

Richmond City Council Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2022

RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Richmond City Council was held at the Park Community Center located at 90 South 100 West, Richmond, Utah on Thursday, September 15, 2022. The meeting began at 6:30 P.M.; Mayor Paul Erickson was in the chair. The opening remarks were made by Terrie Wierenga.

The following Council Members were in attendance: Tucker Thatcher, Kelly Crafts, Terrie Wierenga and Amber Ervin.

Council Member Lyle Bair was excused.

City Administrator Jeremy Kimpton, Deputy City Treasurer HollyJo Karren and City Recorder Justin Lewis were also in attendance.

VISITORS: Eric Dursteler, Patrick Belmont, Jenny Bair, Cindy Smith, Dominque Rogers, Ryan Rogers, Mike Harris, David Cavanaugh, John Harris, Cache County Sheriff Chad Jensen, Daryl Black, Aaron Curdy

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 18, 2022

A motion to approve the August 18, 2022 city council meeting minutes was made by Amber, seconded by Kelly and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Absent: Bair

RECOGNITION OF JENNY BAIR FOR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE SPORTS COMMITTEE.

AMBER: It is fun to recognize those who have made a difference in the community. We want to thank Jenny Bair for many years of service. Jenny has been on the sports committee for over a decade helping with soccer. Jenny was also instrumental in establishing the baseball program. These programs serve a purpose. It takes a group of kids and gives them a purpose. Thank you.

Amber presented Jenny with a small gift of appreciation.

WHITE PINE PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

MAYOR: Today we had a ribbon cutting ceremony at the White Pine Park. The park was paid for with RAPZ Tax and general fund monies. The park is located at 300 North 300 East. Cache County Council Member Dave Erickson was in attendance and we appreciate him being there. This fall on the election ballot there will be a question about renewing the RAPZ Tax program. RAPZ Tax stands for Restaurants, Arts, Parks and Zoo. Please study this topic carefully. It has provided the city with funding for well over ten projects. Some of the projects include the White Pine Park, gazebo at the park, nature park bathroom, hamburger stand, pavilion upgrades at the park, and various Black & White Days building improvements. Our current project is adding a new pavilion on the north end of the park. We are hoping to add a new restroom facility in the north end of the park down the road. I am in favor of this program. It is a tax that works and brings funding to our community.

DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGARDING THE ANIMAL IMPOUND PROCESS AT THE NEW FACILITY.

SHERIFF CHAD JENSEN: The animal services building is 98% complete. There are some items we cannot get to finish the building. We are still waiting for an air conditioning unit for the roof. We cannot get an occupancy permit until the furnace and air conditioning system are installed. I am hoping the facility is open in November but I don't

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know when it will be open for sure. I was hoping to get the occupancy permit now. We are ready to be in there. The cities are anxious for it to be open and so are we. We might have found a workaround for the problem. The furnace is installed. About 75% of the building is controlled by this unit. I am hopeful we can be open by November 15th or sooner. We are planning to have an open house in October. We will invite city officials to attend. Eventually, we will hold an open house for the public as well. The staff has been hired. The biggest question is when do they start. Right now, we are doing our best guess. The full-time employees will start on October 1st. We will have six weeks to work out the bugs and fix our processes. We want to be ready to open on November 15th. The building is finished except for the air conditioning system. On the law enforcement side, we are watching areas closely now school is in session. It has been a busy couple of weeks. We didn't have any major issues the first week of school. People have been very respectful driving wise as school has restarted. Right now, we are working on our budget for next year. What are our problems? Right now, recruitment is our biggest issue. Our retention is good. Our current employees are not leaving and going elsewhere. We have lost some employees who have left because they no longer want to be in law enforcement. The issue we are having is replacing those who are retiring. We are having a hard time filling those spots.

MAYOR: How many deputies do you have on staff?

SHERIFF JENSEN: There are 173 full-time employees. Eighty of them work in the jail which is our biggest division. We have had as many as 15 openings at one time this year. We have hired from other agencies pretty well. We are very selective when we hire someone from out of the valley. People are not in law enforcement because of the money. The Wasatch Front pays more than we can here. Those coming to the valley have ties to Cache Valley. The police academy has been good for us in the past. Usually, they cap the class at 35 students. This last time there were eleven who started the program and eight finished. Some could not pass a background check. There were not many to select from. There is a big issue with negativity towards police departments. It is a hard job. I am at 30 years in the profession. I love this profession. If people will give it time they will stay long term. Usually, people make it a career once they have been involved for five years. We are working hard to recruit new employees. We need people to know the good we do. We appreciate our relationship with the community.

AMBER: Do many students who attend the Explorer program in high school go into the academy?

SHERIFF JENSEN: It is a good option. I would like to see a law enforcement class in all high schools. Some students started as Explorers and have made a career out of it. We were able to get a bill adopted last year changing the age requirement from 21 to 19.

AMBER: I will be an advocate for you. More kids need to take this type of class. More respect needs to be shown towards law enforcement. Recruiting at a younger age needs to be better.

SHERIFF JENSEN: There is no longer a big waiting period where kids will graduate from high school and then have to wait a couple of years before they can enter the program. It would be nice to have the curriculum they receive in high school used as a credit towards their time with the academy. What is taught in our academy is the same thing taught elsewhere in Utah.

AMBER: It is very positive to see what law enforcement does daily.

MAYOR: We receive a monthly sheriff's office report. I received a call from a resident about a theft at their home. I met with the property owner. It is not something we have turned over to law enforcement yet. We are going to use technology to solve the problem. A local tech company installed a camera. The camera does a recording even if the person destroys the camera. I hope we have something to report to you in this case. There were 74 instances in the city in the last 30 days. We appreciate our partnership with you and your department.

SHERIFF JENSEN: If you have any concerns or issues, please let me know. Central Dispatch can be reached at (435) 753-7555 for non-emergency issues. All emergencies should be reported to 911. Our office phone number is (435) 755-1000.

MAYOR: Please let us know about the open house so we can attend.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ORDINANCE 22-13, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING A PORTION OF CACHE COUNTY PARCEL NUMBER 09-067-0007. THE PARCEL IS APPROXIMATELY 5.33 ACRES AND IS LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 150 NORTH 450 WEST.

JUSTIN: This is the final step in the process. Two months ago, the council accepted the Petition for Annexation on this request. Last month the Certification of Annexation was accepted by the city council. Tonight, is the last step which is the public hearing and vote of the council. If the parcel is annexed it will by default be zoned A-10 (Agricultural 10-Acre). The county and city staff do not have any concerns with this request.

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A motion to close the regular council meeting and open the public hearing was made by Terrie, seconded by Tucker and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Absent: Bair

The public hearing opened at 6:56 P.M.

MIKE HARRIS: I am just hoping for final approval of my annexation request.

A motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular council meeting was made by Tucker, seconded by Kelly and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Absent: Bair

The public hearing closed at 6:57 P.M.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON ORDINANCE 2022-13.

MAYOR: What roads will the city take over as part of this request?

JEREMY: The frontage along county road 10600 North or our 150 North. As well as the frontage along county road 700 East or our 400 West.

MAYOR: The annexation request is for only about five acres? The zoning of the entire parcel will be A-10 (Agricultural 10-Acre)?

JUSTIN: The entire parcel is eleven acres but just over five acres is outside of the city limits. The parcel will have split zoning. The acreage currently located within the city is zoned A-10 (Agricultural 10-Acre) and MLI (Manufacturing/Light Industrial).

MAYOR: What is the process to change this?

JEREMY: A standard rezone request.

MAYOR: Did the planning commission have any concerns with this request?

JUSTIN: Annexations do not go before the planning commission for consideration.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-13, an Ordinance annexing a portion of Cache County Parcel Number 09-067-0007 was made by Terrie, seconded by Amber and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Absent: Bair

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON FUTURE SOLID WASTE SERVICE FOR THE CITY.

MAYOR: Myself, Jeremy, Tucker and Terrie attended the Smithfield City council meeting last night where they talked about solid waste service in their city. We wanted to know what their plan is. They selected a vendor last night.

JEREMY: Richmond City received four RFP's (Request for Proposals). They will be reviewed and scored. We will have more information in detail for you in the future. The Zions Bank rate study has been received. Some of the numbers they are using are high as they need to be high rather than low. We will adjust them to more realistic numbers. The model will be reviewed and considered.

MAYOR: The Zions Bank rate study tells us the cost to operate a solid waste system on our own. Are the RFP's valid into October?

JUSTIN: Yes. The council will need to decide if they are going to accept any of the proposals at the October council meeting as they expire later in the month.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

JEREMY: We just completed a sewer audit with the state. It was a good experience. We are waiting for the results of the audit. It was a good opportunity for Shane to learn some new things about why we do what we do. We had some electrical issues at the plant on Sunday and Monday. We had to run the generator all day Monday. An electrician determined the voltage filter is fried. The contractor is working to get us some pricing. They will price the components and the entire cabinet. The cabinet comes as a complete unit.

MAYOR: Is this original equipment?

JEREMY: Yes.

MAYOR: That means it was installed around 2007.

JEREMY: The plant and parts are aging. We received compliments on our plant. Shane is doing well down there. He is eager to learn. It can be a challenging and intimidating place to run. He is all by himself and with me when needed. I don't know what the cost of this repair will be.

MAYOR: Isn't something like this included in our operations and maintenance budget?

JEREMY: Yes. Most of the components in the plant are expected to last 15 to 20 years. It is time to start rebuilding some of the pumps. In regard to culinary water, we have not had any copper issues for two years. We are now off the watch list of the state. Our sampling has been reduced from 40 samples to ten samples. We no longer are required to have a corrosive control plan. An injection system will not have to be installed at this point. It will save us a lot of money. The state commended us for finding a solution to the problem.

MAYOR: Jeremy found the solution to the problem.

JEREMY: Last week Rob and I drove to Michigan to pick up the hotbox. The supplier could not ship it to us for four to six weeks. The cost of the freight was going to be around \$5,000. We took a city truck and drove back and picked it up. We left Tuesday morning at 5:00 A.M. and got back Friday morning at 2:30 A.M. We pushed hard to get home.

MAYOR: Please explain what the equipment does.

JEREMY: It reconstitutes asphalt. The Smithfield asphalt plant closed a couple of years ago. We have been going to Hyrum or Brigham for asphalt. By the time we get back to the city the asphalt is cold. We only have about a three-hour window once it is loaded. We were losing an hour in transport alone. This trailer has a burner to keep the asphalt warm. If we add cold mix and some oil it becomes hot mix. We are going to start by removing some of the bad spots in front of the stake center on 100 West and see how it goes.

TUCKER: How much will it hold?

JEREMY: Four tons. The company we purchased the hotbox from produces four trailers per day. It is a small facility. We have really struggled with pothole issues in the past. This will help us.

AMBER: Is there a learning curve to operate it?

JEREMY: It is simple to operate. It has four switches. Two control the lights and the other two control the burners. The temperature is automatically controlled. It does dump and tilt or also let us shovel the asphalt out. We looked at two other options. This was the only option which would reconstitute hot asphalt. We have more options with this equipment than the other vendor's equipment.

MAYOR: The water injection system was going to be paid for with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Since that system is no longer needed, we would like to redirect those funds to a different project.

JEREMY: The 800 South sewer line cannot be repaired. This was not a project we were anticipating doing. It won't use all of the funding we allocated for the injection system.

MAYOR: The ARPA Funds are used for infrastructure projects.

JEREMY: In the past we have jetted our sewer lines and then used a camera to review them. This year we used sonar. We found issues we normally would not find. The problem areas have been identified on a map. We can document what we did or did not do in these problem areas. We would not have known about this problem until it was too late if the sonar was not used. We will be meeting with a contractor soon about this project. We will most likely replace the sewer line from manhole to manhole as there are two bad spots in the same area.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW WITH DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS AS NECESSARY.

JUSTIN: The audit is currently underway and we have spent a lot of time on it this week. With changes regarding fees and how the state auditor reviews them we have now combined building permits into planning fees. We collected \$6,838 in RAPZ Tax funding from our 2021 population-based assessment. Two donors donated \$3,000 to

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the senior program. These funds were used to purchase the pool table. The two large bay doors on the Black & White Days building were replaced at a cost of \$11,448.

MAYOR: We will be adding remotes for the doors. The doors are original and were installed around 1974.

JUSTIN: We purchased the hotbox at a cost of \$46,082. We have been doing a lot of road work and spent \$80,307 so far, this fiscal year. As interest rates have risen, the amount we are paid in interest revenue on our reserve has risen as well. The interest rate has increased substantially. In the water fund, we budgeted interest revenue of \$5,000 for the entire fiscal year. So far this year we have received \$5,993. Sewer fund interest revenue was budgeted at \$3,000 and so far, we have received \$2,579. General Fund interest revenue was budgeted at \$3,000 and so far, we have received \$4,112. Last year we received \$165,868 in ARPA Funds. We did not spend any of those funds as we are still waiting for the equipment to arrive. We ordered a generator for the Cherry Creek well and a generator for the Park Community Center. The second round of ARPA Funds was received in August in the amount of \$165,868.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

AMBER: We announced the name of the senior center today: the Park Bench. We considered a lot of names for the senior center. The Park Bench is a fitting name. The pool table has been installed. We are looking for lots of volunteers as we move forward. Once the parking lot project on the north end of the building is finished, we will have better access to that portion of the building. We will schedule an open house in the future.

MAYOR: Any updates from the planning commission?

AMBER: Due to lack of business they did not meet in September.

TERRIE: The General Plan survey ends tomorrow. Please fill it out. It helps with our vision for the city for the next ten years. So far, we have received a lot of responses. We rely on the public for our help with the General Plan. We are working with BRAG (Bear River Association of Governments) on the Trails Master Plan. We are working with a new person at the county as well. We are going to incorporate parks and open space into the plan. It will be easy to do. We are hoping to have a rough draft to present in December. Another open house will be held down the road. The county found \$6,100 in transportation grant funding. They are going to redirect the money to us for an evaluation on recommendations of how to cross Highway 91 safely. Zac from BRAG, a representative from the county and myself will be meeting with an architect to get some ideas. It might be an overpass, underpass or additional stop light.

DARYL BLACK: It is very scary to cross the highway at Maverik and I wear a bright colored vest.

TERRIE: All options will be considered. It is a state owned and maintained road. UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation) determines the speed. I am just happy we have a stop light there. We need to find a way to slow people down. We now have a crossing guard helping on the highway as well get the children across the road safely.

JEREMY: The state came and adjusted the time on the signal light to allow for more time for those crossing the highway.

TERRIE: I am on the CVTD (Cache Valley Transit District) board. The board is overseeing the building process for the new building. The district was able to secure eighteen million dollars in federal funding for the project. A new transit center is being built in North Logan. The total project cost will be thirty-seven to thirty-eight million dollars. No bonds will be issued. The additional funding will be taken out of the capital projects fund. There is an issue keeping full-time employees. The Richmond route has been changed from every 45 minutes to every 90 minutes. The state passed a law that every residential irrigation water user is required to have a meter installed. This is not cheap. It is estimated to cost around \$2,000 per connection. The state is not providing any long-term funding to maintain the meters, read them monthly or any future replacement costs. The board met last Thursday. It is one of the largest attended meetings I have ever been to. There were a lot of comments. There were many misinformed people. This is not a choice of the irrigation company but a state law. Funding was applied for this year to help pay for the project. There most likely won't be any funding available in the future for this project. Over eighty percent of the funding allocated for this project has already been applied. Water is valued more than oil. We are in a desert. We are experiencing the worst drought in 1,200 years. There are things we can do individually. To be clear the city and irrigation company are separate entities. I am the liaison between the city and the irrigation board.

KELLY: The youth council is winding down for the year. They are going to Lagoon this Saturday. They are doing a Sub for Santa project on Monday, October 3rd. On Saturday, October 22nd is their opening and closing social. Mayor, Sherrie is hoping you can present the scholarship to the youth council mayor at the social.

MAYOR: Our next council meeting is on October 20th and this event is a couple of days later. I should be able to do that.

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TUCKER: We are getting ready to start some sidewalk replacement projects. It will be good to have them done before winter.

MAYOR: I have been talking with Lyle. We are going to use some of the ARPA Funds for water development in the City Creek area. Lyle and Tucker will be working on this. We will be reviewing usage and the rate schedule in the future as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAYOR: Thanks to Justin for organizing this year's city party. Raising the flag and having the national anthem sung were appropriate and my favorite part. It was nice to have Chief Downs and his staff in attendance. The only complaint I received is people could not hear me when I was making the announcements. It was great to have Bryce Wood and his band perform. I did a study on our local volunteer groups. I am sure I am missing some but this includes the Black & White Days cattle committee, horse pull committee, youth council, Lion's Club, emergency preparedness team and others. In a typical year around 4,000 hours are donated. This does not include Jenny Bair and any of the sports program volunteer hours. A big thank you to all involved.

DAVE CAVANAUGH: The hours donated are the equivalent of two full-time employees.

MAYOR: The Black & White Days cattle committee donates a lot more time than I was aware of. The Harris and Spackman families donate a lot of time and money. The horse pull committee has asked for our help in replacing the sand in the pulling area. The city will be contributing to that project. Later this month, Jeremy and I will be attending a COG (Council of Governments) meeting. This is different than the CMPO (Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization). Back in 2018, we received some funding along with the county to widen 500 North. The majority of the project is in the county. The price of the project has increased around 40-50% since 2018. A second application has been submitted for funding. If approved, the project will begin in the spring. Part of our solid waste discussion will be on recycling. The city received four RFP's (Request for Proposal). A joint RFP with Lewiston was also created and we received three RFP's on that request. We also have the Zions Bank rate study. Recycling is a key part of this. Recycling will be all or none for the city.

JUSTIN: That is correct. Currently, it is mandatory and to keep it in the future it will have to be mandatory or not at all.

MAYOR: We sent out a survey asking the residents if they were willing to pay ten to fifteen dollars a month for recycling service. The survey is a one question survey. The survey will be open until Monday. The results of the survey will be considered in our analysis. We will try to make a decision at the October council meeting. We are still asking the vendors questions and waiting for responses to some questions. Going to the Smithfield City council meeting we learned what they considered in the process. How they made their choice. As well as some questions we had not given thought to yet. So far there have been over 350 responses to the survey. It is the voice of the people and we need to know what the residents are thinking.

JUSTIN: We have around 929 utility accounts and have emails for about 80% of those accounts or roughly 743 accounts. That would mean around 40% of the city has responded to the survey so that is good.

MAYOR: Smithfield chose not to do a survey. I am glad we took the time to do one.

A motion to adjourn was made by Terrie, seconded by Kelly, and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Absent: Bair

Adjournment at 7:38 P.M.

RICHMOND CITY CORPORATION

Paul J. Erickson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Justin B. Lewis, City Recorder