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3 **Council Meeting**  
4

5 February 26, 2019  
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8 Present: Mayor Todd Rasmussen  
9 Council members: Doug Clausen  
10 Robert “K” Scott  
11 Elaine Thatcher

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13 Recorder Sheila Lind  
14 Treasurer Wendy Wilker

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16 Excused: Councilmembers: Dixie Wilson  
17 Blake Wright  
18 Public Works Director Clayton Nelson  
19 Finance Director Clifford Grover

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21 Others Present: Sheriff Jensen, Lieutenant Bartschi, Tony Johnson  
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23  
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25 The following motions were made during the meeting:  
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27 Motion #1

28 Councilmember Thatcher moved to “adopt the minutes of the council meeting of February 12,  
29 2019 and the evening’s agenda.” Councilmember Clausen seconded the motion, which passed with  
30 Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.  
31

32 Motion #2

33 Councilmember Scott moved to “pay the bills as listed.” Councilmember Clausen seconded the  
34 motion, which passed with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No  
35 one opposed.  
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37 Motion #3

38 Councilmember Clausen moved to “approve the Interlocal Agreements between Cache County  
39 and River Heights City for Law Enforcement and Animal Control Services.” Councilmember Scott  
40 seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright  
41 were absent. No one opposed.  
42

43 Motion #4

44 Councilmember Scott moved to “adopt Resolution 1-2019, A Resolution to Update 911  
45 Communication Fee.” Councilmember Thatcher seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen,  
46 Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.

47 Motion #5

48 Councilmember Clausen moved to “keep the truck currently driven by PWD Nelson and buy a  
49 snow plow and sander to install on it, and sell the orange truck.” Councilmember Scott seconded the  
50 motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No  
51 one opposed.

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53 Motion #6

54 Councilmember Scott moved to “keep the current tax rates for the coming year.”  
55 Councilmember Clausen seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in  
56 favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.

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Proceedings of the Meeting:

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61 The River Heights City Council met at 6:30 p.m. in the Ervin R. Crosbie Council Chambers in  
62 the River Heights City Building on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 for their regular council meeting.

63 Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Scott opened the meeting with a  
64 thought and Councilmember Clausen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

65 Adoption of Previous Minutes and Agenda: Minutes for the February 12, 2019 meeting were  
66 reviewed.

67 **Councilmember Thatcher moved to “adopt the minutes of the council meeting of  
68 February 12, 2019 and the evening’s agenda.” Councilmember Clausen seconded the motion,  
69 which passed with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No  
70 one opposed.**

71 Reports and Approval of Payments (Mayor, Council, Staff):

72

73 Public Works Director Nelson was absent.

74

75 Finance Director Grover was absent.

76

77 Treasurer Wilker

- 78 • Ms. Wilker explained the reason for the higher Utah Local Government Trust bill. Periodically  
79 an audit is performed to determine if payroll hours equal the workman’s compensation plan.  
80 Four years ago the audit resulted in the need for a sure-up bill. They were supposed to adjust  
81 our billing each year since and haven’t. She and FD Grover are working with the Trust to get  
82 things straightened out.

83

84 Councilmember Clausen asked if we could get a quote from another insurance company. Ms.  
85 Wilker informed that all the city’s policies are through the Trust but, agreed to seek other bids.  
86 Mr. Clausen was confused why the city would pay the insurance company for workman’s comp  
87 as well as the state. She will get figures for Mr. Clausen and Mayor Rasmussen.

88

89 FD Grover clarified that the city doesn’t pay workman’s comp to the state. Employers pay  
90 their insurance company, who then pays the state.

91

92 **Councilmember Scott moved to “pay the bills as listed.” Councilmember Clausen**  
93 **seconded the motion, which passed with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and**  
94 **Wright were absent. No one opposed.**  
95

96 Councilmember Thatcher

- 97 • Ms. Thatcher informed there hasn’t been any applications submitted for ambassadors and the  
98 deadline is March 1. She will probably send out one more notification and will extend the  
99 deadline by two weeks. She may go to the schools with the announcement. If it turns out there  
100 are no applicants, they will need to think of other float riding participants.

101  
102 Councilmember Scott didn’t have anything.

103  
104 Councilmember Clausen didn’t have anything.

105  
106 Councilmember Wilson was absent.

107  
108 Councilmember Wright was absent.

109  
110 Recorder Lind

- 111 • Ms. Lind asked Mayor Rasmussen to choose the winner of the elliptical from a bag of names of  
112 persons who shared and liked the City’s recent Facebook post. Jaime Lindley’s name was  
113 chosen as the winner. Ms. Lind will notify her.
- 114 • Ms. Lind asked how the Council felt about selling the piano in the council room. No one uses  
115 it and the wall it stands against would be perfect for an electronic screen. Councilmember  
116 Thatcher said it may be needed at a later date if the city ends up with a community center.  
117 Councilmembers Scott and Clausen agreed to sell it. Mayor Rasmussen will seek the opinion  
118 of Councilmembers Wilson and Wright.

119  
120 Mayor Rasmussen didn’t have anything.

121  
122 Cache County Sheriff Jensen Report: Sheriff Jensen said he has been spending time at the  
123 legislature and shared information on bills that will affect cities. SB 84 Code Enforcement and SB 107  
124 Nuisance Ordinance both restrict fines and violations the city can impose on citizens when they violate  
125 certain city ordinances.

126 Lieutenant Bartschi is over the patrol division. He explained he has reviewed the work they  
127 have done for River Heights over the past year and feels the contracted 211 hours of patrol from 2018  
128 will also be sufficient for 2019. The hourly rate will not increase and hasn’t for the last 5 years. He  
129 pointed out the crosswalk at 600 E 600 S is always an issue. Although, it really helped to have the  
130 crosswalk moved to the north side of the intersection this year.

131 Councilmember Scott asked if they could set up a camera at this intersection. Lieutenant  
132 Bartschi explained they can’t issue tickets based on a license plate number, and a person has to verify  
133 that they actually saw the incident happen. Sheriff Jensen said they are continually working with the  
134 school to try to solve the traffic situation.

135 Mayor Rasmussen asked the officers to address the domestic problems in certain areas of the  
136 city. Lieutenant Bartschi didn’t know specifics but was willing to find out. He said it’s typical in  
137 these types of incidences, to have repeat calls at the same address. Mayor Rasmussen was curious

138 what the city can do to protect our neighborhoods from crime. Perhaps there are some conditions that  
139 make these areas attractive to certain types of criminals. Lt. Bartchsi explained some of the problems  
140 with the system. Much of what they used to have available to help those arrested has been taken away,  
141 such as consequences through the court system. If they arrest people who want to change, they can  
142 find services. Sheriff Jensen added, they have lost the teeth they used to have to impose consequences.

143 Lt. Bartchsi said he will talk with Deputy Butler about the issues going on in River Heights and  
144 then get back with Mayor Rasmussen.

145 Approval of Law Enforcement and Animal Control Contracts:

146 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “approve the Interlocal Agreements between Cache  
147 County and River Heights City for Law Enforcement and Animal Control Services.”**

148 **Councilmember Scott seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in  
149 favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.**

150 Public Comment: There was none.

151 Adopt a Resolution to Raise County Communication Charge: Councilmember Scott informed,  
152 the increase from \$2 to \$3 was to reflect Logan City’s raise in their rates, which they pass on to River  
153 Heights.

154 **Councilmember Scott moved to “adopt Resolution 1-2019, A Resolution to Update 911  
155 Communication Fee.” Councilmember Thatcher seconded the motion, which carried with  
156 Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.**

157 Discuss and Approve Plans to Apply for COG Funds to Complete 800 South Road Project:

158 Councilmember Clausen didn’t know much about this and suggested holding off on the discussion  
159 until after Mayor Rasmussen attends the next COG meeting. The council will discuss it again at their  
160 April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, at which time they will have a cost estimate and other details.

161 Discuss City Vehicles: Councilmember Clausen reviewed his prior proposal of keeping the  
162 truck PWD Nelson is driving now, rather than selling it when the new one comes in. They would add  
163 a snow plow and sander to it and use it for snow removal and sell the orange plow truck. Mayor  
164 Rasmussen called Mr. Nelson on the phone so Mr. Clausen could ask him if he planned to run both  
165 plows during a storm or just one. Mr. Nelson affirmed that both would be used; one would do the  
166 main roads and the other would be used on subdivisions and dead end roads. He agreed Mr. Clausen’s  
167 proposal is a better option, for now, rather than keep the orange truck, which isn’t reliable. He guessed  
168 the city could sell it for roughly \$5,000 - 8,000.

169 **Councilmember Clausen moved to “keep the truck currently driven by PWD Nelson and  
170 buy a snow plow and sander to install on it, and sell the orange truck.” Councilmember Scott  
171 seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher in favor. Wilson and  
172 Wright were absent. No one opposed.**

173 Discuss Property Tax Rate: Mayor Rasmussen asked if the council intended to raise property  
174 taxes for the next fiscal year. Councilmember Scott would support property taxes being raised slightly  
175 because the city’s expenses are going up. Mayor Rasmussen agreed. Councilmember Clausen was  
176 very much opposed to an increase. Councilmember Thatcher suggested having FD Grover run some  
177 numbers to see if the city is going to be able to keep up in the future. Mr. Scott suggested researching  
178 this year to prepare for an informed decision next year. Mayor Rasmussen agreed a detailed list of  
179 what is going out and coming in would be beneficial. The others agreed.

180 **Councilmember Scott moved to “keep the current tax rates for the coming year.”**

181 **Councilmember Clausen seconded the motion, which carried with Clausen, Scott and Thatcher  
182 in favor. Wilson and Wright were absent. No one opposed.**

183 Discuss Old Church Options: Mayor Rasmussen called Councilmember Wilson to be a part of  
184 the discussion. He asked each council member their opinion on the options he previously gave them,  
185 which were: 1) do nothing, 2) sell the property, 3) joint development of the property, or 4) demolish  
186 the building.

187 Councilmember Thatcher would support the city selling the property or being part of a joint  
188 development. Ultimately, she wants to save the building because of its historical value. She believes it  
189 can be the heart in the center of River Heights. If they decide to sell, she wants the city to have a say  
190 in what happens because she wants the building to be preserved. She would support a joint effort  
191 which would allow the city some community space inside. Grants are available for cities in certain  
192 circumstances. If the building were torn down, there would be future maintenance costs. Mayor  
193 Rasmussen pointed out the maintenance costs would be minimal for grass and a park bench.

194 Mayor Rasmussen pointed out, if the building were demolished and the property had to be sold  
195 at a later date, the city may not have any say on what would be developed.

196 Councilmember Scott doesn't want city liability with the way it sits right now. He would  
197 support selling it outright. If we can't get a reasonable price, he would support tearing it down and  
198 turning it into grass.

199 Councilmember Clausen asked Tony Johnson, if the city turned the building over to him, would  
200 he intend to keep it as a money maker for himself, without any cost to the city. Mr. Johnson affirmed  
201 that he would keep it. He would request a historical overlay zone, as he did with the gas station. This  
202 way the city would have a say on what was allowed. He suggested six apartments and a small  
203 museum. He would like to preserve the gym and stage for River Heights' citizen use, without charging  
204 the city anything. Mr. Clausen asked Mr. Johnson if there was an option for the city to retain the  
205 building with the addition of these improvements. Mr. Johnson said, probably not, because of the  
206 expense. He would be willing to say, that if it were ever sold in the future, the city would have first  
207 option on it. He suggested he could obtain a Conditional Use Permit from the city, which could be  
208 reviewed yearly, in an effort to make sure the city was okay with how the building was being used.

209 Councilmember Clausen gave figures on what the city's current budget is and what it may look  
210 like in the short future. He determined that expenses associated with this building would bring the  
211 city's revenue down much lower than they would be comfortable with. He could consider a joint  
212 venture with Mr. Johnson. He didn't want their decision to cost the city any money. He'd rather put  
213 funds toward the park north of the cemetery than to tear down the building.

214 Councilmember Scott cautioned about being prepared for the future. It will take quite a bit of  
215 extra money when they inherit the old school building.

216 Councilmember Wilson read her opinion. She was in favor of keeping the property,  
217 demolishing the building and planting grass. She doesn't support two old buildings in River Heights  
218 because of the cost. She expressed support for keeping the old school.

219 Mayor Rasmussen summarized that no one was in favor of doing nothing. They are open to a  
220 joint venture, if the cost is minimal. Councilmember Thatcher would like to look into possible city  
221 grants.

222 Councilmember Wilson left the meeting (hung up) at 7:55p.m.

223 Councilmember Clausen was concerned that looking for grants will become a long drawn out  
224 process, when they already know the city can't afford to put money into a plan. Councilmember  
225 Thatcher said Tony Johnson would stand the cost of the plan. Mr. Johnson can get grants and perhaps  
226 the city could apply for other grants that aren't available to him. Mr. Johnson explained how the  
227 historical grants work, which he will do the legwork on. For every dollar he would spend, he would

228 get a 20% tax credit, which he would then sell to the bank, which money would be used to finish the  
229 project.

230 Mayor Rasmussen would like to have an answer by the end of April. He asked Councilmember  
231 Thatcher to look into possible grants for the city. She agreed to work with Tony Johnson to see what  
232 they come up with.

233 Mayor Rasmussen said the city could collect \$1,400/year in property tax from this property and  
234 Tony Johnson is willing to buy it for \$200,000.

235 Discussion was had on the possibility of joint ownership of the property. Councilmember  
236 Clausen would be willing to exchange not having community access to it, if the city retained part  
237 ownership. Mayor Rasmussen pointed out that joint ownership would mean joint liability.

238 The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Sheila Lind, Recorder

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Todd A. Rasmussen, Mayor