meeting and the evening’s agenda.” Council member Wright seconded  
51 the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one  
52 opposed.**

53 Pay Bills: The bills were presented by Ms. Wilker and discussed. Councilmember Clausen  
54 asked about getting a better phone plan. Ms. Wilker explained the reason it was high this month; it  
55 won’t be high normally.

56 PWD Nelson joined the meeting late.

57 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “pay the bills as listed.” Councilmember Wilson  
58 seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor.  
59 No one opposed.**

60 Finance Director Report: Treasurer Wilker informed that Finance Director Clifford Grover read  
61 the minutes and found the requests from Councilmember Clausen. He assured that he will get right on  
62 it after tax season.

63 Ms. Wilker took leave of the meeting.

64 Purchase Requisition Requests: There were none.

65 Public Works Report and Discussion: Clayton Nelson reported on the following:

- 66 • Mr. Nelson said there are a lot of street signs that need to be replaced because they don’t meet  
67 reflective standards. He wondered if they wanted to add the city logo to the signs. It would  
68 cost an additional \$3.50/sign. He doesn’t plan to order all the signs at once, just as needed.  
69 Discussion was held on which design would be used. They agreed it should be easy to read  
70 from a distance.

71 Administrative Report: Recorder Lind offered to purchase the old office computer for \$10. It  
72 was agreed she could purchase it. Councilmember Okelberry will look into the process for disposing  
73 of city property.

74 Public Comment: Diane Peterson discussed changing the “no parking” signs in front of her  
75 house (at 440 S 600 E) from facing west, to facing the oncoming traffic. She said people park there  
76 because they can’t read the signs as they drive up. Discussion was had on the idea of painting a stripe  
77 down the center of the road, leaving only enough room for traffic on the east, to deter people from  
78 parking on this side. PWD Nelson thinks drivers see the signs and park there anyway. He doesn’t  
79 think it will do any good to change their direction, but would be willing to turn them at an angle. Ms.  
80 Peterson asked what happened with the signs the city was going to put up, which inform of other  
81 parking areas. Mark Watterson agreed that people don’t know where to park. Mr. Nelson feels that no  
82 matter what signs go up, people will still park where they want. The line on the road may help. He  
83 was asked to get a price on what the striping would cost. Councilmember Clausen asked him to also  
84 price four more signs. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

85 Diane Peterson is also concerned about how people drive in River Heights. She sees the dog  
86 catcher a lot, but she doesn’t see officers giving traffic tickets for rolling through stop signs, etc. She  
87 asked if there could be a three-way stop at 600 East 700 South to slow people down that are coming  
88 from Providence. PWD Nelson stated this would be a county concern.

89 Public Hearing to Adopt an Ordinance to Rezone the Mark Watterson Property from R-1-12 to  
90 R-1-8: Mr. Watterson explained the location of the lot.

91 **Councilmember Wright moved to “approve Ordinance 1-2014, An Ordinance to Rezone  
92 the Mark Watterson Property from R-1-12 to R-1-8.” Councilmember Wilson seconded the**

93 **motion, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one**  
94 **opposed.**

95 Cache County Building Department Year-End Report: County Building Inspector Don Davis  
96 handed out a report that showed River Heights had eight new homes in 2013. Currently there are four  
97 under construction. Commercial building is up in other places, this year; residential buildings are  
98 down, although, not so much in River Heights. Mr. Davis explained the building fees the county  
99 collects. River Heights gets 20% back. Recorder Lind asked what the county charges for building  
100 fees. Mr. Davis said it depends on the size of the home. Its roughly 1% of the value. Mr. Davis said  
101 he has been watching Saddlerock pretty close to make sure they stay within the approved depths for  
102 water levels.

103 Discuss Upcoming Beautification Project: Councilmember Smith said the beautification  
104 committee has been meeting and handing out flyers informing about the April clean-up projects.  
105 Groups are getting organized to help on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The city has ordered an additional greenwaste  
106 dumpster. There are now two of them, north of the cemetery, which will be dumped every day. There  
107 is also a trash dumpster there that will stay until after April 26. The last week of April, there will be  
108 another large trash bin brought in by the tennis courts. The committee thinks they have found a truck  
109 to haul debris on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Mark Malmstrom has offered the use of his chipper at a discount. They are  
110 encouraging individuals to take care of their own debris during the week. Those who need help will be  
111 assisted on the 26<sup>th</sup> by volunteers. Ruthann Nelson recommended another flyer that would explain  
112 how to lay out limbs for the chipper so it doesn't ruin it. Discussion was held on costs. There is \$500  
113 in the budget. The council agreed to adjust the budget after the event, if needed. PWD Nelson  
114 suggested putting a limit on how much diesel the city will pay to the rented truck owner. They could  
115 base it off of the number of hours they plan to use it.

116 Discuss the Purchase of New Trucks under State Contracts: Councilmember Clausen was  
117 asked to address his concerns with the city truck situation. He wondered why the new Dodge truck  
118 isn't used for every day purposes. If the city ends up purchasing a new truck he thinks it should be a  
119 2015. He suggested the city only have three trucks. The Council should set the lowest selling price  
120 when disposing of them. He's not sure how to handle the city decals (if they come off easily). Before  
121 a new truck is ordered, the older ones should be sold.

122 In response to Mr. Clausen's concerns, PWD Nelson answered the following: The Dodge is  
123 not very fuel efficient because it's so big. They can't keep tools in it since it's a flat bed, which  
124 precludes it from being an everyday truck. He agrees the city could sell the old one-ton snowplow  
125 truck. He said they have ways of removing the decals and doesn't feel this will be a problem. Mayor  
126 Brackner has heard cities can purchase used trucks from the State for about \$6,000. Mr. Nelson said  
127 they purchased the truck he drives through the State. As soon as they brought it home, they had to put  
128 new tires on it and have some repairs done. When he heard how other cities are buying brand new  
129 trucks through the State, it sounded like a good idea. Cities are allowed to purchase a \$40,000 truck for  
130 \$25,000. After driving them for two years, or so, they can be sold for \$25,000 or more. They are still  
131 under warranty so the city doesn't have maintenance costs. Councilmember Okelberry will look into  
132 the process of disposing of city equipment. Mr. Nelson thinks they can advertise it, stating a minimum  
133 bid amount. Mr. Nelson stated he is not trying to push the Council into doing this. He has recently  
134 learned about the concept from other cities and wanted to inform them. If the Council decides to try it,  
135 he recommends purchasing only one at first to see how selling it goes in two years.

136 Councilmember Smith suggested Mayor Brackner talk to other cities while he's attending a  
137 ULCT training this week to find out how they handle their fleets. Mr. Brackner will bring a proposal  
138 to the next meeting.

139 PWD Nelson feels the one-ton can be put up for sale right now. He suggested \$5,000 for the  
140 truck and sander.

141 Discuss Proposed Wastewater Resolution: Mayor Brackner explained there have been several  
142 meetings with the six cities that send their waste water to Logan. The state is providing a 70 million  
143 dollar loan at .75% interest for building their new facility. Because of this, there is no more money to  
144 loan to the south and north ends of the valley for new waste water plants, which means all the cities  
145 will need to remain with Logan City. Logan has drafted a resolution concerning the formation of an  
146 advisory committee, which they have asked each of the cities to sign. The cities would have no control  
147 over the price Logan City will charge other cities. Each city will enter into their own interlocal  
148 agreement with Logan. The advisory committee will advise and recommend. The power of decisions  
149 will be in the hands of the Logan City Council.

150 Councilmember Okelberry said residents in River Heights should know the rates are going to  
151 go up. PWD Nelson feels the increase will be money well spent. All of the headaches of maintaining  
152 the treatment system will be borne by Logan.

153 Mayor Brackner said Logan City wants the cities to adopt this resolution right away. He asked  
154 if the Council would be willing to adopt it at the next meeting. Councilmember Smith asked if the  
155 State had any strings attached that River Heights would be responsible for. Mr. Brackner answered  
156 that Logan would be fully responsible for the loan. PWD Nelson explained that the resolution was  
157 originally from Logan, but has been reviewed and revised by other cities. Councilmember Clausen  
158 informed that the State has over site on the rates Logan will charge. They will make sure they don't do  
159 anything ridiculous. Mr. Nelson felt positive that River Heights and Logan would agree to a fair  
160 interlocal agreement for both parties. Mr. Clausen agreed that residents will get a shock when the rates  
161 go up. The resolution will be on the next agenda.

162 Mayor and Council Reports: Councilmember Wright summarized a letter from the county  
163 executive, which states in 1973 the county received funds for 97.25 acres of outdoor recreation  
164 property. Some of this property is going to need to be used for other things. Therefore, the county is  
165 looking for another 20 to 40 acres and is asking cities to consider sponsoring property that could be  
166 developed into outdoor recreation areas to assist them in satisfying their funding agreement. The letter  
167 (included with these minutes) lists the criteria of the property. The County plans to reimburse cities for  
168 the purchase of the property, at a later date. Mr. Wright explained the River Heights cemetery/park  
169 property would fit the criteria, if it were developed into a park within five years. They could still  
170 develop part of it into a cemetery, although this portion wouldn't fit the requirements needed by the  
171 county. Councilmember Okelberry asked about considering another area for park space in the city.  
172 Mr. Wright explained the application is due by Friday and he doesn't feel they have enough time to  
173 pull it all together. He has heard the county is pretty close to meeting their quota. Mayor Brackner  
174 suggested purchasing property in the Riverdale area that is labeled as 'parks' in the General Plan. Mr.  
175 Wright informed there is currently a home sitting on it. Councilmember Smith asked how much money  
176 River Heights would receive. Mr. Wright said it would depend on how much the city puts into it.  
177 Mayor Brackner recommended continuing with the present plan, of park and cemetery and not worry  
178 about the county because of the short deadline. The Council agreed.

179 Councilmember Wilson reported that T-ball sign-ups are going along fine. She asked  
180 Councilmember Okelberry what he found out concerning the legality of the city's website having a  
181 donation link for Jerusha Daines. Mr. Okelberry hadn't found an answer but feels it would be fine if  
182 it's a link to a website, but not to a donation website. Ms. Wilson is uneasy with the city linking to a  
183 donation site. Councilmember Wright didn't feel there would be a problem, based on the cause. The  
184 Council agreed to allow a link to a site or Facebook page, but not to a donation link. Ms. Wilson will

185 let the committee know of the decision. Ms. Wilson brought up an ad she read in the paper for the  
186 Jerusha fundraising event (to be held in the city park), which states ‘strollers and dogs are welcome.’  
187 She will let the committee know dogs are not welcome in the park.

188 Councilmember Wilson asked how the cleaning of the city building is going. PWD Nelson has  
189 spoken with Erika, the cleaning lady. She has given her two week notice. Ms. Wilson asked if she  
190 should advertise for someone else. Mr. Nelson suggested the public works department take care of  
191 cleaning it once a week. It would be assigned to the person on call. This way, it wouldn’t cost the city  
192 anything extra. They would use the checklist, check it off and date the form. They agreed to see how  
193 it goes.

194 Mayor Brackner asked Councilmember Okelberry to post information on the extra dumpsters  
195 available in the city and the clean-up day on the city’s website. Councilmember Smith will send him  
196 the information to post.

197 Councilmember Smith said it would be nice if they could post yard signs for the city clean-up  
198 day. He asked PWD Nelson to report on the city float. Mr. Nelson said he couldn’t find a reasonable  
199 priced trailer so he is converting the one they have to work more efficiently. He is fixing the axel,  
200 which should be done by Monday. Mr. Smith will have his committee look at it to decide their next  
201 step. The date for Apple Days was discussed and decided; August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Smith will research to see  
202 if there are other conflicts.

203 Mayor Brackner has asked Dwight Einzinger to be over emergency preparedness. Mr.  
204 Einzinger would like to offer CERT training to all residents who would be interested, by the city  
205 offering to reimburse for the cost. Recorder Lind mentioned that she took the training on-line and it  
206 was free. Mr. Einzinger will meet with past Councilmember Kathryn Hadfield to find out what she  
207 had been working on.

208 Mayor Brackner reported that PWD Nelson has purchased a scanner for the office.  
209 Councilmember Okelberry offered to help set it up.

210 Mayor Brackner said the ice arena is requesting payment which the city promised to contribute  
211 for 2013. He has read the resolution, which states the state will send the ice arena a percentage of the  
212 city’s sales tax. Mr. Brackner has talked to the state, who said they no longer pay directly to the ice  
213 arena. The city has been receiving the full amount. Mr. Brackner asked the Council if the city should  
214 pay it, although the resolution isn’t correct. The Council agreed to pay it and not redo the resolution.

215 County Building Inspector Donny Davis returned to the meeting to clarify some things. He  
216 offered to show what he does every day on a permit after it gets approved at the city. He said the  
217 county has a really good system, which he explained. Mayor Brackner would be interested in learning  
218 more. Councilmember Wright suggested having Mr. Davis present this information at a future council  
219 meeting. Mr. Brackner will call him. Mr. Wright expressed gratitude for the county reports because it  
220 helps him budget for the upcoming year.

221 The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

222  
223  
224 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila Lind, Recorder

225 \_\_\_\_\_  
226 James Brackner, Mayor