

RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

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, February 16, 2023. 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, Lyle Bair, Kelly Crafts, Terrie Wierenga and Amber Ervin.

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

VISITORS: Cindy Smith, Brady Christensen, Jake Leonard, Mikelshan Bartschi, Sheriff Chad Jensen, Todd Beutler, Dave Cavanaugh, Jan Gilbert

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 19, 2023.

LYLE: I will abstain from the vote where I was not in attendance at the meeting.

A motion to approve the January 19, 2023 city council meeting minutes was made by Terrie, seconded by Amber and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Abstain: Bair

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

LIEUTENANT MIKELSHAN BARTSCHI: Last year the city agreed to a three-year contract as opposed to a year to year contract. We still feel it is valuable to come before the city council. We are here to address any questions or concerns you have. Year one of the contract was just completed. There was a slight increase in calls over the previous year. Through January 31st you had contracted for 910 hours and so far, we have spent almost 1,200 hours in the city. That is about 131% of the contract amount. We are comfortable with this because of the growth. We have growth across the board in all of the cities and towns we serve. We have been able to add more bodies to our department with the three-year contract. We are trying to be proactive. A probation unit of eight employees has been added. We have a lot of employee turnover in the jail. It is hard to fill those spots. Even when we are fully staffed, we are not fully staffed. A new employee has to go through the academy which is eight weeks. Then they are required to do twelve to sixteen weeks of training after the academy. They are not able to work on their own for at least half a year. We have fifteen bodies in training right now. The new dog pound is still not operational.

MAYOR: Thank you and your department for all you do.

SHERIFF CHAD JENSEN: The new animal control facility is almost ready to open. We have submitted the paperwork to Logan City requesting an occupancy permit. We still have some minor plumbing items and manhole covers to finish. The animals should be moved from their temporary location to the new facility within the next ten days. We will have an opening date for elected officials to tour the facility. The general public will be able to tour the facility in the future as well. The main air conditioning unit was a big factor in us getting open so late. We were only able to get a little bit of concrete at a time. In the end it is a great project for the entire valley. Everything will be taken care of in one facility if we have to board an animal. Our agency is in better shape than other agencies in the state. We only have one employee position which is currently not filled. We are probably number one in the state for lack of turnover and job openings. Some departments are down 50%. The Richmond City Star Deputy Jake Leonard came from another department. We can attract good people to this valley. I am cautious in who we hire. If the applicant is chasing money, I won't hire them. Legislative wise there are a lot of bills being considered for justice courts and law enforcement agencies. One bill I am proud of that is making its way through is making the sheriff's position constitutional and not a legislative position. It has passed through the house and senate and the governor has indicated he will sign it. This legislation will then go on the ballot in 2024 for the residents of the state to vote on.

Overall, it is not a bad year legislatively for the sheriff's office. There are some positive things coming out of this session. A bill is being considered in regard to how a defendant pays restitution when applicable. This makes the defendant more accountable. There is a bill regarding getting rid of the Unified Police Force in Salt Lake County. This is not a sheriff's office bill for the entire state. It effects one sheriff's office and one county council. The bill puts the control back in the hands of the local cities in that area of the state.

PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CACHE VALLEY TRANSIT DISTRICT.

TERRIE: I am the city representative on the CVTD (Cache Valley Transit District) board of directors. The board is going before all of the city councils in the valley they serve this year. General Manager Todd Beutler is in attendance this evening. A brochure has been created to try and educate people. It talks about why a fare is not charged. The system was created in 1992 and has always been fare free. CVTD is leading the way for other districts which are considering going fare free. New looping routes have been created. They are the same routes as the past but are done more frequently. Rather than have the route done every 30-45 minutes the route is now done around every 10-15 minutes. I have ridden the bus when working at the USDA lab in Logan. There are services for those who need assistance. It is called the Call-A-Ride system. It helps get people from their home to where they need to go. I think it is a good deal. The newest service started on February 6th. It is a blue minivan bus serving in the southeast area of the district. It is a micro-transit option. The blue minivan takes a person to a fixed route location. We are hoping to see an increase in ridership and usage. We have received a lot of positive feedback so far. We are working on an app for scheduling purposes. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility will be on Monday, March 6th at 11:00 A.M. I am proud of the board and staff for saving money. The new forty-eight-million-dollar facility will be built without any bonds being issued.

TODD BEUTLER: About fifty percent of the project is being paid for with federal funding. About sixty percent of those who use the system are using it for employment reasons. We are happy to offer a zero-fare system. There are some people who could not get to work without the bus system because of vehicle challenges. We are making a lot of technology changes this year. There is an app for the fixed route buses. The app updates every few seconds. Passengers are now automatically counted. We can now run reports on all routes. This better helps us for planning and projections. We appreciate Terrie. She is a phenomenal board member. She is always engaged and helps us be better at what we do. The sheriff's office is fantastic to work with. We hope you can attend the groundbreaking ceremony. This is a building project for the entire valley. Representative Blake Moore is planning to attend.

SHERIFF JENSEN: Where is the new facility located at?

TODD: In the industrial park east of the airport. In 2010, the district purchased 17 acres there. We plan to build on 8.5 acres now. Our current facility is located on 4.5 acres. We cannot grow there. We are landlocked. The new building should last for the next 25 years. Long term this will allow us to transition to electric buses.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ORDINANCE 2023-01, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RICHMOND CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 8-000 "MUNICIPAL PROPERTY", CHAPTER 8-200 "CEMETERIES (RESERVED)", AND TITLE 10-000 "FIRE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE", CHAPTER 10-500 "WELFARE", PARTS 10-510 "INDIGENTS" AND 10-511 "BURIAL OF INDIGENTS".

JUSTIN: We were recently contacted by someone about the cemetery and they mentioned a section in our municipal code. There is a header and section on indigent burials. The proposed Ordinance is to remove the header and section from the municipal code. The city does not have anything to do with the cemetery. The cemetery is part of the Richmond Cemetery Maintenance District and is not part of Richmond City. We hope by removing this section of code it will help with this misunderstanding people have.

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

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Bair, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

The public hearing opened at 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR: Richmond City has been contracting with the district for many years. We have a good relationship with them. They pay for some of the wages of our employees. We do the burials and they pay for the service. Each entity is a separate legal entity. The cemetery should not be referenced in our municipal code where we don't have a cemetery owned by the city.

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

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Bair, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

The public hearing closed at 7:01 P.M.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON ORDINANCE 2023-01.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance amending the Richmond City Municipal Code, Title 8-000 "Municipal Property", Chapter 8-200 "Cemeteries (Reserved)", and Title 10-000 "Fire, Health, Safety and Welfare", Chapter 10-500 "Welfare", Parts 10-510 "Indigents" and 10-511 "Burial of Indigents" was made by Terrie, seconded by Tucker and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Bair, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

DISCUSS REPORT ON HIGHWAY 91 CROSSINGS: EVALUATION, PRIORITIES AND CROSSING CONCEPTS.

TERRIE: The Trails Master Plan started in 2021. Part of the discussion was about crossing Highway 91 east and west. In June of last year, we were notified the county had \$6,100 in remaining grant funding. At that time Carly Lansche was Cache County Trails Coordinator and she helped secure the funding for this study. This study is what we would call a 30,000-foot overview. Several meetings were held. A matrix was created. All of the current highway intersections were considered. Pros and cons for each were considered. What was possible and not possible was discussed. The crossings were narrowed down to two priorities. One by the new Lee's Marketplace on 150 North 200 West The other one by Big J's at 200 South 200 West. Lee's was chosen because a lot of people are going to want to get there once the store is open. The other location was chosen because it is a connection to the county backroads for bikers and others. Many people contributed to this project including myself and Jeremy. Two areas by Lee's were considered. The north end of the property and the south end of the property. The biggest issue with an underpass is grade issues. The east side of the highway is much higher than the west side. Traffic is also going 60 miles per hour through that area. We are working with the local UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation) office. They are considering extending the 45 mile per hour speed limit zone on the north and south end of the city. This will help to slow people down. There will not be a signal light crossing at 150 North 200 West.

MAYOR: Will a crossing guard be required there for those crossing to go to school?

TERRIE: I am not sure. Right now, the official routes to the school are designated. We would have to work with the school district to adjust the route.

JEREMY: Terrie is correct. A new route would have to be established or the existing route modified.

MAYOR: I would suspect that will happen at some point.

TERRIE: There is federal and state funding available. Part of the requirement is it must promote active transportation. We did not determine costs as part of this study for either location. They are just concepts at this point. At Big J's, the elevation is better on the south side of the intersection than on the north side.

MAYOR: Terrie, you have done a great job with this.

AMBER: I actually received an email from a community member. They were asking if we have been discussing access to Lee's. Children could easily go to Theurer's Market when it was open. People don't want their children crossing the highway to go to Maverik. People will want good access to the store when it is opened.

TERRIE: UDOT's goal is to move traffic. They are resistant to change. They are willing to consider reducing the speed limit through the smaller communities. They might even consider 40 miles per hour which would be even safer.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW WITH DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS AS NECESSARY.

JUSTIN: Another good month as we received \$54,997 in sales tax revenue. We received our third of six allocations for Class "C" Road Funds in the amount of \$27,193. We have received \$7,000 in road cut fees so far this fiscal year. This fee is when someone cannot bore the road and has to cut it instead to install a utility service.

MAYOR: The road cut fee was implemented when I was on the city council. We had quite a few complaints when it was implemented.

JEREMY: We have not had many complaints lately as people have realized that is part of the process.

JUSTIN: Utility expenses are up substantially in all departments this year. The Questar Gas/Dominion Energy bills are much higher this year than last year. This building alone was up \$800 over last year. We are also using the north end of this building more. It is quite an increase.

TUCKER: That should be flattening out and decreasing from what I have been told.

JUSTIN: We paid our second and final bill for the fiscal year to the sheriff's department. We paid \$4,800 for dog catcher service and \$23,819 for police protection. These services are now paid through June 30th. We paid our annual allocation of \$10,000 to the Cub River Sports Complex Fund. We have requested that Lewiston City pay their portion as well.

TERRIE: We only budget \$500 for Bad Dept Expense and right now we are at \$1,692. Why is that?

JUSTIN: That line item fluctuates quite a bit throughout the fiscal year. Last month we had one check that was returned for nonsufficient funds in the amount of \$703.

JEREMY: I think a lot of it is the staff has stepped up collection efforts on past due utility accounts.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

JEREMY: We have received two quotes for the electrical work needed for the installation of the generator at the water tank. The generator will be here soon. The cement pad will be poured at the tank in the spring. The electrical contractor is ready to proceed. We will have the generator delivered to the maintenance shop when it arrives. It will be hauled up to the tank when we are ready for it to be installed.

MAYOR: What was the cost?

JEREMY: The generator cost approximately \$43,000 and the electrical work will cost approximately \$8,000. The new front end loader should arrive next month. The new mini excavator has arrived. I am not sure when the new dump truck will arrive. It was supposed to be built at the end of January.

MAYOR: Some of this equipment was ordered before I took office so it has been a long time coming.

JEREMY: The dump truck was ordered in November 2021. Once the truck arrives the bed and snowplow still need to be installed. We are seeing an uptick in building related questions and permits compared to the previous few months.

MAYOR: Nationwide there is a small increase in this regard.

JEREMY: This year we have spent a lot on salt. Seven more loads are coming. A little storm costs as much as a big storm in regard to salt usage. The MBR plant is running well. We had a pinch valve problem a couple of weeks ago. It was repaired in one day. Ammonia and other items are almost gone from the system. We are doing much better than in the past. Shane is doing well on maintenance and repair down there. We now need to focus on getting him some training so he can pass some of the tests he needs.

MAYOR: The new garbage rate fee is now in place?

JUSTIN: Yes, it went into effect on the January utility billing. Smithfield Fire Chief Jay Downs is retiring at the end of next week. There is an open house for him next Wednesday at the Smithfield Fire Station for those who can attend.

MAYOR: Had Chief Downs not been involved when our department was closed and turned over to them, I am not sure we would have done what we did. He is a good man. We need to make sure and thank him for his efforts.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR REPORTS

TUCKER: In regard to natural gas cost it sounds like it was an anomaly and we should not see such a high price in the future. The cost and use should be settling down. Hopefully our cost is not as high moving forward.

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LYLE: I had a lot of interaction with Chief Downs when I was fire chief. A lot of good things happened in this valley because of Chief Downs. It is hard to know where we would be without him. He deserves all the credit he gets.

KELLY: All of the committees for Black & White Days have been formed and are moving forward. There are a lot of familiar faces helping. There will not be a chuckwagon breakfast or movie in the park on Friday night this year.

TERRIE: The first draft of the General Plan update is ready for review. The planning commission will start the review process on Tuesday, March 7th. It is critical for the residents to read and be involved. Comments and input from the open house, steering committee, interviews, stakeholder interviews and the survey have all been included. Please look over and review. Look at the future proposals. Many different areas are included. Water conservation, housing, land-use and many other items are discussed. One of the ideas is to remove the many land-use overlays we have and replace them with new zones. For example, a multi-family housing zone would be created. Possibly a high-density zone around commercial areas. Specifically, a walking community around Lee's Marketplace. I reviewed our CBD (Central Business District) zone we discussed last month. I found maybe six properties which could comply with a zoning change. The planning commission is going to review this concern.

JUSTIN: The planning commission will start the review process at their March 7th meeting.

TERRIE: The General Plan document is 82 pages long. There are a lot of pictures and graphs. J-U-B Engineers did a great job in putting the document together. Review the appendices and actions items. Contact myself or HollyJo with questions as we have both been involved since the start.

MAYOR: I have been involved in this process in the past. The General Plan process takes one person who is passionate about it and cares to lead the process. This is not just an hour or week. Terrie has spent months working on this. She cares about it very much. Terrie thank you for caring because we are all better off because of it.

AMBER: The planning commission did not meet in February but they will be meeting in March. We need to talk about the seniors. Every day I am there I have a new takeaway for the day. Today, I had someone tell me they did not want to leave their home and they thanked me for having a place for them to come to. Last week someone told me they did not think they could find joy at this age and this has allowed them to do so. Being here on Thursday is a joy. The food pantry brings a smile to my face. This has gone from a Thursday group to an everyday group.

MAYOR: All of the food pantry items are donated.

AMBER: I arrive on Thursday at 8:00 A.M. It has been hard to get all of the volunteers who help out on the same page. The city staff has been great to work with. The impact this program has brought to the community is amazing. I was told it was dumb to start this program in November when it is cold and miserable as well as close to the holidays. I am glad we did it in November. I think it allows us to be better prepared in March when the weather gets better. It takes a lot for older people to be able to leave their homes in the winter. We need to decide what we want this program to be. In less than three years my term on the council is done. What happens to the program when I am done? The volunteers are exhausted. Do we let it keep growing? Do invest more funding in it? If so, how much? It is a conversation we need to have.

MAYOR: The council will ultimately decide the direction we go. We have limited resources. Let's discuss at the March council meeting funding and staffing for The Park Bench. Everyone should bring some ideas. There are budget constraints. We might have a partner who is wanting to join up with us.

AMBER: Thursday is an amazing day here. We also do Bingo on Tuesday with a potluck. Items in the food pantry are used as needed.

MAYOR: Kudos to Amber and all of the volunteers. Success can be hard to deal with. My mom is 87 and looks forward to attending each week. Cache Valley Bank is sponsoring a meal on Thursday, March 9th. We need to discuss the budget and come up with a formal plan of what we want this program to be.

AMBER: We are going to have an open house in March. Spartan is a great partner for the city. They have donated a lot to the program.

JUSTIN: RAPZ Tax applications are due at the start of March. Last year we were approved for a new pavilion on the north end of the park. The engineering documents are almost complete and then we can talk to a contractor. The intent was in 2023 we would apply for a new restroom facility which would be placed between the middle pavilion and the new north pavilion. We would call this Phase 2 of the project. Phase 3 of the plan was to pave the parking lot area in the northwest corner of the park by the new pavilion. Mayor Erickson and Jeremy met with the Black & White Days cattle committee this week. They would like to submit an application as well to increase the length of their building on the south end of their pavilion. With the permission of the council this year we would submit for a

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new restroom facility, next year, 2024, we would submit the Black & White Days application and in 2025 we would submit for the parking lot. We don't want to submit several applications which might get none of them approved or the amount approved for each one cutback.

MAYOR: I was not aware until this week that the number of exhibitors is increasing on a yearly basis. I thought the number was decreasing but it is actually increasing.

The consensus of the city council was to apply for a new restroom facility as part of the 2023 RAPZ Tax application process.

MAYOR: The annual State of the City address will be held on Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 P.M. We are going to use a new format this year. Jeremy, Justin, Lora Smith and others will take five minutes to explain a few things. I want Terrie to talk about the General Plan update. Amber will talk about The Park Bench. I don't have much to add. There will be a question-and-answer period at the end. We will broadcast the meeting through YouTube. It is important for people to be able to come and ask questions and share what they are concerned about in the city. On Friday, February 24th at 1:00 P.M. there will be a workshop meeting on Black & White Days. The Cow-a-Bunga race and Stampede race will be discussed. We need to discuss coordinating fundraising as well. I anticipate the meeting to be around one hour. There is concern about SB174 which the legislature is currently considering. The legislature wants us to have less control of land-use items in our city. We need to make sure our municipal code is the best it can be. If it is not in the code then a developer does not have to comply. Pay attention to what is happening with the legislature right now. One initiative that is being discussed is narrowing roads from 32 feet of asphalt to 25 feet of asphalt. Myself and the council need to be involved. We need to let the lawmakers know they need to leave us alone and let us run our cities. If we don't uphold the law who will? We need too not the state. Thanks to all involved for your efforts on behalf of the city. We have a very educated and informed staff. They do a tremendous job. Please review the proposed Stampede logos. There are several possible designs. We will adopt one permanent logo and then have one that changes each year. Let me know your thoughts on what you prefer.

KELLY: We are going to do a logo for the Cow-A-Bunga race as well.

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

Yes Vote: Thatcher, Bair, Crafts, Wierenga, Ervin

No Vote: None

Adjournment at 7:54 P.M.

RICHMOND CITY CORPORATION

Paul J. Erickson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Justin B. Lewis, City Recorder