

River Heights City Council
Minutes of the Meeting
May 27, 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, Todd Beutler, Kristen Baird, Ken Sorensen

The following motions were made during the meeting:

Motion #1

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt the minutes of the May 13, 2014 Council Meeting and Workshop, the May 15, 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.” Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #3

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt Resolution 2-2014, A Resolution Amending the 2013-2014 General Budget.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

Motion #4

Councilmember Clausen moved to “lower property taxes by 10%.” Councilmember Wright seconded the motion which passed 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, May 27, 2014.

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

Adoption of Previous Minutes and Agenda: Minutes of the May 13, 2014 Council Meeting, May 13, 2014 Workshop and the May 15, 2014 Special Council Meeting were reviewed.

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt the minutes of the May 13, 2014 Council Meeting and Workshop, the May 15, 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.

Pay Bills: The bills were presented.

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.

Finance Director Report: FD Grover has spoken to the state auditor regarding adjustment to our property taxes. After the certified rate has been set (June 9) Mr. Grover will adjust the budget to reflect the amount that River Heights will most likely collect. No hearing is required to lower taxes.

Purchase Requisition Requests: There were none.

Public Works Report and Discussion: PWD Nelson reported on the following:

- The Gordon Stienhoff park lighting issue was brought up recently in a letter from Mr. Stienhoff, asking the city to comply with the court agreement. PWD Nelson explained that after the final decision was made, regarding litigation, he never heard what the agreement was. Since receiving the letter he has reviewed the agreement and contacted Tec Electric to give a bid on LED lighting, which is more efficient and lower wattage than regular lights. The cost will be about \$800/head (there are three heads). To use regular lights and change the wattage from 400 to 250 would cost about \$200/head. Rocky Mountain Power will give a rebate and monthly credit if we go with LED. LED can be dimmed if they are too bright. Mayor Brackner will respond in writing to Mr. Stienhoff, to let him know what the city is working on. Mr. Nelson stated the lighting around the restroom will be adjusted by morning. He will find out the rebate amount and monthly discount from Rocky Mountain Power by the next meeting.
- The sprinklers are up and running. There haven’t been as many repairs needed this year.
- Mayor Brackner said the park looks wonderful.

Administrative Report: Recorder Lind didn’t have anything.

Public Comment: There was no one.

Public Hearing to Discuss Amendments to the 2013-14 Budget: There was no public comment. Mayor Brackner reviewed his memo regarding the budget amendments. Two numbers from the last meeting were adjusted. Councilmember Clausen noted the net grand total keeps jumping all over the place. Finance Director Grover and Mayor Brackner explained the reasoning.

Adoption of a Resolution Amending the 2013-2014 Budget: Mayor Brackner asked for a motion.

Councilmember Clausen moved to “adopt Resolution 2-2014, A Resolution Amending the 2013-2014 General Budget.” Councilmember Okelberry seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright in favor. No one opposed.

93 Public Hearing to Discuss the 2014-15 Final Budget: Mayor Brackner answered questions
94 from the Council regarding the budget. There was no public comment. This will be passed at the next
95 meeting.

96 Discuss Lowering Property Taxes: Councilmember Clausen reviewed his proposal to lower
97 resident property taxes by 10% as a good faith effort to let people know that government isn't always
98 raising taxes. Mayor Brackner pointed out it is easy to gain support for lowering taxes but, harder to
99 gain support to raise it back again. He didn't believe residents would notice the decrease because of
100 the additional increases this year by other entities.

101 Councilmember Wilson couldn't decide.

102 If PWD Nelson were a resident, he would be upset to have taxes lowered rather than see needed
103 projects done in the city. The average savings is only going to be \$35/year. Finance Director Grover
104 pointed out, it's not just a loss of \$9,000 this year for the City, but will be every year until the rate is
105 raised.

106 Councilmember Okelberry said by lowering taxes it will keep the government on a tighter
107 leash. He feels the city currently has enough money to fund the projects that need to be done.

108 Recorder Lind would like to see the city keep taxes the same since it will help accomplish
109 upcoming projects.

110 **Councilmember Clausen moved to "lower property taxes by 10%." Councilmember**
111 **Wright seconded the motion which passed with Clausen, Okelberry, Smith, Wilson and Wright**
112 **in favor. No one opposed.**

113 Discuss Increase in Law Enforcement and Animal Control Costs: Mayor Brackner discussed
114 notification received from the Cache County Sheriff's Department, which states they need to raise fees
115 for law enforcement and animal control. The law enforcement fees would raise each year for five
116 years and the animal control contract would raise for the coming year only. This increase hasn't been
117 included in next year's budget. Councilmember Okelberry asked if River Heights would be getting
118 more animal control service for this price. Mayor Brackner explained the department has one full-time
119 person and two part-time people. Councilmember Smith suggested looking into a joint officer with
120 Providence. PWD Nelson asked if anyone has ever checked with Logan City. Mr. Okelberry
121 volunteered to look into what Logan City might be able to offer and give a report at the next council
122 meeting.

123 Discuss CVTD Tax Increase Ballot Question: Todd Beutler and Kristen Baird were in
124 attendance. Councilmember Smith handed out the ballot wording, as it has recently been re-worded by
125 the District's attorney. There was a slight addition since the last meeting. Todd Beutler explained that
126 this wording has been tested. They want it to be clear. They are still working with the Disability Law
127 Center so, it could change a bit more. Their deadline to have the cities decisions is the first to middle
128 of August. There is a good chance the wording will be tweaked by Logan City. They are fine if River
129 Heights holds off on adopting the ballot verbiage until it gets ironed out with the rest of the cities in the
130 next two weeks. They encouraged River Heights to have their attorney look at it. Councilmember
131 Okelberry would like the resolution to have the ballot verbiage added as an amendment.

132 Councilmember Wright feels sensitive that it may look, to the residents, as if the Council favors
133 the tax increase. He wants the citizens to tell the Council what to do. He would remove the first
134 sentence and start with, "Shall the City of River Heights . . ." Todd Beutler suggested the Council
135 could make a statement when adopting the resolution that they don't necessarily support to increase.

136 The group discussed ideas for wording clarification on the ballot. Todd Beutler said the city
137 can write their own resolution. The District will continue to work on the wording. He will get a draft
138 to Councilmember Smith in the next week.

139 Mayor and Council Reports: Councilmember Wright reported that Mike Kelly has been
140 consulting with the Planning Commission on some options for a cemetery/park. Commissioner Royle
141 is trying to make contact with Johnson's to see if they would be willing to sell the west corner of the
142 Stewart Hill property (brow of the hill). Mr. Wright will meet with Providence to see what options
143 they would be willing to entertain in cemetery sharing.

144 Mayor Brackner stated he and PWD Nelson took a ride around the cemetery with the
145 Providence mayor. He seemed open to discussion regarding the two cities working together and feels
146 their council may be ready to talk about it again.

147 Councilmember Wright reported that PWD Nelson and Engineer Rasmussen have given input
148 on the road sealant verbiage to add to the code. The Planning Commission should have this sent back
149 to the Council by the next meeting or two. The city will still accept subdivision applications, they just
150 won't be approved before the code has been changed. Councilmember Okelberry believes they will be
151 under the old code, if the application is accepted before the changes are adopted. Mr. Wright will
152 check the state code.

153 Councilmember Wilson asked how the ball diamond gets scheduled. PWD Nelson is taking
154 care of this.

155 Councilmember Okelberry has fixed the employee emails so they shouldn't get anymore spam.
156 He wants to do some after-hours scanning of ordinances.

157 Mayor Brackner said there is a possibility that Cache County can get a grant to improve 600
158 South and 300 East roads. Lynn Lemon asked him to get with Mayor Calderwood of Providence to get
159 on board. He and PWD Nelson discussed it with him and he supports it.

160 Mayor Brackner summarized the wastewater situation. The group comprised of the north and
161 south end mayors have agreed that Mayor Bearnson from North Logan, would speak in their behalf.
162 They would like to have either a wastewater district or no transfer of wastewater funds by Logan City
163 to their general fund unless, each city gets a portion of this transfer. Mayor Bearnson is going to set up
164 another meeting. The north mayors have received their feasibility study. The south end hasn't applied
165 for theirs yet. Mayor Brackner's opinion is that River Heights should continue with Logan, rather than
166 join with the south end cities. Councilmember Okelberry said another option would be to ask the state
167 to step in to regulate Logan City. Councilmember Clausen isn't sure the state has the authority to do
168 this.

169 Mayor Brackner stated there is grant money available for companies looking to locate in River
170 Heights. He gave the information to Councilmember Wright.

171 Mayor Brackner has received an update from Attorney Jon Jenkins about the sale of the Logan
172 property. Mr. Jenkins is concerned about the appraisal. If the city can find a way to access the
173 property, it becomes more valuable. He will look into it before the city accepts the appraised value.

174 Councilmember Wright asked why Ken Sorensen was at the meeting. Mr. Sorensen was
175 curious about the cemetery discussions. He also wondered about the wastewater situation; he'll talk to
176 Mayor Brackner after the meeting.

177 The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

178
179
180
181 _____
Sheila Lind, Recorder

182 _____
183 James Brackner, Mayor